

May 30, 2024



D.C. Update: Allison Beaumont Joins NASADAD as Summer Intern, New HRSA and SAMHSA Funding Opportunities, CMCS Bulletin on Mental Health and SUD Care for Enrollees Experiencing Homelessness, and More.

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Meet The Member

Amelia Fink, LADC, LPCC, National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for Minnesota.

Amelia Fink, LADC, LPCC currently serves as a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Clinical Policy Supervisor within the Behavioral Health Division, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division - Clinical Section, at the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). She also serves as the National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for the State of Minnesota.

Amelia brings more than 15 years of experience serving individuals with mental health and SUD to DHS. In her more than eight years at DHS on the Substance Use Disorder Clinical Policy team, Amelia has helped develop legislation, manage grants, lead implementation efforts for several projects, and provided technical assistance to various stakeholders. She has expertise working with individuals in justice-involved populations, women, chronically homeless populations, culturally diverse communities, and adolescents.



Amelia has a willingness to learn more about the impact of services on the needs of individuals that may not mirror familiar practices. She is dedicated to creating a system that improves access and availability of services that people can feel comfortable with, that also empowers individuals to have a choice regarding their needs.

Allison Beaumont Joins NASADAD as Summer Intern!

It is our pleasure to introduce to you our Public Policy Intern for this summer, Allison Beaumont!

This week is Allison's second week with NASADAD, and she is already writing the D.C. Update, developing SAMHSA & NASADAD Annual Meeting materials, and various other assignments. Please see a brief bio below:

Allison Beaumont serves as the Public Policy Intern at NASADAD. She is a rising senior at Temple University pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH). She is also in an accelerated BSPH to Master of Public Health program for Health Policy. Her policy areas of interest include health education, harm reduction, and health advocacy. Allison grew up as a military child moving around the country, finally settling in Northern Virginia. In her free time, she enjoys running, baking desserts, listening to true crime podcasts, and going on cruises.



We are very excited to have her on board! Welcome to the team.

Please don't hesitate to reach out and introduce yourself. Allison can be reached at: abeaumont@nasadad.org.

NASADAD News

Changes in Public Policy Department

Lacy Adams has left NASADAD. All Public Policy related inquiries that would have gone to Ms. Adams may now be directed to Daniel Diana, Legislative Coordinator, at ddiana@nasadad.org.

Capitol Hill Happenings

Senate Finance Committee Holds Hearing on the Family First Prevention Services Act

On May 22, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing titled, *“The Family First Prevention Services Act: Successes, Roadblocks, and Opportunities for Improvement.”* The goal of the hearing was to assess the implementation of the *Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)*, which is designed to help improve the child welfare system - including efforts to increase access to evidence-based substance use disorder (SUD) services. The Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee is Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and the Ranking Member is Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID).

Those presenting testimony before the Committee included Rebecca Jones, Commissioner for the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF); David Reed, Deputy Director of Child Welfare Services within the Indiana Department of Child Services; JooYeun Chang, of the Doris Duke Foundation; and Laurie Tapozada, Kinship Caregiver, Peer Mentor, and Kinship Navigator Professional from Cranston, Rhode Island.

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

HRSA Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program



The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently announced a new funding opportunity for the [Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery \(STAR\) Loan Repayment Program](#). This program aims to recruit and retain medical, nursing, mental health, and substance use disorder (SUD) clinicians and paraprofessionals who provide direct treatment or recovery support to patients with or in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD) at a Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program-approved facility. Specifically, the program offers financial support, through loan repayments, to eligible professionals in exchange for six years of full-time employment in direct treatment and recovery support provision at a STAR Loan Repayment Program-approved facility.

HRSA will provide up to \$250,000 in loan repayment to eligible health professionals in exchange for a six-year full-time service obligation. Applications are due June 27, 2024.

Additional details, including eligibility and how to apply, can be found [here](#).

SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Minority AIDS Initiative: Integrated Behavioral Health and HIV Care for Unsheltered Populations Pilot Project

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced a new funding opportunity for the [Minority AIDS Initiative: Integrated Behavioral Health and HIV Care for Unsheltered Populations Pilot Project](#). This program seeks to "... pilot a portable clinical care approach to underserved populations experiencing unsheltered homelessness by integrating behavioral health, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) treatment, and prevention services." Recipients must adopt a [syndemic approach](#) of utilizing low barrier substance use disorder (SUD) prevention and treatment, HIV and viral hepatitis prevention and treatment, mental health care, and harm reduction services to improve mental health, SUD, and HIV service delivery for individuals who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

SAMHSA will provide up to 4 awards of up to \$650,000 per year, per award, for up to 3 years for total program funding of \$2,600,000. Applications are due July 8, 2024.

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

CMCS Informational Bulletin: Opportunities for Improving Access to Mental Health and SUD Services for Medicaid and CHIP Enrollees Experiencing Homelessness



The Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) recently issued an Informational Bulletin on [Opportunities for Improving Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services for Medicaid and CHIP Enrollees Experiencing Homelessness](#). This bulletin highlights available opportunities within Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for States to improve access to mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services for enrollees who are currently experiencing homelessness. Specifically, the bulletin outlines the components of Medicaid demonstrations, the [Health Related Social Needs \(HRSN\) Guidance](#) and [HRSN Framework](#), and various ongoing demonstration projects to improve access to the full continuum of care, including in short-term residential treatment and inpatient settings.

The informational bulletin also provides a list of resources with additional strategies for States to improve access to mental health and SUD treatment for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Research Roundup

NIDA Study Reports Over 115 Million Pills Containing Illicit Fentanyl Seized By Law Enforcement In 2023

A new National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded study recently published in the International Journal of Drug Policy on [National and Regional Trends in Fentanyl Seizures in the United States, 2017- 2023](#) compared regional trends in fentanyl seizures across the US to examine shifts in fentanyl availability nationally. The study examined data from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) [High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas \(HIDTA\) Program](#) on law enforcement seizures from 2017 to 2023. The study found that 115.6 million pills containing illicit fentanyl were seized by law enforcement in 2023 across the United States compared to 49,657 in 2017, which is 2,300 times greater than 2017. Other key findings include:

- “The proportion of fentanyl pill seizures to the total number of fentanyl seizures more than quadrupled, with pills representing 49% of illicit fentanyl seizures in 2023 compared to 10% in 2017.
- The proportion of fentanyl pill seizures compared to the overall number of fentanyl seizures was highest in the West, with 77.8% of all law enforcement seizures of fentanyl in the West being in pill form in 2023.”

Further, the study highlights the growing risks associated with the illicit drug supply, particularly the danger posed by pills that do not come from pharmacies.

NIH's press release announcing the study can be found [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

HRSA BPHC-BA TA Webinar Series on Naloxone



The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-funded Bureau of Primary Health Care Behavioral Health Technical Assistance (BPHC-BA TA) is hosting a two-part webinar series on *Naloxone*. This no-cost webinar series aims to provide background on the history of naloxone, naloxone distribution, and opportunities to promote the use of naloxone to reverse opioid overdose. The webinar topics and times can be found below:

[Naloxone 1.0 - Get to Know Naloxone](#)

- June 6, at 1:00 pm ET
- “The webinar will provide information on the overdose reversal drug naloxone, including its history and impact in the United States. Additionally, the webinar will also cover the product's formulations, dosing, pricing and how the law impacts its access & distribution.”

[Naloxone 2.0 - Evidence-based Distribution Models](#)

- June 13, at 1:00 pm ET
- “The webinar will describe best practices with naloxone distribution, best venues to distribute naloxone, and identify why needs-based naloxone is necessary to decrease overdose.”

Behavioral Health continuing education credits are available for attending each session.

Registration is required for both.



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