

April 4, 2024



D.C. Update: NASADAD's Robert Morrison Attends the Rx and Illicit Drug Summit, April is Alcohol Awareness Month!, New HRSA NTTAP Webinars, and More.

Visit our Website



Meet The Member

Monica Wilke-Brown, LMSW, National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for Iowa

Monica Wilke-Brown, LMSW, currently serves as the Opioid Response Grant Director in the Division of Behavioral Health at the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. She also serves as the National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for Iowa.

Her experience includes managing multiple opioid-focused grants that span the continuum of prevention, treatment, and recovery, as well as the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) grant, which integrated substance use screenings into primary care, other medical services, and the National Guard. Monica's prior experiences include HIV Prevention work as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ecuador, substance use and violence prevention services in central Iowa, and work with international students and immigrant groups in St. Louis. Monica spent ten years managing community-based programs at a Central-Iowa non-profit prior to joining the Department in 2015.



Monica received her Bachelor of Arts from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa and her Master of Social Work from the Brown School, at Washington University in St. Louis.

NASADAD's Robert Morrison Attends the Rx and Illicit Drug Summit in Atlanta, Georgia

At the Rx and Illicit Drug Summit held in Atlanta, Georgia, NASADAD Executive Director Robert Morrison joined State leaders in meetings with Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and Grant Baldwin and Michelle Putnam of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We had an excellent dialogue and look forward to more!



NASADAD members and staff also held a very informative and productive dialogue with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) leadership - led by Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use - at the Rx and Illicit Drug Summit. We appreciate the discussion and partnership.

(Pictured L to R: John McIlveen, Oregon; Jennifer Schuler, Arkansas; Dr. Latika Davis-Jones, Pennsylvania; Dr. Yngvild Olsen, SAMHSA/CSAT; Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, SAMHSA; Rob Morrison, NASADAD; Linda Mahoney, Rhode Island; Marissa Dancy, SAMHSA; Joanna Champney, Delaware; Anthony Volrath, SAMHSA; Dr. Michael King, SAMHSA)

Capitol Hill Happenings

Senate Finance Committee Hearing: “Closing Gaps in the Care Continuum: Opportunities to Improve Substance Use Disorder Care in the Federal Health Programs”

On Tuesday, April 9 at 2:30 p.m. ET, the Senate Committee on Finance Subcommittee on Health Care is holding a hearing on “Closing Gaps in the Care Continuum: Opportunities to Improve Substance Use Disorder Care in the Federal Health Programs.” The hearing is available to watch on the Committee’s [webpage](#) and in-person in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Witnesses include:

- **Brendan Saloner, Ph.D.**, Bloomberg Professor of American Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School Of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
- **Malcolm Horn, Ph.D., LCSW, MAC, SAP**, Chief Behavioral Health Officer, Rimrock Foundation, Billings, MT
- **Sarah Bagley, MD, MSc**, Associate Professor of Medicine And Pediatrics, Associate Program Director, Grayken Fellow In Addiction Medicine, Boston Medical Center and Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, Boston, MA
- **Paul J. Christine, MD, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine and Denver Health, Aurora, CO

Around the Agencies

April is Alcohol Awareness Month!

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. Alcohol Awareness Month is dedicated to acknowledging the adverse effects of alcohol use and misuse on health and wellness, especially among youth. This year, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) developed a [social media toolkit in recognition of Alcohol Awareness Month](#) that highlights various resources



regarding alcohol use, including links to treatment and support. Specifically, the toolkit promotes a number of strategies and resources available to address the health and social impacts related to alcohol misuse. Ongoing SAMHSA initiatives aimed at addressing alcohol misuse in the toolkit include:

- [Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking \(STOP\) Act Grant](#)
- [Provider's Clinical Support System - Universities](#)
- [Building Communities of Recovery](#)
- [SAMHSA's "Talk. They Hear You."® campaign](#)

SAMHSA Posts Recommendations for Curricular Elements in Substance Use Disorder Training

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently posted a guide with [Recommendations for Curricular Elements in Substance Use Disorders Training](#). The guide is intended to outline recommended core elements and content of substance use disorder (SUD) curricula for entities authorized to provide the SUD training required under the [Medication Access and Training Expansion \(MATE\) Act](#). As an overarching concept, SAMHSA recommends that content be related to prevention, recognition, and care of individuals with SUD, including those with co-occurring mental health disorders. The core elements in the guide are designed to educate prescribers on the risks and role of medications to treat pain, screening for substance use and related risk factors, as well as the role of stigma as a barrier to treatment. Specifically, SAMHSA recommends that health professional curricula and continuing education address the following core elements of training:

1. Substance Use Disorders
2. Effective Treatment Planning
3. Pain Management and Substance Misuse

These elements would also incorporate culturally competent practices, as well as Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies. Together, these elements provide an overview of SUD identification, management care, and evidence-based practices for SUD treatment.

DEA Announces Spring National Prescription Drug Take Back Day: April 27



The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recently announced it will host its [spring bi-annual National Prescription Drug \(Rx\) Take Back Day](#) on April 27.

DEA's National Rx Take Back Day is a day dedicated to preventing medication misuse and opioid use disorder (OUD) by encouraging the public to dispose of unneeded medications at disposal sites across the country. DEA's most recent Rx Take Back Day, in October 2023, resulted in 599,879 (300 tons) of returned drugs.

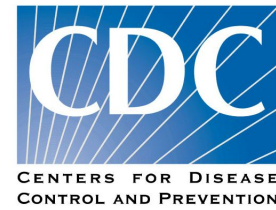
DEA's Collection Site Locator can be accessed [here](#).

HHS Webpage: Insurance for Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a new webpage on [Insurance for Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment](#). This new webpage is designed to help both consumers and providers understand the legal requirements for health plans that offer mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) benefits, the services covered by health plans' coverage of mental health and SUD treatment, and the history behind parity in health coverage. Specifically, the page offers various resources on individuals' rights and policy updates, details on parity policy and implementation, and a timeline of federal actions to achieve parity in health coverage.

The page also includes links to [mental health](#) and [substance use treatment](#) locators.

CDC Study Reports Deaths from Excessive Alcohol Use on the Rise in US



A study published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* on [Deaths from Excessive Alcohol Use - United States, 2016-2021](#) reported a significant rise in deaths from excessive alcohol use in the US from 2016 to 2021. Using data from the [National Vital Statistics System](#), CDC researchers analyzed 58 causes of alcohol-related death, including conditions fully caused by alcohol use, as well as those that are partially caused by alcohol use. Specifically, the study found that average annual deaths related to excessive alcohol use in the US increased 29% from roughly 138,000 deaths per year during 2016-2017 to 178,000 deaths per year during 2020-2021. Additional findings include:

- Average annual deaths from excessive alcohol use in the US increased by 5.3% from 137,927 during 2016-2017 to 145,253 during 2018-2019; then by 22.8% from 2018-2019 to 178,307 during 2020-2021
- Average annual deaths from excessive alcohol use among males increased by 26.8% from 94,362 during 2016-2017 to 119,606 during 2020-2021
- Average annual deaths from excessive alcohol use among females increased by 34.7% from 43,565 during 2016-2017 to 58,701 during 2020-2021

CDC's webpage on deaths from excessive alcohol use can be found [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

HRSA NTTAP Webinar: Beyond the Ask: Person-Centered Approaches to Addressing Substance Use Disorder in Older Adults

The [National Center for Equitable Care for Elders \(NCECE\)](#), a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-funded National Training and Technical Assistance Partner (NTTAP), is hosting a webinar on [Beyond the Ask: Person-Centered Approaches to Addressing Substance Use Disorder in Older Adults](#). This no-cost webinar is on April 10, at 1:00 pm ET. The webinar will highlight disparities in substance use disorder (SUD) screening and treatment experienced by older adults, the risks faced by elders due to those disparities, and age-friendly principles of care around early identification and recovery management for older patients. Objectives include:

- “Understand common misconceptions related to substance misuse in older adults
- Explain the benefits and limitations of commonly used drug and alcohol screening tools
- Utilize shared strategies for tailoring interventions, services, and resources for older adults with substance use disorder.”

[Registration](#) is required.

HRSA NTTAP Webinar: Partnering with Legal Services Providers to Enhance Behavioral Healthcare Access and Outcomes



The [National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership \(NCMLP\)](#), a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-funded National Training and Technical Assistance Partner (NTTAP), is hosting a webinar as part of its Medical-legal Partnership in Action webinar series on [Partnering with Legal Services Providers to Enhance Behavioral Healthcare Access and Outcomes](#). This no-cost webinar is on April 10, at 1:00 pm ET. The webinar aims to educate mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) providers on strategies to enhance mental health and SUD access through the integration of medical-legal partnerships (MLP). Specifically, the webinar will explore real-world case studies and best practices for utilizing MLP interventions to identify and address patients' legal determinants of health, as well as workflow considerations for screening and assessing legal needs within mental health and SUD

settings. Registration is required.

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