

July 24, 2025



DC Update: FY 2026 LHHS Appropriations Mark-Up Postponed to September, Senate Confirms Terrance Cole for DEA Administrator, CDC Publishes Webpage on Overdose Prevention Strategic Priorities, and More.

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Meet the Member

Denise Davidson, National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for Nevada

Denise J. Davidson currently serves as a Health Program Specialist at the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) within the Nevada Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention. She also serves as the National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for Nevada.

Ms. Davidson brings a wealth of experience in public health, serving in various capacities primarily at nonprofit agencies

across the field. In particular, her work has focused on older adults and veterans, most recently serving as the Veterans Housing Project Manager for a veteran's mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment provider in Nevada. In her current role, Ms. Davidson oversees the substance use prevention system in Nevada. Her team works collaboratively to sustain, promote, and implement innovative solutions in the prevention space.

Ms. Davidson completed her bachelor's in Community Health Science with a Public Health emphasis from the University of Nevada, Reno. She was also awarded a scholarship from DPBH to pursue her master's in Public Health, with classes scheduled to begin in August.



Voices on the Hill

Richard "Dick" Durbin, Senator for Illinois

Senator Richard "Dick" Durbin (D-IL) currently serves as Senator for Illinois, a position he has held since 1987. Senator Durbin is serving his final term as he will not seek re-election in 2026. Prior to becoming Senator, Durbin served as congressman for Illinois' 20th Congressional District from 1983 to 1997, following a career as a lawyer and legal counsel to the Illinois Lieutenant Governor. He earned his B.S. from Georgetown University in 1966 and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1969.



Throughout his more than 40 years in Congress, Senator Durbin has been a strong leader in advocating for substance use disorder (SUD) services, with an emphasis on addressing tobacco. In 1987, Senator Durbin authored an amendment to the *Federal Aviation Act of 1958* (P.L. 85-726) that banned smoking on short-distance commercial flights, a measure that was expanded in 1989 to cover nearly all domestic flights. Durbin went on to champion additional tobacco-related initiatives, including the passage of the *Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act* (P.L. 111-31) in 2009, which granted the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) the authority to regulate tobacco products. He also supported the passage of Tobacco 21 legislation in 2019, which raised the federal minimum age for the sale of tobacco products from 18 to 21. More recently, in 2025, Senator Durbin introduced the [End Tobacco Loopholes Act \(S.819\)](#), a bill aimed at establishing a federal tax on e-cigarettes. In addition to this tobacco-related work, Senator Durbin was an early champion of federal appropriations for the Pregnant and Postpartum Women (PPW) residential treatment program, helping to expand access to substance use treatment for women and families.

Senator Durbin currently serves as the Senate Minority Whip and ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He also sits on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, which has jurisdiction over federal spending for substance use programs under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including those within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), among others.

Capitol Hill Happenings

FY 2026 LHHS Appropriations Mark-Up Postponed to September

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS), Education and Related Agencies announced the postponing of a mark-up of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 LHHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, a bill that includes proposed FY 2026 funding for NASADAD priority programs within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), originally planned for July 21 to September 4.

Similarly, the full House Appropriations Committee announced it is postponing its mark-up of the bill from July 24 to September 9.

The LHHS, Education and Related Agencies bill provides funding for HHS, including priority programs under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and National Institutes of Health (NIH).

NASADAD will continue to monitor developments related to this bill and provide updates to members as they become available.

Around the Agencies

Senate Confirms Terrance Cole for DEA Administrator

On July 22, Mr. Terrance Cole, President Trump's appointee to serve as Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), was confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 50-48. The vote comes after the Senate Judiciary Committee voted to approve the Cole nomination by a vote of 12-10 on May 22, 2025.



Administrator Cole was nominated to serve as the administrator of DEA after a long career in law enforcement. This work included 20 years of service at DEA in various roles, including as Chief of Staff of DEA's / the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Special Operations Division, DEA representative to the National Security Council, and work in DEA's section focused on Global Operations, among other positions. Mr. Cole retired in 2020 when he served as DEA's Regional Director for Mexico, Canada, and Central America. Most recently, Mr. Cole served as Virginia's Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security.

National Deflection Week 2025: July 20-26, 2025

This week is [National Deflection Week 2025](#)! Launched in 2023 by the Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC), National Deflection Week is an observance held annually during the third full week of July dedicated to recognizing deflection efforts across the world to connect people to substance use treatment without traditional criminal justice system involvement. Specifically, National Deflection Week seeks to raise awareness for deflection efforts through social media and in-person events to reduce crime and address substance use by expanding access to treatment options that would otherwise be out of reach for justice-involved populations. In recognition of National Deflection Week, PTACC released a [National Deflection Week Social Media Toolkit](#) containing resources regarding deflection, including educational materials, shareable graphics, and social media captions.

Additional details on National Deflection Week 2025 can be found [here](#).

CDC Publishes New Webpage on Strategic Priorities for Overdose Prevention



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently launched a new webpage on [Strategic Priorities for Overdose Prevention](#). The new webpage outlines [CDC's guiding principles and strategic priorities](#) that drive the agencies work on overdose prevention, as well as real-life examples of actual initiatives being funded using CDC funds to address the overdose epidemic. Specifically, the webpage highlights examples of initiatives funded by [CDC's Overdose Data to Action \(OD2A\) program](#) in States across the country that address each of CDC's five strategic priorities for overdose prevention. CDC's strategic priorities for overdose prevention include:

1. Monitor, analyze, and communicate trends
2. Build state, tribal, local, and territorial capacity
3. Support providers, health systems, payors, and employers
4. Partner with public safety and community organizations

Additional details on overdose prevention efforts at CDC can be found [here](#).

CoE-PHI Releases eLearning Modules on Federal Privacy Regulations for Substance Use and Mental Health Care Providers

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information (CoE-PHI) released [a series of six eLearning modules](#) regarding federal privacy regulations for mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment records. These on-demand modules take 15 to 20 minutes to complete and are intended for providers of mental health and SUD treatment services who create, receive, or transmit protected health information. Specifically, each module contains case studies, real-world examples, and knowledge checks to help mental health and SUD treatment providers understand how to apply the 42 CFR Part 2 federal privacy regulations to their patients' treatment records. The six eLearning modules include:

- [Part 2's Medical Emergency Exception](#)
- [Sharing SUD Treatment Information with Patients' Family and Emergency Contacts](#)
- [Part 2 Application to Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment \(SBIRT\)](#)
- [Privacy Basics for Frontline Staff](#)
- [Does Part 2 Apply to Me or My Practice?](#)
- [Federal Privacy Regulations When Providing SUD and Mental Health Services](#)

Certificates of completion are available for each module.

Webinars to Watch

NAADAC Webinar: Aging and Addiction: Clinical Strategies for Supporting Older Adults with OUD and SUDs



NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, is hosting a webinar on [Aging and Addiction: Clinical Strategies for Supporting Older Adults with OUD and SUDs](#). This no-cost webinar is on July 30, at 12:30 pm ET. The webinar will offer background on the intersection of aging, mental health, and substance use disorder (SUD), with an emphasis on the prevalence of opioid use disorder (OUD) among older adults. Specifically, the webinar will examine the challenges and clinical considerations around supporting older adults with SUD, including strategies for assessing, diagnosing, and treating older adults with OUD or SUD. Learning objectives include:

- “Participants in this webinar will be able to identify three unique considerations for older adults related to opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders, mental health, and physiological aging.
- Participants will be able to describe two barriers to accessing the care that is needed at the intersection of substance use and the aging brain.
- Participants will be able to discuss three compassionate, evidence-informed interventions to support older clients in navigating OUD/SUD and achieving recovery.”

1.5 Continuing Education (CE) credits are available for participation in this webinar.

[Registration](#) is required.

CoE-TFR Webinar: Case-Based Discussion Series for Clinicians: An Overview of the Evidence Based Approach

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery (CoE-TFR) is hosting a webinar

as part of its Case-Based Discussion Series for Clinicians on *An Overview of the Evidence Based Approach*. This no-cost webinar is being offered twice on August 19: once at [12:00 pm ET](#) and again at [5:00 pm ET](#). This webinar is the second session of CoE-TFR's Case-Based Discussion Series for Clinicians and is designed to enhance the capacity of mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) professionals to deliver evidence-based tobacco use disorder interventions. Specifically, the webinar is intended for administrators, social workers, and non-prescribing clinical support staff and will provide an overview of the evidence-based approach to delivering tobacco use disorder interventions in a variety of mental health and SUD settings. Learning objectives include:

- “Learn best practices and practical strategies for addressing tobacco use disorder in behavioral health populations
- Participate in interactive case discussions
- Connect with a network of peers and specialist”

Registration for either session is required.

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