

November 9, 2023



D.C. Update: Spotlight on Outcomes: Pennsylvania, CDC to Release Notice of DFC Funding Opportunities in February 2024, DEA Adds Fentanyl Precursor Chemicals to Special Surveillance List, and More.

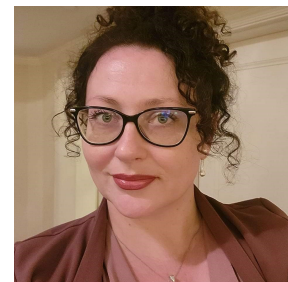
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Meet The Member

Gina Tracy, National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for Montana

Gina Tracy currently serves as the Block Grant Section Supervisor within the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) Division at the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. She has worked for BHDD for the last 10 years, overseeing programs that concern mental health and substance use/misuse initiatives related to direct care services and managing grants that support public wellness. Ms. Tracy also serves as the National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for the State of Montana. She is a person with lived experience who aims to work to support the entire continuum of care while merging Montana's mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) programs with public health and safety work on communicable diseases. Ms. Tracy has also earned her Master's in Public Administration from the University of Montana.



NASADAD News

Spotlight on Outcomes: Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania is reporting reductions in youth substance use following the expansion of student prevention activities. During the 2021-2022 school year, 92,912 referrals were made to the [Pennsylvania Student Assistance Program \(SAP\)](#), which aims to develop a drug-free environment in schools and help students address issues related to mental health and substance use that pose a barrier to success in school. SAP mobilizes school

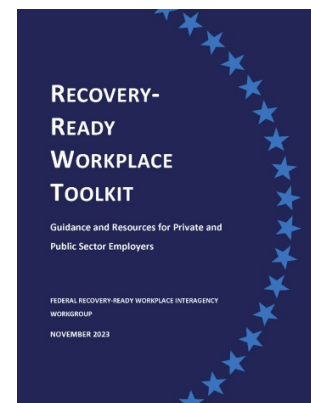
resources to deploy collaborative prevention, intervention, and postvention services for students, providing over 33,000 screenings and assessments for mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) in the 2021-2022 school year. These efforts have resulted in a decrease in reported youth substance use for all substances. For grades 6 through 12, Pennsylvania reported the following decreases from 2019 to 2021 in past 30-day use of substances: alcohol use decreased to 13.4% from 16.8%, marijuana use decreased to 7% from 9.6%, and vaping decreased to 13% from 19%. Decreases were also reported in lifetime use. Pennsylvania is led by NASADAD member Dr. Latika Davis-Jones, Secretary, [Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs \(DDAP\)](#), and National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator Grace Kindt, Prevention Section Chief, Division of Prevention & Treatment, DDAP.

Pennsylvania collects data on the utilization of student prevention services and youth substance use from two main sources. For data on referrals to SAP and screenings/assessments conducted, data is pulled from annual reporting by schools to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and SAP liaison agencies funded by DDAP and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Youth substance use data comes from the [Pennsylvania Youth Survey \(PAYS\)](#), which is administered in schools to students in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grades during the fall of every odd year by [Bach Harrison](#) and primarily funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) with additional funding from DDAP and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. All schools are eligible to participate at no cost, but none are required to participate.

White House Happenings

Biden-Harris Administration Release Resources to Support Recovery-Ready Workplaces

Today, the Biden-Harris Administration released two new resources designed to give businesses and State leaders tools to expand employment opportunities for those struggling with substance use disorder (SUD) and in recovery from a SUD. The resources are intended not only to support private businesses in implementing recovery-ready workplace (RRW) policies but also non-profit organizations, unions, trade associations, and State, local, and Tribal governments. These RRW policies “...support workers with substance use disorder by creating a safe and healthy work environment, reducing stigma, breaking down barriers for employment, and promoting addiction treatment and recovery support services.”



The new resources include:

- [“Recovery-Ready Workplace Toolkit: Guidance and Resources for Private and Public Sector Employers](#): new guidance to help businesses and employers prevent and respond more effectively to substance use disorder among employees, build their workforces through hiring people in recovery, and develop a recovery-supportive workplace culture.
- [Model Recovery Ready Workplaces Act](#): The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA), with funding support from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), developed new model legislation for state governments to support the creation and development of recovery-ready workplaces in their states.”

The Biden-Harris Administration’s press release with additional details on the resources can be found [here](#).

Capitol Hill Happenings

Dr. Monica M. Bertagnolli Confirmed as Next

Director of NIH

On November 7, the Senate confirmed [Dr. Monica Bertagnolli](#) to lead the National Institutes of Health. As Director of NIH, she will oversee the National Institutes on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). Dr. Bertagnolli has previously served as the 16th director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) since October 3, 2022.



Senate Appropriations Hearing on the President’s Supplemental Funding Request - Including Request for Additional Funding for SOR

Yesterday, the Senate Committee on Appropriations conducted a hearing on [A Review of the President’s Supplemental Request for the Departments of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security](#). The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services testified to the importance of the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant to supporting fentanyl and polysubstance use. The President’s supplemental request to include \$1.3 billion in the SOR grant program would allocate specific funding to Tribal communities.

“The Supplemental request includes \$1.3 billion in resources and technical assistance to states, territories, and D.C. through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) State Opioid Response program to help address unmet needs regarding fentanyl and polysubstance use in our communities. The Supplemental request also allocates specific funding to addressing this crisis in Tribal communities. CDC reported that in comparison with other demographic groups, the American Indian and Alaska Native population had the highest drug overdose death rates in both 2020 and 2021, at rates of 42.5 and 56.6 deaths per 100,000 persons. An additional \$250 million will be directed to the Indian Health Service to expand substance use services run both by Indian Health Service and Tribal Nations.” - Sec. Becerra

Secretary Becerra’s testimony can be found [here](#).

A recording of the hearing can be found [here](#).

Oversight Hearing on “Fentanyl in Native Communities: Native Perspectives on Addressing the Growing Crisis”

Yesterday, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held an Oversight Hearing on [Fentanyl in Native Communities: Native Perspectives on Addressing the Growing Crisis](#). Witnesses included Lummi Nation, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota, Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, I Ola Lāhui, Inc., Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, and University of Southern California.

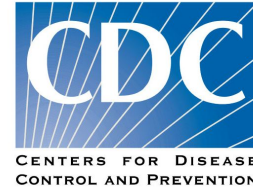
Chairman Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) said “Fentanyl - a potent synthetic opioid - is contributing to a rapid rise in opioid-related deaths across the country, and Native communities are getting hit extra hard” and “we have to listen to Native leaders, organizations, and health care professionals and support Native-led solutions to fight fentanyl in their homelands and surrounding communities.”

Vice Chair of the Committee Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) also said “American Indian and Alaska Native populations had the highest drug overdose rates in both 2020 and 2021. Expert witnesses from Native communities shared how tribal leaders and Native health experts are responding to the crisis...”

A recording of the hearing and individual testimonies can be found [here](#).

Around the Agencies

CDC to Release Notice of DFC Funding Opportunities in February 2024



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently [announced](#) it will release the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the [Drug-Free Communities Support \(DFC\) Program](#) in February 2024. The DFC Program provides community coalitions grant funding to mobilize local youth substance use and misuse prevention efforts across the country. Specifically, DFC coalitions gain access to:

- "Funding of up to \$125,000 a year for 10 years,
- Programmatic support,
- Technical assistance for research, data collection, and more. "

Additional details on the DFC program and how to apply for funding can be found [here](#).

New 988 Resources: Veterans Crisis Line and Lifeline Awareness Videos

In recognition of Veterans Day on November 11, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is calling attention to the [Veterans Crisis Line \(VCL\)](#) and released updates to the [988 Partner Toolkit](#). The VCL website includes social media graphics, fact sheets, videos, and more on resources available to prevent veteran suicide. To access the VCL, veterans can call 988 and press 1, chat online [here](#), or send a text to 838255 24/7/365- even if they are not registered with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or enrolled in VA health care. SAMHSA also updated the 988 Partner Toolkit with two new videos that promote the 988 Lifeline: [Impact of the 988 Lifeline](#) and [You Matter PSA](#). For additional resources and information related to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, visit the 988 webpage, [here](#).

DEA Adds Precursor Chemicals Used to Make Fentanyl to Special Surveillance List



The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) updated the [Special Surveillance List \(SSL\)](#) for the first time since 1999, adding twenty-eight fentanyl precursor chemicals, tableting machines, and dyes used to manufacture illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF). The SSL, created in 1999 by the Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act of 1996, makes it illegal to distribute laboratory supplies, including chemicals, chemical substances, materials, and equipment to manufacture controlled substances for illegal means. According to the DEA, "...individuals or business entities that sell a "product from the SSL with 'reckless disregard' of its illegal uses can face a fine of up to \$250,000."

DEA's press release announcing the additions to the SSL can be found [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

SAMHSA CFRI Webinar: Exploring Value-Based Payment for Substance Use Disorder Services in the United States



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Financing Reform and Innovation (CFRI) is hosting a webinar on [Exploring Value-Based Payment for Substance Use Disorder Services in the United States](#). This no-cost webinar is on November 13, at 2:00 pm ET. The webinar features speakers from SAMHSA, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and national experts in the substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health field who will discuss the findings of a soon-to-be-released SAMHSA report on the use of Value-Based Payment (VBP) for SUD services. Registration is required.

SAMHSA Tribal Listening Session: Use of High Dose Buprenorphine for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in collaboration with the [Indian Health Service \(IHS\)](#) and other federal partners, is hosting a Tribal Listening Session on [The Use of High Dose Buprenorphine for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder](#). This free listening session is on November 13, at 2:30 pm ET. The listening session is intended for providers who prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD) within Tribal clinical settings. Participants will have the opportunity to “...hear from providers about the need for, effectiveness and safety of, barriers to, and practical experience with higher dose (24mg+) buprenorphine.” Registration is required.

ATTC Webinar: The Treatment of Substance Use Disorders in Unhoused Individuals



The [Central East Addiction Technology Transfer Center \(ATTC\)](#) is hosting a webinar on [The Treatment of Substance Use Disorders in Unhoused Individuals](#). This no-cost webinar is on November 16, at 12:00 pm ET. The webinar will highlight the role of housing as a critical social determinant of health that can complicate treatment for people with a substance use disorder (SUD). In addition, the webinar will review characteristics of the unhoused population that pose barriers to receiving SUD treatment, past SUD treatment models, and opportunities for novel models to be introduced. Learning objectives include:

- “Describe relevant epidemiologic findings regarding substance use disorders in unhoused populations.
- Examine established and novel models of care to address substance use disorders in unhoused and other underserved populations.
- Discuss factors to improve the sustainability of an academic-community collaboration focused on treating substance use disorders in unhoused populations”

Registration is required.

We're Hiring!

NASADAD Hiring for Alcohol and Other Drug Research Analyst

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) is hiring for an Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Analyst II- Women’s and Youth Services. See the job listing and link to apply below:

Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Analyst II- Women’s and Youth Services
NASADAD seeks an experienced, team-oriented person with a demonstrated understanding of substance use issues related to women and youth, excellent writing and research abilities, data analysis experience, and strong communication skills.

More information on the position, including qualifications, benefits, and how to apply can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Flinn, Ed.D., Associate Director of Planning and Program Management, at: tflinn@nasadad.org.

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