

May 23, 2024



D.C. Update: NASADAD Attends Release of HHS National Strategy to Improve Maternal Mental Health Care, New SAMHSA Funding Opportunities, Provisional Data Shows Drop in Annual Overdose Deaths, and More.

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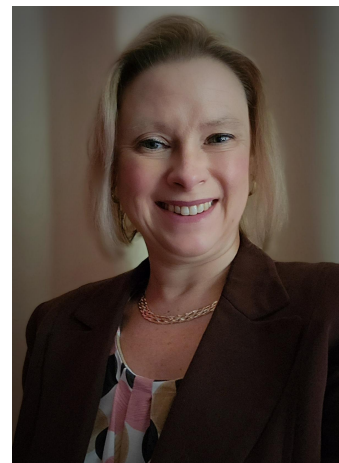


Meet The Member

Debra Poulin, LCSW, CCS, National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for Maine

Debra Poulin, LCSW, CCS is the Director of Clinical Services for Maine Office of Behavioral Health where she oversees the Intensive Case Management Program, Peer Support and Recovery Programs, and Workforce Development. Debra supports the Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Teams as well as Children's Behavioral Health Services and currently serves as the National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for Maine.

Debra earned her MSW at Boston College and has over 20 years of both clinical and leadership experience. Debra's clinical work history includes inpatient psychiatric social work, mobile crisis work, Co-Occurring and Forensic Assertive Community Treatment, substance use disorder (SUD) counseling, and intensive outpatient programming, as well as private practice. She is particularly interested in the integration of mental health and SUD in primary and specialty care practices as it relates to bringing substance use treatment into the primary care setting.



NASADAD News

NASADAD Executive Director Robert Morrison

Attends Release of HHS' Maternal Mental Health Task Force's National Strategy

On Tuesday, May 14, NASADAD Executive Director Robert Morrison had the pleasure of attending the release of the [Department of Health and Human Services' \(HHS\) Task Force on Maternal Mental Health's National Strategy to improve maternal substance use disorder \(SUD\) services and mental health care](#). Remarks were provided by a number of leaders, including Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); Shalini Wickramatilake, SAMHSA; Carole Johnson, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); Congresswoman Barragan (D-CA); and women with lived experience. Earlier this year, NASADAD worked to link the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with State leaders, including Sara Goldsby (S.C.), Christine Scalise (N.J.) and members of NASADAD's Women's Services Network (WSN) to offer perspectives on the National Strategy.



SAMHSA's press release announcing the Maternal Mental Health Task Force's National Strategy can be found [here](#).

Capitol Hill Happenings

SUPTRS Block Grant Dear Colleague Letter Sent to Senate Appropriations Committee

On May 14, a [Dear Colleague letter](#) from 14 Members of Congress was sent to the leadership of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies seeking robust investments in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 for the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant. The letter was led by Senator Welch (D-VT). The letter highlights the magnitude of the drug overdose crisis and promotes the benefits of SUPTRS Block Grant dollars to support States' prevention, treatment, and recovery systems.

Senator Welch's press release announcing the Dear Colleague letter can be found [here](#).

Around the Agencies

SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Minority Fellowship Program

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced a new funding opportunity for the [Minority Fellowship Program](#). This program aims to recruit, train, and support master's and doctoral-level students pursuing degrees in mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) health care professions to address disparities in service access and quality for racial and ethnic minority populations. Specifically, recipients "... are expected to increase the number and quality of culturally competent mental and substance use disorders professionals who teach, administer services, conduct research, and provide direct mental and/or substance use disorder services to racial and ethnic minority populations." This program ultimately seeks to reduce mental health and SUD disparities, advance the quality of prevention and treatment services, and improve health-related outcomes for minority groups.



SAMHSA will provide up to 8 awards of up to \$1,924,621 per year, per award for up to 5 years for total program funding of \$15,396,969. Applications are due June 10, 2024.

Additional details, including eligibility and how to apply, can be found in the program's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), [here](#).

SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Minority AIDS Initiative: Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Prevention and Treatment Pilot Program

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced a new funding opportunity for the [Minority AIDS Initiative: Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Prevention and Treatment Pilot Program](#). This program is designed to help States and Territories “...provide substance use prevention, substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, HIV, and viral hepatitis prevention and treatment services for racial and ethnic individuals vulnerable to a SUD and/or mental health condition, HIV, viral hepatitis, and other infectious disease (e.g., sexually transmitted infections).” The program aims to pilot a [syndemic approach](#) to reducing SUD, HIV, and viral hepatitis by combining comprehensive prevention and treatment services specifically to minority groups at increased risk for SUD and infectious diseases.

SAMHSA will provide up to 8 awards of up to \$700,000 per year, per award, for up to 5 years for total program funding of \$5,700,000. Applications are due July 12, 2024.

Additional details, including eligibility and how to apply, can be found in the program’s Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), [here](#).

BJA Funding Opportunity: FY24 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-Based Program



The Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) recently announced a new funding opportunity for the [FY24 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-Based Program](#). Through this program, BJA aims to develop comprehensive programs to address the overdose crisis and the impacts of illicit opioids, stimulants, and other substances. Specifically, this program will “...provide resources to support State, local, Tribal, and Territorial efforts to respond to illicit substance use and misuse, reduce overdose deaths, promote public safety, and support access to prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services in the community and justice system.”

BJA will provide up to a total of 76 awards to Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) sites across four categories for up to 3 years. Award amounts differ by category. Applications are due July 8, 2024.

Additional information, including on eligibility and how to apply for the various categories, can be found on the program’s solicitation, [here](#).

BJA will also host a [solicitation webinar](#) on this program at 2:00 pm ET on June 5. Registration is required.

SAMHSA’s Office of Recovery Announces the Launch of the 2024 Art of Recovery Project

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Office of Recovery (OR) announced the launch of the [2024 Art of Recovery project](#). The Art of Recovery project aims to highlight the impact of art on mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) recovery, eliminate stigma surrounding mental health and SUD conditions, and foster support for those in recovery. OR is currently accepting submissions, which must include both the art and a description of the artist’s inspiration, from artists with lived or living recovery experience. OR will take up to 150 youth submissions and 250 adult submissions to be posted on this virtual gallery. Submissions are due June 28, 2024.

Additional details on eligibility and how to submit artwork can be found [here](#).

CDC Provisional Data Shows Decrease in Annual Overdose Deaths in the U.S. From 2022 to 2023



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released [provisional data](#) from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) showing that drug overdose deaths decreased in the U.S. for the first time since 2018 from 2022 to 2023.

Specifically, NCHS' provisional data indicated that there were an estimated 107,543 drug overdose deaths in the U.S. during 2023- a 3% decrease from the 111,029 estimated overdose deaths in 2022. This marks the first reported decrease in annual drug overdose deaths since 2018. Furthermore, NCHS broke down this data on drug overdose deaths by drug type and across States. Key findings include:

- Overdose deaths involving opioids decreased from an estimated 84,181 in 2022 to 81,083 in 2023
 - Overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids decreased from an estimated 76,226 in 2022 to 74,702 in 2023
- Overdose deaths involving psychostimulants increased from an estimated 35,550 in 2022 to 36,251 in 2023
- Overdose deaths involving cocaine increased from an estimated 28,441 in 2022 to 29,918 in 2023
- Nebraska, Kansas, Indiana, and Maine experienced the greatest decreases in drug overdose deaths from 2022 to 2023 with declines of 15% or more
- Alaska, Washington, and Oregon experienced the greatest increases in drug overdose deaths from 2022 to 2023 with increases of at least 27%

CDC notes that 2023 data is provisional and still being examined and thus is subject to change over time.

NCHS' blog announcing the provisional data can be found [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

COSSUP Webinar: Addressing Substance Use Disorder Among BIPOC Communities

The Department of Justice's (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)-funded Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP), in collaboration with Altarum, BJA's Access and Recovery Peer Recovery Support Services Training and Technical Assistance Center, is hosting a webinar on [Addressing Substance Use Disorder Among BIPOC Communities](#). This no-cost webinar is on May 29, at 1:00 pm ET. The webinar will highlight the unique needs of the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities that interact with substance use disorder (SUD), barriers they face in accessing SUD treatment and recovery support services, and opportunities to expand access to SUD supports for BIPOC communities.

Registration is required.

CAI CoE-TFR Webinar: Introduction to the National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery



Cicatelli Associates Inc.'s (CAI) [National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery \(CoE-TFR\)](#), a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded initiative, is hosting a webinar on [Introduction to the National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery](#). This no-cost webinar is on June 20, at 1:00 pm ET. The webinar will provide background on the five-year initiative, highlight how it is engaging various stakeholders who use tobacco to end disparities in commercial tobacco use for people with mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) conditions, and outline strategies to effectively deliver accessible evidence-based tobacco cessation interventions. Learning objectives include:

- Describing disparities in health outcomes for people with behavioral health

conditions who use commercial tobacco products.

- Identifying what policy, systems, practices, and social norms changes we need to make to get next level outcomes.
- Exploring how to:
 - “Access training for staff working in behavioral health care settings on effective evidence-based tobacco cessation interventions.
 - Request technical assistance to foster implementation of evidence-based interventions; policy, systems, and practice changes; and make connections to peers and resources.
 - Identify quality resources, materials, and toolkits to guide your approach; and
 - Be part of Cross-State Leadership Academies for Tobacco-Free Recovery to build state health department leaders’ capacity, working with your peers from across the nation and experts to plan and lead policy, system, practice, and social norm changes in your own state.”

Registration is required.

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