

January 4, 2024



D.C. Update: Register for SAMHSA's 20th Prevention Day, New HRSA and COSSUP Funding Opportunities, SAMHSA 988 Policy Academy Webinar, and More.

[Visit our Website](#)



Meet The Member

Michelle M. Nienhius, National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for South Carolina

Michelle Nienhius is the Manager of the Division of Prevention and Intervention Services for the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS). In her role, Ms. Nienhius manages the primary prevention component of the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant to include oversight of Synar requirements, the Preventing Opioid Overdose Death grant, and the primary prevention/intervention portion of the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant. She also serves as the National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for South Carolina and has served in many leadership roles within the NPN, most recently serving as Past President of the Network.



Ms. Nienhius has presented at numerous national meetings and conferences on South Carolina's work on workforce development, collaboration with partners, coalition development, strategic planning, and successes achieved in primary prevention to include implementation of environmental strategies to reduce underage and youth tobacco use, retailer education, and impaired driving prevention. In January 2021, she co-authored a study published in the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, demonstrating the positive impact of the environmental prevention programs implemented through the South Carolina Alcohol Enforcement Team network on the reduction of drinking and driving crashes among drivers under 21 years old.

Ms. Nienhius completed her Master's in Public Health from the University of South Carolina in 2000 and an undergraduate degree in Biology from the College of Charleston in 1998.

White House Happenings

Biden-Harris Administration Send Letter Calling on Public Health and Housing Agencies to Expand Access to Overdose Reversal Medications

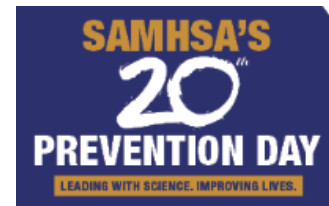
On December 8, leadership from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued a [joint letter](#) calling on public health departments and healthcare systems to partner with local housing agencies to increase access to overdose reversal medications. The letter urges public health authorities to provide training on the use and distribution of reversal medications, such as naloxone, to residents of housing organizations. In the letter, the Biden-Harris Administration said, “Naloxone and other opioid overdose reversal medications should be considered a standard part of the toolkit for ensuring health and safety in HUD programs.”

Additionally, HUD released a pair of fact sheets to [public housing authorities](#) and [owners of HUD-assisted housing](#) to support efforts to make naloxone available for residents.

Around the Agencies

Register for SAMHSA’s 20th Prevention Day!

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is hosting its [20th Prevention Day](#) at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, on January 29, 2024, in conjunction with the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Leadership Forum. SAMHSA’s Prevention Day is the largest annual national gathering dedicated to promoting prevention of substance use and substance misuse. This year, Prevention Day will celebrate its 20th anniversary, explore innovations and emerging issues, and develop next steps to advance prevention in the future. The day-long event is free, but registration is required.



Register to attend SAMHSA’s 20th Prevention Day [here](#). For questions related to registration, contact the CADCA Meetings Team at events@cadca.org.

HRSA Funding Opportunity: Behavioral Health Integration Evidence Based Telehealth Network Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently announced a new funding opportunity for the [Behavioral Health Integration \(BHI\) Evidence Based Telehealth Network Program \(EB-TNP\)](#). This program seeks to integrate mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services into primary care settings through telehealth technology via telehealth networks in rural and underserved communities. Specifically, the program’s objectives are to:

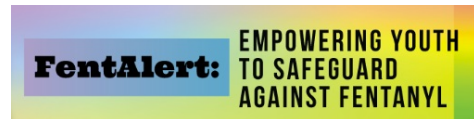
1. “Improve access to integrated behavioral health services in primary care settings; and
2. expand and improve the quality of health information available to health care providers by evaluating the effectiveness of integrating telebehavioral health services into primary care settings and establishing an evidence-based model that can assist health care providers.”

Applicants are encouraged to propose ways to achieve equitable access to telehealth in rural and underserved populations. Applicants are also encouraged to utilize established telehealth networks that are integrated into primary care for populations with disparate challenges to more efficiently provide telehealth services to them.

The program will award a total of \$8.75 million for up to 25 grantees over five years. Applications are due March 22, 2024. Additional details on eligibility can be found [here](#).

HRSA is also hosting a technical assistance webinar regarding the new program on January 17, at 3:30 pm ET. Register [here](#).

SAMHSA Launches FentAlert Challenge: Empowering Youth for Safer Choices



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently launched the [FentAlert Challenge](#), a challenge to America's youth to help raise awareness about fentanyl and reduce overdose deaths. The FentAlert Challenge is seeking ideas from youth aged 14-18 on "...a community strategy to increase youth awareness, education, and prevention around the dangers of fentanyl, especially the hidden dangers of fake pills and other contaminants that can lead to drug overdose deaths." SAMHSA will grant up to \$80,000 of prize money, with individual prizes up to \$5,000. Submissions are due by February 26, 2024.

Additional information on how to participate, including the rules and judging criteria, can be found [here](#).

COSSUP Funding Opportunity: Jail-based Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT) Mentor Site Initiative

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) is now accepting applications for the [Jail-based Medication-assisted Treatment \(MAT\) Mentor Site Initiative](#). This initiative supports jails in establishing or expanding MAT programs by connecting them with a mentor site to learn from an established program with proven success in treating individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) in jail. BJA will select between two and six mentor sites with each site receiving a stipend of \$2,000 for their services, which will include:

- "Hosting site visits;
- sharing policy, procedures, and experiences in building a program;
- conducting technical assistance visits to mentee sites; and
- serving as a general resource to the field."

Rural jails, jails offering all Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), jails that provide evidence-based treatment for racially and ethnically diverse populations, and jails targeting pretrial detainees are prioritized.

COSSUP also released a [document](#) with Frequently Asked Questions about the program. [Applications](#) are due February 9, 2024. Apply [here](#).

HHS Releases Updated Telehealth Resources on Licensure for Behavioral Health



Telehealth.HHS.gov

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released updates to a website dedicated to telehealth resources regarding [Licensure for Behavioral Health](#). The page includes resources from both the federal and State levels related to pathways for out-of-state providers to practice mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) care and prescribing medications online. The following information about telehealth for mental health and SUD can be found on the page:

- [Overview of Behavioral Health Licensure](#)
- [State Licensure Requirements for Behavioral Health Professionals](#)
- [Licensure and Online Prescribing](#)
- [Interactive Map on Online Prescribing](#)

Additional information on telehealth for mental health and SUD care can be found [here](#).

Research Roundup

NIH-Funded Study Finds Higher Prevalence of Drug Use and Overdose

Among Recently Incarcerated PWUD in Rural Communities

A National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded study published in JAMA Network Open on [Recent Incarceration, Substance Use, Overdose, and Service Use Among People Who Use Drugs in Rural Communities](#) found that people who use drugs (PWUD) in rural communities commonly experienced recent incarceration, drug overdose, and missed opportunities for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment. The study of 3,000 people from rural communities across the U.S. reported that PWUD in rural communities had a higher prevalence of incarceration and that recently incarcerated people had a higher prevalence of injection drug use and overdose. This was also accompanied by a greater likelihood of trying but failing to access SUD treatment.

The authors assert that the higher prevalence of recent incarceration being associated with more severe SUD and heightened barriers to accessing SUD treatment indicates the need to develop better care for those in custody with an SUD in rural communities.

Webinars to Watch

HRSA BPHC-BH TA Webinar: Behavioral Health Integrated Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Strategies

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) [Bureau of Primary Health Care Behavioral Health Technical Assistance \(BPHC-BH TA\)](#) is hosting a webinar on [Behavioral Health Integrated Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Strategies](#). This no-cost webinar is being offered for eight one-hour sessions beginning at 2:00 pm ET on January 9 every other Tuesday through February 20. The webinar aims to provide strategies for enhancing employee recruitment, engagement, and retention in mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) care settings. Attendees can receive one continuing education credit per session. Registration is required.

SAMHSA 988 Policy Academy Webinar: Current Crisis System Implementation: Successes and Challenges



CRISIS SYSTEMS RESPONSE
TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER
Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Crisis Systems Response Training and Technical Assistance Center \(CSR-TTAC\)](#) is hosting a webinar on [Current Crisis System Implementation: Successes and Challenges](#). This no-cost webinar is on January 10, at 1:00 pm ET. The webinar aims to share emerging practices regarding crisis system design and implementation for individuals experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder (SUD) crisis. During the webinar, the 988 team will also introduce a six-month Policy Academy on Systems Design beginning in February 2024. The Policy Academy is intended to support States, Tribes, and Territories in "...coalition building, role clarity, and application of systems engineering/design principles to develop and improve policies and practices in the design of Crisis Systems." The webinar's objectives include:

- "Understand the impact of creating a crisis continuum of care that can meet the behavioral health needs of any individual in crisis.
- Conceptualize challenges and identify solutions around crisis system implementation.
- Identify resources available for crisis system engineering."

Immediately after the webinar, there will be an hour-long office hour session for more questions. Registration is required.

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