

May 1, 2025



**DC Update: House Energy and Commerce Committee Advances SUPPORT Act Reauthorization, May is Mental Health Awareness Month, Study on Tobacco Cessation and Tobacco-Free Policies in Facilities, and More.**



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## Meet the Member

### **Emma Hefton, National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for Arizona**

Emma Hefton serves as Grant Administrator for the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant at Arizona's State Medicaid agency, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). She also serves as the National Treatment Network (NTN) Coordinator for Arizona.



Ms. Hefton started her career in health and human services as a caregiver for older adults and adults with disabilities for a decade in Washington State. Through her time there, she gained first-hand experience in the implementation of substance use prevention and early intervention services before moving to Arizona in 2019 to pursue a career in mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) at AHCCCS. Ms. Hefton has served at AHCCCS for nearly 6 years, where she has been tasked with overseeing mental health and SUD grant programs, including the SUPTRS Block Grant, Mental Health Block Grant, and Crisis Counseling Program. She also previously served as

the National Prevention Network (NPN) Representative for Arizona.

In her current capacity as Grant Administrator, Ms. Hefton leads Arizona's SUPTRS Block Grant team to assess community needs and conduct planning for substance use services statewide. In particular, she is responsible for managing the allocation of substance use funding throughout the State, overseeing and monitoring subrecipient progress, providing training and technical assistance to grant subrecipients, and contributing to mental health and SUD grant contracts and policies.

Ms. Hefton earned her bachelor's degree in community health education with a Spanish minor from Western Washington University, and her Master of public health specialized in community health and social justice from Bastyr University. She is also a Master Certified Health Education Specialist focused on mental health and SUD prevention and treatment.

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## NASADAD News



### 2025 National Prevention Network Conference- Early Bird Registration!

The 2025 *NASADAD National Prevention Network (NPN) Conference* will be held August 11-13, 2025, at the Grand Hyatt Washington, D.C. The NPN Conference highlights the latest research in the substance use prevention field and provides a forum for prevention professionals, coalition leaders, researchers, and federal partners to share research, best practices, and evaluation results for the purpose of integrating research into practice. This year's theme is: *Substance Use Prevention Across the Lifespan: Creating a Monumental Impact*.

Early bird registration is now open through May 16. Additional information can be found on the registration page [here](#).

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## Capitol Hill Happenings

### House Energy and Commerce Committee Advances SUPPORT Act Reauthorization

On April 29, the House Energy and Commerce Committee held a markup of several bills, including advancing the [SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025 \(H.R.2483\)](#) in a 36-13 vote. The [SUPPORT Act \(P.L. 115-271\)](#), signed into law on October 24, 2018, included several provisions designed to address the opioid crisis, including the First Responder Training Program (CARA), Substance Use Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Loan Repayment Program, Pregnant and Postpartum Women's (PPW) Residential and Pilot Programs, Building Communities of Recovery (BCOR) Program, and Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers (CORC), among others. If passed into law, the Support Reauthorization Act would reauthorize these programs and others through 2030.

The SUPPORT Reauthorization Act will now be reported to the House for consideration.

NASADAD will keep the membership informed on any developments.

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## Around the Agencies



## May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

Each year, May is recognized as [Mental Health Awareness Month \(MHAM\)](#). Mental Health Awareness Month is dedicated to raising awareness of the role of mental health in overall well-being and resources to support individuals and communities who need mental health support, including for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (SUD). In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the [Mental Health Awareness Month Toolkit](#), which contains various resources on mental health, including links to treatment and other support. Specifically, the toolkit contains social media templates, graphics, and other tools to promote awareness about mental health and mental health services.

Additional SAMHSA information and resources on mental health can be found [here](#).

## SAMHSA Resource: Coverage of Selected Behavioral Health Services Among Older Medicare and Medicaid Beneficiaries

Today, in recognition of [Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day](#), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Financing Reform and Innovation (CFRI) published a report on [Coverage of Selected Behavioral Health Services Among Older Medicare and Medicaid Beneficiaries](#). The report aims to analyze trends and disparities in mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) screening, collaborative care, and opioid use disorder (OUD) and alcohol use disorder (AUD) medication utilization among older adults. Specifically, the report explores the provision and utilization of mental health and SUD services for people covered under Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) plans, Medicare Advantage Plans, and dually eligible beneficiaries using Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) healthcare claims data from 2017 to 2021.

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

## NIH Heal Initiative 2025 Annual Report: Research in Action

The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) [Helping to End Addiction Long-term® \(HEAL\) Initiative](#) recently published the [NIH HEAL Initiative 2025 Annual Report: Research in Action](#). The 2025 Report highlights innovative approaches through the HEAL Initiative to address the ongoing opioid and overdose crisis and chronic pain crisis. Specifically, the report covers new treatments for pain, overdose, and opioid use disorder (OUD), tools to advance therapy development, strategies for optimizing existing treatments, and efforts to ensure care reaches underserved communities, with an emphasis on rural communities and new mothers. Work highlighted in this year's report includes:

- "Therapeutic agents moving through the drug development pipeline, including for pain, overdose, and opioid use disorder
- New ways to study human tissues, a key step in developing new therapies
- Implementation studies improving care for patients using existing treatments
- Efforts to bring critical treatments to high-needs patients, including rural populations and new mothers
- Curation of a large data ecosystem, which will facilitate future discoveries."

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



## SAMHSA Releases Recovery Fact Sheets

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), through the [\*SAMHSA Program to Advance Recovery Knowledge Resource Center \(SPARK\)\*](#), released two new fact sheets on recovery and recovery support services. Specifically, the resources are designed to help individuals navigate mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services and promote adoption of recovery-oriented services and supports in State, local, and community mental health and SUD settings. The two new resources include:

- [\*Housing Supports Recovery and Well-Being: Definitions and Shared Values\*](#)
  - “Summarizes the role that housing plays in supporting recovery for recovery and housing leaders.”
- [\*Countering Discrimination and Improving Recovery Supports Across Court, Corrections, and Reentry Settings\*](#)
  - “Highlights and addresses public misconceptions and misperceptions linking mental health and substance use conditions with crime rather than recognizing systemic barriers to accessing needed care.”

Additional SAMHSA resources on recovery and recovery support services can be found on SPARK’s webpage, [here](#).

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## Research Roundup

### CDC Report on Tobacco-Related Clinical Services and Tobacco-Free Policies in Behavioral Health Treatment Facilities



A group of researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently published a report in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* on [\*Tobacco-Related Clinical Services and Tobacco-Free Policies in Behavioral Health Treatment Facilities — United States, 2023\*](#). The report analyzed data of over 24,000 treatment facilities across the US and its territories that provide mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services from the 2023 National Substance Use and Mental Health Services Survey (N-SUMHSS) to determine the number and percentage of those treatment facilities that have tobacco-free policies and offer tobacco-related clinical services. Specifically, the report found that over 64% of mental health facilities and over 81% of substance use facilities with tobacco-free policies offered at least one tobacco cessation service. Other key findings include:

- “Tobacco use screening was offered at 6,796 (69.2%) mental health and 11,978 (82.3%) substance use facilities.
- Tobacco cessation counseling was the most commonly offered cessation service (53.1% of mental health and 69.9% of substance use facilities).
- Fewer than one half of facilities offered nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) (35.0% of mental health and 40.2% of substance use facilities) or non-nicotine cessation medications (33.6% of mental health and 35.3% of substance use facilities).
- The highest percentages of facilities offering tobacco-related clinical services were public agency–operated facilities and hospital inpatient facilities, irrespective of facility type or service.
- Tobacco-free policies were reported by 53.9% of mental health and 33.9% of substance use facilities.
  - More vape-free policies (57.9% of mental health and 43.6% of substance use facilities) were reported than were smoke-free policies (54.6% of mental health and 34.9% of substance use facilities).
- The highest percentages of vape-free and smoke-free policies were reported by public agency–operated facilities, irrespective of facility type.
  - Among mental health facilities, the highest percentages of vape-free and smoke-free policies were reported by hospital inpatient facilities.



- Among substance use facilities, hospital inpatient facilities had the highest percentage of vape-free policies; outpatient and hospital inpatient facilities reported similar percentages of smoke-free policies.

The percentage of facilities with smoke-free policies and the percentage offering tobacco-related clinical services varied by jurisdiction.

The report calls for the integration of tobacco-cessation treatments into mental health and SUD care and broader implementation of tobacco-free policies to reduce tobacco-related disease and improve treatment outcomes.

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

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## Webinars to Watch

### Northeast & Caribbean ATTC Webinar: Group Facilitation Skills for Alcohol and Other Substance Use Counselors

The [Northeast & Caribbean Addiction Technology Transfer Center \(ATTC\)](#) is hosting a webinar on [Group Facilitation Skills for Alcohol & Other Substance Use Counselors](#). This no-cost webinar is on May 2, at 11:00 am ET. The webinar will focus on the development of counseling groups and the use of group counseling by alcohol and other substance use counselors to address substance use disorder (SUD). Specifically, the webinar will provide an overview of counseling group work, the differences between group work and casework, and the skills needed to facilitate effective groups.

Renewal hours and initial hours are available for participation in the webinar.

[Registration](#) is required.

### Great Lakes ATTC Webinar: Topic 8: Peer Supports for Women with SUDs in Recovery



The [Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center \(ATTC\)](#) is hosting a webinar as part of its series, Take 10! Transforming Care for Women with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) and Their Families, on [Topic 8: Peer Supports for Women with SUDs in Recovery](#). This no-cost webinar is on May 6, at 11:00 am ET. The webinar will outline the emotional, physical, and socioeconomic factors that uniquely impact women during treatment and the relationship between those factors and the peer supports available to women with SUD in recovery. Learning objectives include:

- “Best practices for treating women with SUDs in the United States, with a focus on the Midwest
- The link between trauma, substance use, and other co-morbidities in women
- Using trauma-informed approaches during treatment when appropriate
- Effective clinical strategies, interventions, and resources that help improve engagement, retention, and completion of treatment programs.”

[Registration](#) is required.

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