NASADAD National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors

D.C. Update: NASADAD Federal Update: FY 2025 SAMHSA Proposed Funding, NASADAD/National Council for Mental Wellbeing Release Issue Brief on Adolescent SUD Services, NIAAA Joins LinkedIn, and More.

Visit our Website

Meet The Member

Linda McCorkle, National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for Tennessee

Linda McCorkle is the Director of Treatment and Recovery Services for the Division of Substance Abuse Services within the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. She also currently serves as the National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for Tennessee.

Ms. McCorkle has worked for the State of Tennessee for the past 47 years. She began her career in the Tennessee Department of Correction, where she worked in counseling and prison management. She began working in the substance use disorder (SUD) field in 1992 as a mental health program specialist and has served as the Director of Treatment and Recovery Services for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services since 2011. In this role, she is primarily responsible for oversight of Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant funding for treatment services in the State as well as other programs and specialty grants, such as the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant.

Ms. McCorkle received her Bachelors in Science from Middle Tennessee State University in 1975 with a major in psychology and sociology and a minor in secondary education.

NASADAD News

NASADAD Visits Publicly Funded Programs in Connecticut

On Monday, July 15, NASADAD Executive Director Rob Morrison had the privilege of visiting publicly funded programs across Connecticut. The NASADAD member in Connecticut is Nancy Navarretta, who leads the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).

The first site visit was held at Coventry House in Hartford– a facility that provides services to pregnant and postpartum women where participants can heal as a family unit. The visit featured a discussion about the [Parents Recovering from Opioid Use Disorders (PROUD) Initiative](#)– a program that receives funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Pregnant and Postpartum Women's (PPW) State Pilot Program, among other sources. Coventry House works to offer a welcoming environment and provides holistic, therapeutic services for women and young children.
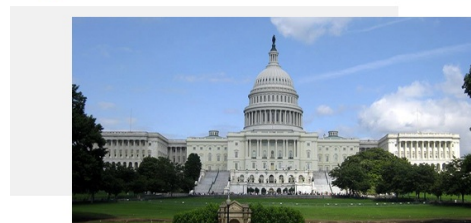
The tour then went to [McCall Behavioral Health Network](#) in Torrington, Connecticut. McCall utilizes funds from SAMHSA's Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant, the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP), and the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP), among others. McCall staff reviewed their role serving as co-chair of the [Litchfield County Opiate Task Force](#) and their work to offer same day in-person appointments at their facilities, as well as same day appointments through their wellness van. They also described their impressive work to connect people to employment, which includes the use of their Mobile Employment Services Program. In 2024, over 70 percent of program participants were employed 90 days after discharge.

Special thanks to CT DMHAS staff, Coventry House, and McCall for their hospitality.

Picture: McCall Behavioral Health Network: Rob Morrison with Maria Coutant Skinner, CEO, McCall; Cameron Breen, McCall; Karin Robinson, McCall; Lauren Pristo, McCall; Justin Mehl, DMHAS staff; Luiza Barnat, DMHAS staff; and Natalie Dumont, DMHAS staff.

NASADAD Federal Update: Overview of Proposed FY 2025 Senate Funding for SAMHSA

On August 1, the Senate Appropriations Committee met to consider and vote on the [*Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025*](#), a bill that outlines proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 funding (October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025) for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies – which include proposed funding levels for NASADAD's priority programs under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and other operational divisions. The measure was approved by the Committee in a vote of 25 to 3.

NASADAD has developed a chart that outlines the Senate's proposed funding levels for NASADAD's priority programs within SAMHSA for FY 2025, including the Substance Use
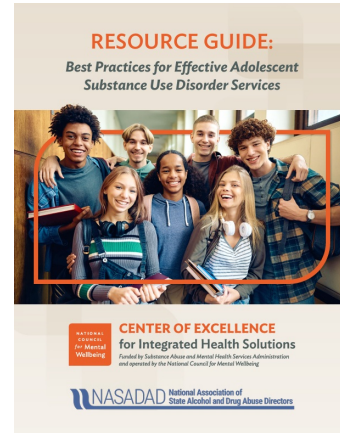
Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant, the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), and the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). NASADAD is in the process of developing charts for the remaining agencies within HHS and will release those as completed.

The chart can be found on NASADAD's webpage, here.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please reach out to rmorrison@nasadad.org or ddiana@nasadad.org.

NASADAD/National Council for Mental Wellbeing Release Brief on Best Practices for Effective Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Services

Through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center of Excellence for Integrated Health Solutions (CoE), NASADAD, in collaboration with the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, developed an issue brief on *Best Practices for Effective Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Services.* Initiation of substance use often occurs during adolescence, with adolescents reporting using substances to feel good, get high, relieve pain, or aid with sleep problems. Adverse consequences of adolescent substance misuse include overdose, risk of developing substance use disorders (SUD), negative impacts on brain development, and even death.

This resource guide offers information about evidence-based best practices tailored for adolescents with SUD. It addresses the urgent need for specific interventions for youth during this critical developmental stage by offering best practices designed to respond to their treatment and recovery needs. Emphasizing a holistic approach, this resource provides guidance so that service providers and caregivers are equipped with the tools to support adolescents through every stage of recovery and toward a healthier future.

The resource can be found on NASADAD's webpage, here.

Around the Agencies

SAMHSA Releases Resources Celebrating Back to School and International Overdose Awareness Week

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), through the Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center (EBPRC), recently released a set of resources in recognition of the new school year beginning and International Overdose Awareness Week approaching. These new resources offer information on the risks of substance use, preventing overdose, and promoting the health of communities and schools across the nation. Resources on the EBPRC website on overdose prevention and wellness include:

- *Engaging Community Coalitions to Decrease Opioid Overdose Deaths Practice Guide 2023*
  - Download here
- *Talk. They Hear You. Student Assistance – A Guide for School Administrators*
  - Download here
- *Community Engagement: An Essential Component of an Effective and Equitable Substance Use Prevention System*
  - Download here
- *Evidence-Based Strategies for Preventing Opioid Overdose: What's Working in the United States*
  - Download here
- *Advisory: Prescription Stimulant Misuse and Prevention Among Youth and Young*

Adults
- Download here
  - *Substance Misuse Prevention for Young Adults*
    - Download here

Additional SAMHSA resources on substance use can be found on EBPRC's website, here.

NIAAA Launches New LinkedIn Page

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) recently launched a new LinkedIn page. This account will complement ongoing social media efforts and provide key information on NIAAA's activities, including news regarding alcohol research, funding, job openings, resources, and training. The account is intended for professional audiences, such as researchers, healthcare providers, educators, public health officials, and others in the field.

NIAAA invites you to follow its new LinkedIn page and share the account with stakeholders.

NIAAA is now on LinkedIn

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
NIAAA is the world's largest funder of alcohol research, focusing on topics that touch the lives of almost everyone.

Stay tuned for valuable information for:
- Researchers
- Health care professionals
- Educators
- Public Health officials
- *And more*

NIH National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

NIDA Funding Opportunity: High Priority HIV and Substance Use Research

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) announced a new funding opportunity for *High Priority HIV and Substance Use Research*. This program seeks to fund high priority research projects regarding the intersection of HIV and substance use with the potential to open new areas of research on prevention, treatment, and cure of HIV among people who use drugs. Applications must offer a research plan, preliminary data, a description of the nexus with substance use, and key research areas that align with the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) HIV/AIDS Research Priorities. Specifically, this program seeks research on strategies to:

- "Prevent new infections and transmission of HIV among people who use addictive substances and their sexual and/or injection partners.
- Increase the understanding of etiology, pathogenesis, spread, and persistence of HIV among people with substance use and SUDs.
- Address comorbidities and improve health outcomes among people who use addictive substances and have HIV.
- Accelerate scientific discoveries in HIV/AIDS and substance use research."

NIDA will provide $3 million in awards in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, 2026, and 2027 between three to five awardees for a five-year project period. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and the earliest submission date is January 11, 2025.

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

Research Roundup

NIDA Study Finds Evidence of Effectiveness of a Faster Approach for Starting Extended-Release Naltrexone to Treat Opioid Use Disorder

A National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-supported clinical trial published in JAMA Network Open on *Rapid Initiation of Injection Naltrexone for Opioid Use Disorder* found evidence of a faster approach for starting extended-release Naltrexone

to treat opioid use disorder (OUD) being effective. The clinical trial of 415 patients with OUD admitted at six inpatient facilities from March 2021 to September 2022 found that starting people with OUD on extended-release, injectable naltrexone (XR-naltrexone) within five to seven days of treatment is more effective than the standard method of starting within 10-15 days. XR-naltrexone is one of three Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) that has traditionally required patients to go through a 7-10 day opioid-free period to avoid withdrawal symptoms before beginning the medication. Key findings include:

- "The study found that patients on the rapid five to seven-day treatment procedure were significantly more likely to receive a first injection of XR-naltrexone compared to those on the standard seven to 15-day treatment procedure (62.7% vs. 35.8%).
- Withdrawal severity was generally low and comparable across the two groups.
- Targeted safety events and serious adverse events (such as a fall or overdose) were infrequent overall but occurred more on rapid procedure (5.3% and 6.7%) than on standard procedure (2.1% and 1.6%), and the rapid procedure required more staff attention."

The authors call for future studies on the tradeoffs of the rapid treatment protocol for XR-naltrexone to determine whether the increased medical supervision required makes it a viable treatment option for OUD.

NIDA's press release on the study can be found here.

Webinars to Watch

PCCSS-MAUD Webinar: Impact of Alcohol Use on Opioid and Stimulant Overdoses: Implications for Screening and Treatment

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded Providers Clinical Support System – Medication for Alcohol Use Disorder (PCSS – MAUD) in collaboration with the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT), is hosting a webinar on the *Impact of Alcohol Use on Opioid and Stimulant Overdoses: Implications for Screening and Treatment*. This no-cost webinar is on August 29, at 1:00 pm ET. The webinar aims to expand the knowledge of treatment providers on screening, diagnosing, and treating alcohol use disorder (AUD), including the impact of rising polysubstance use and best practices for addressing the treatment gap for patients with AUD. Specifically, the webinar's objectives include:

- "Describe the epidemiology of alcohol use among those who use opioids and stimulants.
- Examine the concurrent drugs present in polysubstance overdoses involving alcohol compared to those without alcohol.
- Discuss the implications of AUD screening and treatment in the emergency department, especially in the context of opioid or stimulant overdoses."

Registration is required.