

March 6, 2025



**DC Update: NASADAD Offers Remarks at Oxford House 2025 Annual Staff Training ,
CoE-TFR Resource: Dimensions: Nicotine-Free Toolkit , CDC Reports 4% Decline in US
Drug Overdose Death Rate, and More.**



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Meet the Member

**Nancy Navarretta, MA, LPC, NCC, SSA for Connecticut,
Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Mental
Health and Addiction Services**

Nancy Navarretta, MA, LPC, NCC, serves as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, a position she has held since 2022. She also serves as the Single State Agency (SSA) Director for Connecticut.

Ms. Navarretta has extensive experience in public and private program development, strategic planning, senior leadership, and process improvement regarding the delivery of effective, recovery-oriented, and integrated healthcare systems. She previously served as Deputy Commissioner from 2015 to 2021 before being appointed Acting Commissioner, where she was responsible for project management and strategic planning while managing several initiatives, including evidenced-based practices, recovery for individuals with mental health and substance use



disorder (SUD), and opioid response efforts. Ms. Navarretta first joined the department in 2013 as Director of Behavioral Health Services and has experience as a service provider and mental health and SUD healthcare administrator. Prior to joining the department, she served as the Chief Operating Officer of Liberation Programs Inc., a non-profit serving Fairfield County and the Chief of Behavioral Health Services for Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving Greater New Haven.

In her current position, Ms. Navarretta prioritizes accessible, integrated mental health and SUD systems of care that are informed by multiple stakeholders, including individuals with lived experience. She currently co-chairs Connecticut's Alcohol and Drug Policy Council, Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee, and Fatherhood Initiative.

Ms. Navarretta received her bachelor's in psychology from Boston College and completed her graduate studies at Fordham University with a master's in clinical psychology. She is Nationally Certified and is a Licensed Counselor in Connecticut and Massachusetts and maintains memberships with American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and the American Counseling Association (ACA).

NASADAD News

NASADAD Executive Director Offers Remarks at the Oxford House, Inc. 2025 Annual Staff Training

On March 5, NASADAD Executive Director Rob Morrison had the pleasure of serving as a guest speaker at the *Oxford House, Inc. 2025 Annual Staff Training* held at the Gaylord National Convention Center. The Oxford House Annual Staff Training is a four-day conference that seeks to equip Oxford House Outreach Workers with the necessary resources and tools to help people in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD) find recovery housing under the Oxford House Model. Mr. Morrison offered remarks recognizing the importance of Oxford House's leadership in the recovery field, the role of recovery in the continuum, and the value of recovery services in general, and recovery housing in particular.



(Pictured L to R: Rob Morrison, NASADAD; and Kathleen Gibson, Chief Executive Officer, Oxford House, Inc.).

NASADAD Attends Congressional Briefing Hosted by the Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus on the State of the Overdose Crisis

On March 6, NASADAD Executive Director Rob Morrison and Public Policy Associate Dan Diana attended a congressional briefing co-hosted by the Center on Addiction Policy at the Georgetown O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Overdose Prevention Initiative at the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA), and House Bipartisan Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery (ATR) Caucus. The briefing discussed the state of the overdose epidemic in the US and opportunities for bipartisan collaboration to prevent drug overdose deaths and save lives. Opening remarks were provided by ATR co-chairs Representatives Paul Tonko (D-NY-20) and Madeleine Dean (D-PA-04). Panelists included:

- Harry Cunnane (moderator), Regional Resource Director for Caron Treatment Centers
- Dr. Andre Johnson, CEO of Detroit Recovery Project
- Dr. Stephen Loyd, Director of the West Virginia Office of Drug Control Policy
- Jim Carroll, former Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)
- Regina LaBelle, Director, Center on Addiction Policy, Georgetown University O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, and former Acting Director of ONDCP



(Pictured L to R: Rep. Paul Tonko; Harry Cunnane, Caron Treatment Center; Dr. Andre Johnson, Detroit Recovery Project; Dr. Stephen Loyd, West Virginia Office of Drug Control Policy; Jim Carroll; and Regina LaBelle, Center on Addiction Policy).

Around the Agencies

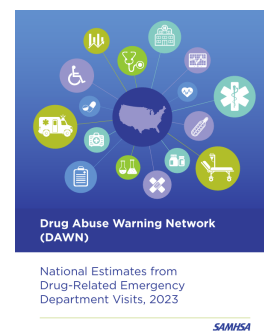
Register for the National Center on Youth Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery's Joint Meeting on Youth Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery

The [National Center on Youth Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery](#), in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is hosting the 2nd annual [Joint Meeting on Youth Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery](#) at the Four Seasons Hotel Baltimore on March 18-20. The Joint Meeting is designed to bring together stakeholders, constituencies, and interested parties to promote substance use prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery efforts for children, adolescents, and emerging adults. Additional details on the conference, including the agenda and presentation topics, can be found [here](#).

[Registration](#) is required to attend the conference.

SAMHSA Resource: Drug Abuse Warning Network National Estimates from Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits, 2023

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a new report on [Drug Abuse Warning Network \(DAWN\) National Estimates from Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits, 2023](#). The report provides weighted national estimates based on [DAWN data](#) of the prevalence, contributors, and outcomes of drug-related emergency department visits across the US in 2023. Specifically, the report outlines national estimates and characteristics of drug-related emergency department visits, demographics of individuals involved in visits, and the percent of visits by substance type, including for alcohol, cannabis, and opioids.



The report can be downloaded in full, [here](#).

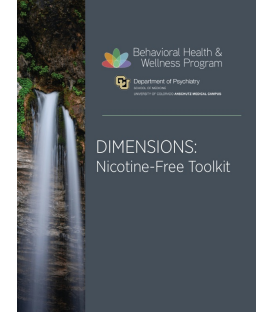
CoE-TFR Resource: Dimensions: Nicotine-Free Toolkit

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery (CoE-TFR), in partnership with the Behavioral Health and

Wellness Program at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, released a resource on [*Dimensions: Nicotine-Free Toolkit*](#). This new resource provides tools to support planning and implementation of evidence-based interventions for addressing tobacco-use in people with mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) in healthcare and supportive service settings. Specifically, the toolkit offers education on nicotine use, assessing people's levels of dependence, skills for engaging individuals in discussions about nicotine, and evidence-based treatments. The toolkit is divided into the following:

- Nicotine Use and Health
- Assessment and Planning for Change
- Nicotine Cessation Treatment
- Healthy Living
- Practice and Organizational Change

The resource can be downloaded in full, [here](#).



Research Roundup

CDC Data Reports 4% Decline in the Rate of U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths from 2022 to 2023

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a report on [*Changes in Drug Overdose Mortality and Selected Drug Type by State: United States, 2022 to 2023*](#). The report analyzed data from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) multiple cause-of-death files for 2022 and 2023 to evaluate changes in age-adjusted drug overdose death rates between 2022 and 2023 by State and by type of drug. The report found that the age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths in the US decreased by 4 percent from 2022 to 2023. Other key findings include:

- “Between 2022 and 2023, age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths decreased in 20 states and did not change significantly in 25 states.
- The rate increased between 2022 and 2023 in 6 states: Alabama, Alaska, California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.
- The jurisdictions with the highest rates in 2023 were West Virginia (81.9) and the District of Columbia (60.7), and the states with the lowest rates were Nebraska (9.0) and South Dakota (11.2).
- Nationally, between 2022 and 2023, the age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths decreased for deaths involving any opioid and synthetic opioids other than methadone (which includes fentanyl), and increased for deaths involving psychostimulants with abuse potential (which includes methamphetamine) and cocaine.”

The report includes a table with state-by-state numbers for overdose deaths by drug type.

The report can be downloaded in full, [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

Ohio State University Webinar: Reading the Tea Leaves: The Future of Marijuana Rescheduling

The Ohio State University Drug Enforcement and Policy Center is hosting a webinar on [*Reading the Tea Leaves: The Future of Marijuana Rescheduling*](#). This no-cost webinar is on April 8, at 12:00 pm ET. The webinar will feature a panel of subject matter experts and former government officials who will cover the rescheduling process under the Controlled Substances Act, potential policy changes as a result of proposals to reclassify marijuana as a Schedule III substance, and implications of marijuana rescheduling on public health. Speakers include: Cat Packer, Director of Drug Markets and Legal Regulation at the Drug

Policy Alliance (DPA); Matthew Lawrence, former Senior Advisor at the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and Pat Zettler, former Deputy General Counsel to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

[Registration](#) is required.

CoE-TFR Webinar: Supporting your Loved Ones with Mental Illness or Substance Use Challenges in Addressing Tobacco Use: The Role of Families and Family Peers



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery (CoE-TFR) and National Family Support Technical Assistance Center (NFSTAC) are hosting a webinar on [Supporting Your Loved Ones With Mental Health or Substance Use Challenges in Addressing Tobacco Use: The Role of Families and Family Peers](#). This no-cost webinar is on April 16, at 2:00 pm ET. This webinar is intended for family peer specialists, peer support workers, mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) practitioners, and families of people with mental health or SUD and will explore the role families play in supporting loved ones with mental health and SUD in addressing their tobacco use. Learning objectives include:

- “Dispel common myths related to addressing tobacco use for people with mental illness and substance use disorder.
- Describe the barriers, challenges, and opportunities families and family peer support workers experience with supporting loved ones during their tobacco use quit journey.
- Identify resources available for families to use to support their loved ones in addressing commercial tobacco use.”

Registration is required.

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