

October 24, 2024



DC Update: NASADAD Attends Clinical Trials Network Annual Scientific Meeting, SAMHSA Celebrates 20 Years of Strategic Prevention Framework, Fall DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, and More.

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Meet the Member

Sarah Johnson, Single State Agency Director (SSA) for Kentucky

Sarah Johnson, MSW, CSW, LCADC, was appointed Director for the Division of Substance Use Disorder at the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities within the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services on August 16, 2024.

Ms. Johnson began her career in the substance use disorder (SUD) field in 2004 working with individuals with mental health and SUD at Eastern State Hospital and as an SUD counselor at a Narcotic Treatment Program in Lexington. She began working for the

Commonwealth of Kentucky in 2006 where she spent 18 years within the Justice Cabinet in various positions. This includes work in Kentucky's public defender system, service on the Kentucky Parole Board, leadership of the Alternative Sentencing Worker Program, and Director of Addiction Services in the Department of Corrections.

Ms. Johnson has won several awards for her work, including the 2021 Director of the Year Award for her leadership at the Department of Corrections. She has a master's degree in social work with a concentration in mental health from the University of Kentucky and a bachelor's degree in social work from Morehead State University. She also holds a license through the Kentucky Board of Social Work as a Certified Social Worker (CSW) and the Kentucky Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors as a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC).



NASADAD News

Welcome (back) Michael Langer as He Joins the NASADAD Staff!

We are pleased to announce that Michael Langer has joined NASADAD this week as a Senior Advisor and Membership Services Liaison. Michael retired from the State of Washington earlier this year, having served within the SSA for Substance Use and Mental Health since 1986. During his State service, he was actively involved with NASADAD for nearly 30 years. In his role as SSA, he served in leadership positions on the NASADAD Board of Directors. He further contributed to the association by serving within the Network Prevention Network (NPN) and the National Treatment Network (NTN).



Michael is joining NASADAD as a part-time staffer where we will leverage his vast experience to enhance our capacity to serve members as they join NASADAD and serve their home State/jurisdiction SSA offices. He will also be advising NASADAD senior leaders and staff on federally funded projects designed to support our membership.

NASADAD Attends NIDA's Clinical Trials Network (CTN) 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting

NASADAD Deputy Executive Director Melanie Whitter and NASADAD Executive Director Robert Morrison participated in the 2024 National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA) Clinical Trials Network (CTN) Annual Scientific Meeting this week. This year's meeting celebrated the 25th anniversary of the CTN. The CTN is an approach to "...develop, validate, refine, and deliver new treatment options to patients." Overseen by Dr. Betty Tai, the CTN consists of 16 "Nodes"; a Clinical Coordinating Center; and a Data and Statistics Center.

This year's meeting featured presentations from Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of NIDA; Dr. Alan Leshner, former Director of NIDA, founder of the CTN; a panel of people with lived experience with CTN trials; and panels where updates on CTN projects were reviewed.

NASADAD is grateful for the work of Dr. Lisa Marsch, Director of the Northeast Node of the NIDA Clinical Trials Network and Chair of the National Steering Committee of NIDA's CTN, as conversations move forward on ways to promote a more systematic dialogue between the CTN and State alcohol and drug agencies.

Additional details about the meeting can be found [here](#).

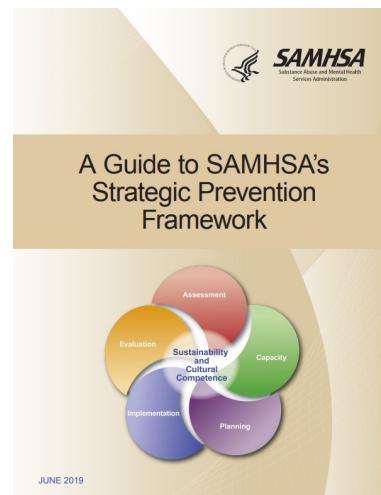
Around the Agencies

SAMHSA Celebrates 20 Years of Strategic Prevention Framework

This year is the 20th anniversary of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) [Strategic Prevention Framework \(SPF\)](#). Administered by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), the SPF offers a five-step model for evidence-based strategic planning for implementing effective initiatives to prevent substance use and related harms in States, Tribes, and Territories. SPF prioritizes the use of data to guide all prevention decisions and requires grantees to approach prevention in a cross-sector and collaborative manner. SPF has two guiding principles:

- "Cultural Competence: to overcome systemic barriers that contribute to disparities, and to achieve health equity (by nurturing cultural humility, ensuring cultural appropriateness, and including the population of focus in all aspects of planning and evaluating).
- Sustainability: capacity to maintain outcomes over time."

SAMHSA's blog celebrating the 20th anniversary of SPF can be found [here](#).



Fall DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day: October 26

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is hosting the bi-annual [National Prescription Drug \(Rx\) Take Back Day](#) on October 26. National Drug Take Back Day is a day dedicated to preventing medication misuse and opioid use disorder (OUD) by encouraging the public to dispose unneeded medications at disposal sites across the country. DEA's most recent Rx Take Back Day, in April 2024, resulted in 660,135 (335 tons) of returned drugs.

DEA's Collection Site Locator can be accessed [here](#).

Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association Releases Updated Model Overdose Reversal Agents Act



The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) recently released updates to its [Model Overdose Reversal Agents Act](#), originally released in 2021. The Act is intended to push overdose reversal agent access forward in States and accounts for the emergence of non-prescription options and other changes in overdose reversal agent laws across the country. The Act contains eight key elements:

1. Remove all existing restricts about who can receive, possess, store, transfer without cost, or administer an overdose reversal agent (ORA) such that any "person or entity is eligible,"
2. Require specified individuals or entities to offer ORAs to individuals at increased risk of overdose,
3. Require emergency access to ORAs at specified locations for use by any individual,
4. Provide guidelines for ORA sales, in particular sale of non-prescription ORAs,
5. Grant broad immunity to people or entities for prescribing, dispensing, giving, donating, transferring without charge, selling, or administering ORAs in the absence of gross negligence, malice, or criminal intent,
6. Identify the required content for educational information about ORAs and specify

when the information must be disseminated,

7. Require Medicaid and other health insurance coverage for ORAs, including non-prescription ORAs, and prohibit discriminatory life and health insurance practices, and
8. Create a bulk overdose reversal agent purchasing fund to assist persons and entities to fulfill requirements under the Act.

The full model law can be downloaded [here](#).

Research Roundup

CDC Study Reports Youth Tobacco Use Dropped to its Lowest Levels in 25 Years



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) and the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) recently published a study in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* on [Tobacco Product Use Among Middle and High School Students – National Youth Tobacco Survey, United States, 2024](#). The study analyzed the results of the [2024 National Youth Tobacco Survey](#) to determine tobacco product use among middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) students. The study found that, among all middle and high school students, the number of people who reported current use of any tobacco product decreased from 2.8 million in 2022 to 2.25 million in 2023, its lowest in 25 years. Other key findings include:

- "In 2024, current (previous 30-day) use of any tobacco product was reported by 10.1% of high school students (representing 1.58 million students) and 5.4% of middle school students (representing 640,000 students).
 - Among all students, e-cigarettes were the most commonly reported tobacco product currently used (5.9%), followed by nicotine pouches (1.8%), cigarettes (1.4%), cigars (1.2%), smokeless tobacco (1.2%), other oral nicotine products (1.2%), heated tobacco products (0.8%), hookahs (0.7%), and pipe tobacco (0.5%).
- During 2023–2024, among all students, e-cigarette use decreased (from 2.13 to 1.63 million students); and hookah use decreased (from 290,000 to 190,000 students).
 - Among high school students, current use of any tobacco product decreased from 12.6% to 10.1% of students, and e-cigarette use decreased from 10.0% to 7.8%. Among middle school students, no statistically significant changes occurred."

The study also compares the prevalence of tobacco product use by demographic groups.

The authors claim that these findings indicate that evidence-based tobacco use prevention interventions help prevent initiation and promote cessation of tobacco product use.

Webinars to Watch

HRSA-funded Center on Rural Addiction at the University of Vermont Webinar: Becoming Capable Providing Medication and Safe Supply for Opioid Use Disorder

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-funded [Center on Rural Addiction at the University of Vermont](#) is hosting a webinar on [Becoming Capable Providing Medication and Safe Supply for Opioid Use Disorder](#). This no-cost webinar is on October 30, at 12:00 pm ET. The webinar will review the findings of a qualitative study on the experience of nurse practitioners in primary care settings in New England and Ontario who prescribe medication and safe supply for opioid use disorder (OUD). The webinar will outline barriers to prescribing medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), strategies to improve access to MOUD, and the implications for MOUD/safe supply in rural and remote

settings. Learning objectives include:

- "Explore how NPs experienced capability development in prescribing MOUD/safe supply
- Examine the scope of the NP role, and its significance for MOUD/safe supply within rural and remote clinical settings
- Describe how NPs are stepping into leadership roles in the treatment of OUD
- Share examples of effective collaborations that support person-centered care and harm reduction"

Continuing Education (CE) credits are available for participation.

Registration is required.

National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare Webinar: Equipping Systems to Support American Indian and Alaska Native Families Affected by Substance Use



National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) is hosting a webinar on [*Equipping Systems to Support American Indian and Alaska Native Families Affected by Substance Use*](#). This no-cost webinar is on November 7, at 1:00 pm ET. The webinar will provide strategies and tools to equip workforce to deliver culturally appropriate services for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) families affected by substance use. Learning objectives include:

- "Receive information on the history of policies and practices that separated AI/AN families
- Learn about legislation, such as the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), developed in response to the policies and practices
- Gain access to newly developed tools focused on improving outcomes for AI/AN families affected by substance use"

Registration is required.

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