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D.C. Update: NASADAD Participates in NGA Action Lab on SUD Financing, SAMHSA Announces First-Ever 988 Day: September 8, 2024, SAMHSA Releases 2024 National Suicide Prevention Month Toolkit, and More.

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Meet The Member

Hannah Bonsu, National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for South Carolina

Hannah Bonsu, BECE, CPM, serves as the Treatment and Recovery Services Division Manager in the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS). She also serves as the National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for South Carolina and the Region IV NTN Representative.

Ms. Bonsu joined DAODAS in 2002 and has provided leadership for the last 20 years in various roles while serving on numerous committees and workgroups. Her division focuses on compliance with State and federal statute, regulations, and governing requirements for treatment and recovery services, as well as monitoring compliance with Driving-Under-the-Influence (DUI) Programs, opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment programs, outpatient and residential substance use disorder (SUD) providers, withdrawal management, and certified SUD counselors.



Ms. Bonsu's previous experience includes working as a counselor in the juvenile justice system; a facilitating manager over an adolescent program for 17 years; the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program- Partners Achieving Independence through

Recovery and Self-Sufficiency Strategies (PAIRS) manager for 15 years; and the Assistant Project Director for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) State Youth Treatment-Implementation (SYT-I) grant.

Ms. Bonsu has a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education and is certified in Business Management from London South Bank University in London, England. She is also certified as a Network for the Improvement of Addiction Treatment (NIATx) Change Leader and is a Certified Public Manager (CPM).

NASADAD News

NASADAD Participates in NGA Action Lab on SUD Financing

On July 23, Robert Morrison, NASADAD Executive Director, participated in an Action Lab meeting sponsored by the National Governors Association (NGA) with support from the Addiction and Public Policy Initiative at the O’Neil Institute at Georgetown University’s Law Center held in Baltimore, Maryland. The meeting was designed to discuss financing strategies for substance use disorder (SUD) service delivery across the full continuum. Participating States included Maryland, Delaware, New Mexico, Ohio, and Rhode Island.

Rob moderated a panel of federal officials that included Tom Coderre, Principal Deputy Secretary, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); June Sivilli, Senior Public Advisor, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); Kirsten Beronio, Senior Policy Advisor, Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS); and officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Justice (DOJ). The meeting acknowledged the challenges associated with braiding different federal, State, and other funding streams to support seamless SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery services and programs. Each State developed action plans and examined the calendar to assess the efficacy of these plans in the future.

Around the Agencies

SAMHSA Announces First-Ever 988 Day: September 8, 2024

As part of National Suicide Prevention Month, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced the first-ever [988 Day](#) will be September 8, 2024. 988 Day is a national initiative dedicated to raising awareness for the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#), suicide prevention activities across the country, and the importance of mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) prevention services. The inaugural 988 Day theme is: “No Judgment. Just Help.” SAMHSA also released the [988 Day Toolkit](#), which contains various resources to support the observance of 988 Day and promote the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and other suicide prevention activities across the country. Resources in the Toolkit include:

- 988 Fact Sheet
- 988 Day Logo
- 988 Social Media Graphics

All materials in the Toolkit are downloadable and shareable.

SAMHSA Releases 2024 National Suicide Prevention Month Toolkit



Ahead of National Suicide Prevention Month, the annual observance every September to remember the lives lost to suicide, acknowledge those who have experienced suicidal thoughts, and support the individuals and communities that have been impacted by suicide, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the [2024 Suicide Prevention Month](#)

[Toolkit](#). The Toolkit contains various resources to raise awareness of warning signs and risk factors for suicide, as well as to promote the suicide prevention services at SAMHSA, including the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#). Resources in the Toolkit include:

- 2024 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and Federal Action Plan
- Social Media Toolkit
- Weekly Themes for Social Media
- National Strategy for Suicide Prevention Graphics
- Upcoming Events

All materials in the Toolkit are downloadable and shareable.

Additional suicide prevention resources can be found on the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's (SPRC) webpage, [here](#).

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$50 Million in Prevention, Treatment, and Workforce Enhancement Grant Awards, Including SPF-PFS



The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), awarded nearly \$50 million in grant funding to enhance substance use disorder (SUD) prevention, treatment, and workforce. This includes \$27.5 million under the Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) Program, which aims to help Tribes, State and local governments, and institutions of higher education develop and deliver prevention services. The nearly \$50 million in funding is split among the following six programs designed to support children with unmet mental health and SUD needs, increase access to mental health and SUD care for individuals who are or at risk of homelessness, and enhance the SUD workforce:

- [“Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success for States](#) - (\$12.5 million) - This program helps prevent the initiation and progression of substance use and its related problems by supporting the development and delivery of state and community substance use prevention strategies.
- [Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success for Communities, Local Governments, Universities, Colleges, and Tribes/Tribal Organizations](#) - (\$15 million) - This program helps prevent the initiation and progression of substance use and its related problems by supporting the development and delivery of community-based substance use prevention strategies.
- [Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health \(Project LAUNCH\)](#) - (\$8 million) - This program promotes the wellness of young children, from birth to 8 years of age, by addressing the social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and behavioral aspects of their development, preparing young children to thrive in school and beyond.
- [Treatment for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness](#) - (\$7.2 million) - This program provides comprehensive, coordinated and evidence-based services for individuals, youth, and families with a serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance or co-occurring disorder who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness.
- [Provider's Clinical Support System Universities](#) - (\$5.7 million) - This program ensures that graduate-level healthcare students receive substance use disorder (SUD) education early in their academic careers and prepare them to identify and treat SUD in non-specialty healthcare settings upon graduation.
- [Coalitions Training Cooperative Agreement \(CADCA\)](#) - (\$675 thousand) - This program leverages existing resources to expand SAMHSA's scope and capacity related to prevention; to provide training to state and community prevention leaders, including members of anti-drug community coalitions from around the country; and to promote prevention workforce development.”

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

PCSS-MAUD Online Module: An Approach to Alcohol Use Disorder in American Indians and Alaska Natives

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded [Providers Clinical Support System - Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder \(PCSS - MAUD\)](#) recently released an online training module on [An Approach to Alcohol Use Disorder \(AUD\) in American Indians and Alaska Natives \(AI/AN\)](#). This on-demand training module, hosted by the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP), can be completed at any time and is designed to help prescribers and clinicians identify the comprehensive needs and treatment options specific to American Indians and Alaska Natives with AUD and implement a multidisciplinary approach to treating AUD in AI/AN communities. The training also highlights the specific challenges related to AUD in AI/AN communities and the risks associated with polysubstance use. Learning objectives include:

1. “Identify the comprehensive needs and treatment options for AI/AN with alcohol use disorder (AUD) and other substance use disorders (SUDs).”
2. Recognize and explain the challenges related to SUD and AUD in Indian Country.
3. Describe the pharmacology and risks of alcohol use associated with controlled substances.
4. Implement a multidisciplinary approach, including Traditional Indigenous Medicine (TIM) for treating AUD and SUD.
5. Identify the impact of overdose deaths among AI/AN.”

Additional trainings can be found on PCSS - MAUD’s website, [here](#).

Research Roundup

SAMHSA’s DTAC Supplemental Research Bulletin: People with Substance Use Issues and Conditions and Disasters



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) [Disaster Technical Assistance Center \(DTAC\)](#) recently released a [Supplemental Research Bulletin on People With Substance Use Issues and Conditions and Disasters](#). This Supplemental Research Bulletin compiles research from the last ten years on the impact of disasters on people who use drugs, including the connection between categories of disasters and mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) conditions, as well as outlines strategies to mitigate these effects and promote resilience for affected populations. Specifically, the Bulletin has sections dedicated to research on the following topics:

- “Effects of Disasters on Populations who use Substances
- Snapshot of People with Substance use Issues and Conditions
- During- and Post-Disaster Behavioral Health for People who use Substances
- Disaster Experiences for People who use Substances
- Approaches and Interventions to Help People who use Substances During and After Disasters
- Approaches to Ensure Continuity of Harm Reduction Services for People who use Drugs”

DTAC concludes that disasters have heightened and unique impacts on people who use substances and SUD by exacerbating health challenges and disrupting treatment. DTAC calls for investments in targeted, compassionate care and disaster preparedness tailored to the specific needs of people who use substances.

Past issues of the Supplemental Research Bulletin can be found [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

CoE-TFR Webinar: Implementing Opt Out/Proactive Tobacco Use Treatment Approaches in Mental Health and Substance Use Settings



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded [National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery \(CoE-TFR\)](#) is hosting a webinar as part of its *Increasing Access to Treatment for Commercial Tobacco Use Among People with Behavioral Health Conditions* series on [Implementing Opt Out/Proactive Tobacco Use Treatment Approaches in Mental Health and Substance Use Settings](#). This no-cost webinar is on September 19, at 1:00 pm ET. The webinar will explore strategies to implement Opt Out/Proactive tobacco use treatment approaches in mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment settings to increase access to treatment and reduce the disparities and harms associated with commercial tobacco use for individuals with mental health and SUD conditions. Learning objectives include:

- “Describe the opt out/proactive tobacco treatment approach
- Identify strategies to implement opt out/proactive approaches for treatment of tobacco use in various behavioral health settings
- Discuss the ethical considerations for ensuring that individuals with behavioral health conditions who smoke are provided with evidenced based treatments to promote health equity.”

Registration is required.

SAMHSA Webinar: Answering the Call: Empowering Communities to Prevent Suicide Among Black Youth

As part of National Suicide Prevention Month, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Suicide Prevention Branch is hosting a fireside chat on [Answering the Call: Empowering Communities to Prevent Suicide Among Black Youth](#). This no-cost webinar is on September 25, at 2:00 pm ET. The fireside chat will feature speakers from SAMHSA, young adults with lived experience, State representatives, and experts in suicide prevention among Black youth who will discuss strategies to address Black youth suicide and embed equity in suicide prevention efforts. Further, the webinar will highlight SAMHSA’s Black Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative and other ongoing youth suicide prevention efforts at the agency.

Registration is required.

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