

February 6, 2025



**DC Update: NASADAD Attends Hearing: Combating Existing and Emerging Illicit Drug Threats, SAMHSA Updates National Behavioral Health Crisis Care Guidance, Study on State Cannabis Laws & OUD, and More.**



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## Meet the Member

### **Staci Swenson, National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for Ohio**

Staci Swenson currently serves as Deputy Director of the Office of Treatment Services within the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Ms. Swenson also serves as the National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for Ohio.

Ms. Swenson brings more than 25 years of experience in Ohio's community mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) system to her position. With a concentration on person-centered, trauma-focused treatment, training and education, program direction, and staff recruitment and retention, her passion has led her to work in urban, suburban, and rural areas of Ohio. Ms. Swenson has served on multidisciplinary integrated health care teams with expertise in crisis intervention, suicide prevention, harm-reduction, Motivational Interviewing, and clinical practice with individuals with histories of complex trauma, severe and persistent mental illness, and SUD.



Prior to her current position, Ms. Swenson served as Director of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic at a community behavioral health and federally qualified health center with multiple sites across Ohio. Before that, Ms. Swenson worked on a research project with The Ohio State University College of Social Work through Ohio's Medicaid Technical Assistance and Policy Program where she taught graduate and undergraduate students for over 16 years. She is also a Licensed Independent Social Worker Supervisor.

Ms. Swenson received her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies at Appalachian State University and earned her master's degree in Women's Studies and Social Work from The Ohio State University.

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## NASADAD News

### All States Call on the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA)

Thank you for joining last week's NASADAD All States Call on *the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA)*. The call featured a presentation by Kathy Keough, Executive Director, NASCSA, who provided background on NASCSA, their policy priorities, and opportunities for collaboration between State Controlled Substances Authorities and State alcohol and drug agencies.

The recording and presentation are available on the Members-Only site, [here](#).

If you experience any difficulties accessing the site, please contact Dan Diana, [ddiana@nasadad.org](mailto:ddiana@nasadad.org).

### NASADAD Attends House Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Health, Hearing: Combating Existing and Emerging Illicit Drug Threats

On February 6, at 10:00 am ET, NASADAD Executive Director Rob Morrison, Public Policy Associate Daniel Diana, and Public Policy Intern Ivana Sánchez attended a House Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on *Combating Existing and Emerging Illicit Drug Threats*. The hearing covered the dangers of fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances, particularly among youth, strategies for stopping the spread of illicit drugs and combating drug trafficking organizations, and the importance of maintaining robust federal funding for substance use disorder (SUD) services across the continuum.



Witnesses included:

- **Mr. Raymond Cullen**, Family Advocate
- **Sheriff Michael Bouchard**, Vice President of Government Affairs, Major County Sheriffs Association
- **Dr. Timothy Westlake, MD, FFSMB, FACEP**, Emergency Medicine Physician, ProHealth Care Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital
- **Ms. Regina LaBelle, JD**, Professor and Director, Master of Science in Addiction Policy and Practice, Georgetown University
- **Dr. Deepa Camenga, MD, MHS, FAAP**, Chair, Committee on Substance Use and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics

The recording of the hearing can be viewed on the Committee's webpage, [here](#).

(Pictured L to R: Rob Morrison, NASADAD; Ivana Sánchez, NASADAD; Daniel Diana, NASADAD; and Maddie Hise, former Public Policy Intern, NASADAD).

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## Around the Agencies

### Special Agent Derek S. Maltz Appointed as the Acting Administrator of the DEA



The Trump-Vance Administration recently announced the appointment of Derek S. Maltz as the Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Maltz is a career special agent who served 28 years at DEA, including nearly a decade in DEA's Special Operations Division, before retiring in 2014. Prior to joining the DEA, he served as the Chief of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force and spent time in the private sector. Maltz is a past recipient of the Presidential Rank Award for his accomplishments throughout his law enforcement career and graduated from Syracuse University.

As Acting Administrator, Maltz will be charged with leading the enforcement, intelligence, regulation, and awareness efforts of the DEA. His leadership is expected to help the DEA continue its fight against global drug trafficking, particularly those responsible for the flow of fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances into the U.S., and improving awareness efforts regarding the ongoing substance use and overdose crisis across the country.

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

### SAMHSA Releases National Behavioral Health Crisis Care Guidance

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released updated [National Behavioral Health Crisis Care Guidance](#). The guidance offers a framework intended to help communities design, implement, and improve mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) crisis care systems. Specifically, the updated guidance focuses on strategies supporting the whole person and family system, including youth and developmental considerations, with an emphasis on follow-up services, care coordination, critical service intersections, and crisis care development. The National Guidance is built on three foundational elements that are essential to an integrated crisis care system:

- Someone to Contact
- Someone to Respond
- A Safe Place for Help

The updated National Guidance is comprised of two finalized documents:

- [2025 National Guidelines for a Behavioral Health Coordinated System of Crisis Care](#)
- [Model Definitions for Behavioral Health Emergency, Crisis, and Crisis-Related Services](#)

Additionally, the updated guidance includes a draft of a detailed guide focused on Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) service delivery:

- [Mobile Crisis Team Services: An Implementation Toolkit \(Draft\)](#)
  - SAMHSA is accepting [public comments](#) on *Mobile Crisis Team Services: An Implementation Toolkit* through March 21, 2025.

### SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act Grants



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced a new funding opportunity for the [Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act Grants](#). This program seeks to prevent and reduce alcohol use among youth and young adults aged 12 to 20 in the U.S. Grant recipients are required to implement activities that support capacity building, including implementing evidence-based community approaches to alcohol use prevention and promoting collaboration among communities, federal, State, and local and tribal governments. Specifically, the program's objectives are to:

- “Address norms regarding alcohol use among youth
- Reduce opportunities for underage drinking
- Create changes in underage drinking enforcement efforts
- Address penalties for underage use
- Reduce negative consequences associated with underage drinking (e.g., motor vehicle crashes, sexual assaults)”

SAMHSA will provide up to 13 awards of up to \$60,000 for a project period up to 4 years for total program funding of \$750,000. Applications are due March 17, 2025.

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

## **SAMHSA Publishes Series of New Resources to Support Recovery**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently published a series of four new resources intended to help substance use disorder (SUD) system stakeholders develop recovery support services and promote equitable access to recovery services nationwide. Specifically, these resources are designed to help address the unique recovery needs of rural communities, reduce stigma around recovery, navigate mental health and SUD services, and expand the adoption of recovery support services in State, local, and community settings across the country. The new resources include:

- [\*FY2023/FY2024 Office of Recovery \(OR\) Performance Report\*](#)
- [\*Rural Recovery Innovations\*](#)
- [\*Family Peer Support Services: Broadening the View\*](#)
- [\*Promoting Wellness in the Workplace\*](#)

Additional SAMHSA resources on recovery can be found on SAMHSA’s Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center, [here](#).

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## **Research Roundup**

### **Study Uses NSDUH Data to Examine the Relationship of Medical and Recreational Cannabis Laws with Opioid Misuse and Opioid Use Disorder**

A group of university researchers published a study in the *International Journal of Drug Policy* on [\*The relationship of medical and recreational cannabis laws with opioid misuse and opioid use disorder in the USA: Does it depend on prior history of cannabis use?\*](#) The study utilized data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) to determine the impact of States’ adoptions of various medical and recreational cannabis laws on opioid misuse and opioid use disorder (OUD) overall, and among individuals with a history of past cannabis use. The study found that State medical and recreational cannabis law adoption were not associated with changes in the overall population reporting opioid misuse or OUD. However, among people reporting past-year cannabis use, the study reported decreased odds of opioid misuse and OUD in States with medical cannabis laws compared to those without cannabis laws. Other key findings include:

- States with both medical and recreational cannabis laws were not associated with changes in people reporting opioid misuse and OUD among those with past-year cannabis use.
- State adoption of recreational cannabis laws were not associated with changes in people reporting opioid misuse and OUD in the overall population and among those with past-year cannabis use.

The study calls for additional research on the association between medical cannabis laws and reductions in opioid use, opioid misuse, and OUD among people using cannabis, with an emphasis on the long-term effects of cannabis laws on opioid-related harms.

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## Webinars to Watch

### NIDA-Funded CHEARR & JEAP Forum Webinar Series: What's Emergent in Emerging Adult Recovery Support Services Research?



The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded Collaborative Hub for Emerging Adult Recovery Research (CHEARR) and Justice and Emerging Adult Populations (JEAP) Initiative are hosting a three-part webinar series as part of its Forum Series on [\*What's Emergent in Emerging Adult Recovery Support Services Research?\*](#) This no-cost webinar series is designed as a forum to promote collaboration and community-engaged research on the unique recovery needs of emerging adults (EA) between the ages of 16 and 25 who may be at particular risk for developing an opioid use disorder (OUD) or experiencing an overdose. Webinar times and topics include:

- Part 1: February 6, at 1:00 pm ET
  - Summary discussion of an article published in the National Library of Medicine on [\*Support Services for Young Adults With Substance Use Disorders\*](#) that examines principles of care for EA recovery support services.
- Part 2: March 6, at 1:00 pm ET
  - Panel discussion with a panel of EA with lived experience of substance use disorder (SUD) who will share reactions to the article and discussion from Part 1.
- Part 3: April 10, at 1:00 pm ET
  - Presentations from recovery scientists who are conducting studies focused on EA recovery support services.

Registration is required.

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