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DC Update: NASADAD Unveils New Name and Logo, President Biden Signs Continuing Resolution to Temporarily Fund the Federal Government, October is Substance Use Prevention Month, and More.

[Visit our Website](#)



Meet The Member

Crystal Sanchez, State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) for California

Crystal Sanchez currently serves as the Branch Chief for the Licensing and Certification Division (LCD) within the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). She also serves as the State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) for California.

In her current position, Crystal oversees the licensing, compliance monitoring, and oversight of opioid treatment programs (OTP) and driving under the influence (DUI) programs in California. She also oversees the substance use disorder (SUD) counselor qualifications, as well as the counselor certifying bodies.

As California's SOTA, Crystal serves as a liaison between OTPs, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). She consults with OTP stakeholders and federal partners on new OTP applications, exceptions, OTP treatment barriers, medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), outcomes due to flexibilities granted during the COVID-19 pandemic, workforce, funding opportunities, continuity of care, and State and federal policy. Further, Crystal aids OTPs to ensure they have operations in place in the event of an emergency to ensure patients have access to opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment during disasters.



Crystal earned a bachelor's degree in economics and communications from the University of California, Davis.

NASADAD News

NASADAD Unveils New Name: Embracing Language that Reflects Our Commitment to Single State Agencies (SSAs) and the People They Serve

Today marks a significant milestone for the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) as we proudly announce the unveiling of our new name, brand, and logo. These changes reflect our renewed dedication to the respect and dignity of individuals and communities affected by substance use, misuse, and substance use disorders (SUD). The changes also convey our commitment to the State agencies that provide alcohol and drug services to individuals with no or insufficient means to services.

Click on the short video below to learn more!



A Name that Honors Our Mission

For years, our name included the term "Abuse," a word that, while historically used in clinical and policy contexts, carries a weight that can unintentionally harm the very people we strive to support. Recognizing the power of language, we have made the conscientious decision to replace "Abuse" with "Agency" in our official name. Our new name, the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug *Agency* Directors, emphasizes the critical role that state alcohol and drug agencies play in empowering communities to prevent substance misuse, lead policy and program initiatives to improve access to services, and foster recovery. It more effectively captures our longstanding mission to promote effective and efficient publicly funded State substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery systems.

The New Logo: A Symbol of Unity and Vision

Accompanying our new name is a redesigned logo that embodies the core values of NASADAD. The blue in our logo symbolizes trust, reliability, and professionalism, essential traits as we continue to serve as a unifying voice for state agencies across the nation. The sharp points of the "A" letters in our logo are reminiscent of a star, symbolizing the States and our commitment to reaching the highest points of success, quality, excellence, and leadership. The green represents growth while the arch symbolizes NASADAD's role as a connector, partner, and collaborator. It also evokes the feeling of a "horizon," signifying limitless possibilities for systems improvement and a broad vision for health and well-being.

Renewed Commitment to Enhance Visibility of SSAs and NASADAD

Our new brand is more than just a visual change—it's a reaffirmation of our mission to facilitate the highest standards in substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery services. The rebranding is aligned with our strategic focus on enhancing the visibility and recognition of NASADAD, the Association's work, and our members. Our focus remains centered on educating the Federal government, national associations, and the public; informing public policy; and facilitating system and practice improvement. We continue to act as the voice for Single State Agencies at the Federal level, facilitating collaboration, and ensuring a focused effort in the field of SUD. Through our collaborative efforts, we will

continue to improve access, quality, and effectiveness of these systems and services.

Words Matter. People Matter. With this change, we honor that truth and renew our commitment to supporting every individual's dignity and potential to deal with substance use problems.

Visit our website at [nasdad.org](https://www.nasdad.org) to learn more about our initiatives and resources.

White House Happenings

President Biden Signs Continuing Resolution to Temporarily Fund the Federal Government, Avoid Government Shutdown

On September 26, President Biden signed into law a continuing resolution (CR), [H.R.9747, the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025](#), which temporarily provides Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations to Federal agencies through December 20, 2024. The House approved the CR the day before by a vote of 341-82 and the Senate by a vote 78-18. The CR maintains final FY 2024 funding levels for most programs, with a few exceptions, and extends FY 2025 funding for all 12 departments until the third week in December, allowing the federal government to continue to operate.

Congress and the President had until October 1 to pass final appropriations bills or a CR to avoid a government shutdown.

The White House's press release on the bill can be found [here](#).

Around the Agencies



October is Substance Use Prevention Month!

Each year, October is Substance Use Prevention Month. Prevention Month is an annual observance dedicated to recognizing the role of prevention in the continuum, the value of prevention services, and the dangers associated with substance use and misuse. This year's theme is: *Telling the Prevention Story*. In recognition of Prevention Month, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the [2024 Prevention Month Toolkit](#), which offers social media shareables, website graphics, virtual meeting backgrounds, and more to elevate prevention's impact on communities across the country. Throughout this month and year-round, SAMHSA is also elevating various prevention initiatives, including:

- ["Talk. They Hear You."®](#)
- [Communities Talk to Prevent Alcohol and Other Drug Misuse](#)
- [Voices of Youth](#)

Additional Prevention Month resources, including opportunities to get involved, can be found [here](#).

CMS Releases Guidance on Best Practices for Adhering to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Requirements

On September 26, the Centers for Medicare &



Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance on [Best Practices for Adhering to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment \(EPSDT\) Requirements](#) under Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The EPSDT requirements are designed to ensure Medicaid-eligible children and youth receive comprehensive prevention, diagnostic, and treatment services, including for mental health and substance use disorder (SUD). The guidance reinforces the EPSDT requirements and highlights best practices for States to implement those requirements. The guidance is divided into three topics:

- “Promoting EPSDT awareness and accessibility
- Expanding and using the child-focused (EPSDT) workforce
- Improving care for EPSDT-eligible children with specialized needs”

The guidance also includes a section dedicated to strategies on meeting children’s mental health and SUD needs.

Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), also circulated a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) in support of the guidance.

ASAM Seeking Public Comment on the Adolescent and Transition Age Youth Volume of the 4th Edition of The ASAM Criteria

The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) is seeking public comment on the standards for the Adolescent and Transition Age Youth Volume of the *4th Edition of The ASAM Criteria*. Specifically, ASAM seeks input from stakeholders on the draft standards for adolescent volume, which includes:

- “Assessment and Treatment Planning Standards
- The Adolescent Continuum of Care
- Adolescent Level of Care Standards”

The Draft Framework can be viewed [here](#).

ASAM is accepting comments until November 15. Comments can be made through the online submission form, [here](#).

Research Roundup

NIDA-Funded Study Finds Fewer Than Half of U.S. Jails Provide Any Form of MOUD



National Institute
on Drug Abuse

A National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded study, published in JAMA Network Open, on [Factors Associated With the Availability of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in US Jails](#) found that fewer than half of all U.S. jails offer any form of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD). The study surveyed more than 2,750 jails across the country and found that 43.8% offered any form of MOUD, with only 12.8% of them making MOUD available to anyone with opioid use disorder (OUD). The researchers note that most often, MOUD are only made available to people who are pregnant or to those who were already receiving MOUD at the time of their incarceration. Other key findings include:

- “Among jails with MOUD available, the most common type of medication used was buprenorphine (69.9%), followed by naltrexone (54.5%), while less than half of jails offered methadone (46.6%).
 - Most jails offered some type of substance use treatment or recovery support (70.1%).
- The most common reason jails reported for not offering MOUD was a lack of adequate or licensed staff to administer it. In support of this finding, we found that the type of health care model was associated with offering MOUD or any type of treatment for SUDs, and jails reporting services other than direct, contracted, or hybrid health care arrangements (generally, jails with no on-site health care services available) were less likely to offer MOUD than those using their own health care staff.
- In general, larger jails, those in counties with lower “social vulnerability” (lower levels of poverty and unemployment, and greater education, housing, and

transportation access), and those with greater proximity to community-based providers of medications for opioid use disorder were more likely to offer these treatments.”

The researchers call for more attention to addressing barriers to accessing MOUD in jails as a critical intervention point to prevent overdose. Specifically, they suggest supporting staff training, infrastructure improvements, and partnerships with community providers to improve treatment for people in jail.

NIDA’s press release on the study can be found [here](#).

Other News

O’Neill Institute Addiction and Public Policy Initiative Webinar: M.S. Addiction Policy & Practice Admissions Information Session

Georgetown University’s O’Neill Institute for National & Global Health Law Addiction and Public Policy Initiative is hosting a webinar on [M.S. Addiction Policy & Practice Admissions Information Session](#). This no-cost webinar is on October 10, at 12:00 pm ET. The webinar will feature Professor and Program Director Regina LaBelle and will outline the curriculum, careers in substance use disorder (SUD) policy, and how to apply for the program.

The priority application deadline for the program is January 15, 2025.

Registration is required.

Application Deadline for NBCC's 2025 Minority Fellowship for Addiction Counselors Extended

The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) announced that the application deadline for the [Minority Fellowship Program for Addiction Counselors \(MFP-AC\)](#) has been extended to October 7, 2024. NBCC, in partnership with the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC), will administer up to 43 Master’s degree-level counseling fellowships of \$15,000 for addictions counseling students, plus the travel expenses to participate in other program-related trainings through the MFP-AC.

Additional details on the program can be found in the MFP-AC flyer, [here](#).

Applications can be submitted [here](#).

NASADAD | 1919 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Suite M 250 | Washington, DC 20006 US

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