

October 2, 2025



**DC Update: NASADAD Releases 2025 National Recovery Month Collage, October is Substance Use & Misuse Prevention Month, SAMHSA Prevention Month Webinars, and More.**

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## NASADAD News

### NASADAD Serves as Panelist During the Washington Center's Health Policy Immersion Program

On September 19, NASADAD Executive Director Rob Morrison served as a panelist during the Washington Center's Health Policy Immersion Program in Washington, D.C. Rob was joined by fellow panelist Katie Greene, Director of Public Health, National Academy of State Health Policy (NASHP), and moderator Eric Bailly, leader of NorthStar Behavioral Health Advisory. The panel session was on "Health Policy in Motion: Federal, State, and Local Responses." Rob spoke about the role of State alcohol and drug agencies and discussed key priorities.



Many thanks to the Washington Center for the opportunity to present with Katie and Eric and many thanks to the talented students in the Health Policy Immersion Program.

**NASADAD 2025 National Recovery Month Collage**

NASADAD is pleased to share the 2025 NASADAD National Recovery Month Collage!

National Recovery Month is an annual observance held each September dedicated to celebrating people in recovery from substance use disorder (SUD) and raising awareness for recovery support services. This year's Recovery Month theme is: *Recovery is REAL (Restoring Every Aspect of Life)*. Through this theme, Recovery Month seeks to elevate recovery support services and the

effectiveness of SUD services to educate the public, stakeholders, and communities that recovery from SUD is real and possible for everyone.

NASADAD members are the lead agency in each State and jurisdiction responsible for managing the publicly funded substance use system across prevention, treatment, and recovery. For September, our staff and Members wore purple to celebrate recovery and promote awareness of SUD issues. NASADAD is grateful for the work all our members do in their States and jurisdictions to support recovery every day of the year.

The 2025 NASADAD National Recovery Month Collage can be found on the NASADAD website, [here](#).

Thank you to all who participated.



## Voices on the Hill

### Representative Frank Pallone Jr., Congressman for New Jersey's 6th District

Congressman Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ-06) currently serves as Representative for New Jersey's 6th District, a position he has held since 1988. Prior to his election to Congress, Representative Pallone served as a member of the Long Branch City Council in Monmouth County, New Jersey, from 1982 to 1988 and, alongside that, as a member of the New Jersey Senate from the 11th district from 1984 to 1988. Representative Pallone received his B.A. from Middlebury College, his Master's in Internal Relations from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and his J.D. from Rutgers School of Law – Camden.



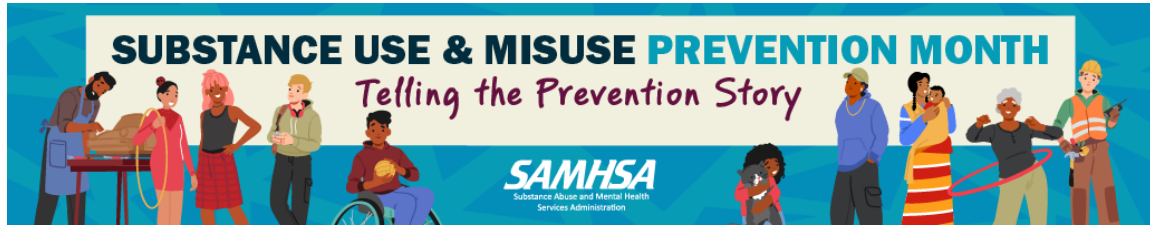
Representative Pallone has been a long-time champion of advocating for legislation at the federal level that supports comprehensive responses to the substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid crisis. Specifically, Representative Pallone was an original cosponsor of the [Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 \(H.R.6983\)](#), a bill extending insurance parity requirements for mental health and SUD care under the [Mental Health Parity Act of 1996 \(P.L. 104-204\)](#) that was later incorporated into the [Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 \(P.L. 110-343\)](#). Representative Pallone was central in guiding the [Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 \(P.L. 114-198\)](#) and [the 21st Century Cures Act \(P.L. 114-255\)](#) to passage, securing over \$1 billion in funding to address the opioid crisis. Representative Pallone later introduced the [Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022 \(H.R.7666\)](#), legislation that sought to reauthorize and expand numerous mental health and SUD-related programs, including the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant and the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) Block Grant, among others. He was an original cosponsor of the [SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act \(H.R.6\)](#), a bill that authorized a series of SUD-related prevention, treatment, and recovery programs,

with an emphasis on opioids.

Representative Pallone currently serves as the Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the Committee in the House with jurisdiction over programs under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In addition, Representative Pallone also serves on many SUD-related caucuses, including the Congressional Caucus on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and the Congressional Caucus on Youth Drug Prevention.

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## Around the Agencies



### October is Substance Use & Misuse Prevention Month!

Each year, October is recognized as [\*Substance Use & Misuse Prevention Month\*](#). Substance Use & Misuse Prevention Month is an annual observance dedicated to recognizing the role of prevention in the continuum, the positive effects of prevention services on communities, and the dangers associated with substance use and misuse. This year continues the theme of: *Telling the Prevention Story*. In recognition of National Prevention Month, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the [\*2025 Prevention Month Toolkit\*](#), which contains a host of social media shareables, sample content, and links to resources to elevate prevention's impact on communities across the country.

Additional resources on prevention and opportunities to get involved in Substance Use & Misuse Prevention Month can be found [here](#).

### SAMHSA's 22nd Prevention Day: February 2, 2026

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is hosting its [\*22nd Prevention Day\*](#) in conjunction with the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's (CADCA) National Leadership Forum at the Gaylord National Hotel & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, on Monday, February 2, 2026. SAMHSA's Prevention Day is the largest annual national gathering dedicated to promoting the prevention of substance use and misuse across the country. Specifically, Prevention Day provides the opportunity to hear from experts in the substance use prevention field on innovations and emerging issues and next steps to advance prevention research in the future.

The day-long event is free, but registration is required.

Register for the full National Leadership Forum, [here](#).

Register for SAMHSA's Prevention Day only, [here](#).

### Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Resource: Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Playbook



Agency for Healthcare  
Research and Quality

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [\*Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's \(AHRQ\) Academy for Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care\*](#) recently released an updated resource on [\*Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Playbook\*](#). The updated Playbook is intended to serve as a practical guide for providing medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) for patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) in primary care and other ambulatory settings and features new content reflecting major regulatory shifts in policy and clinical practice. Specifically, the interactive, web-based resource is based on an [environmental scan](#) of current trends, challenges, and innovations in delivering MOUD



in primary care settings and offers the latest guidance, tools, resources, tips, and real-life examples to support the delivery of compassionate, person-centered, and evidence-based MOUD. Key features of the Playbook include:

- “Practical tools like a Quick Start Guide, with everything providers need to begin offering MOUD services.
- An emphasis on low-threshold, person-centered care.
- Regulatory updates such as the removal of the X-waiver, expanded telehealth and payer acceptance, and over-the-counter naloxone.
- Critical new content on fentanyl, adolescent overdose, and the unique challenges of unhoused populations.”

The Playbook will undergo an 18-month field evaluation, beginning in Spring 2026, with 12 diverse primary care practices sharing feedback to update the Playbook in the future.

Additional AHRQ resources on substance use can be found [here](#).

## CoE-PHI eLearning Module: Sharing SUD Treatment Information with Patients’ Family and Emergency Contacts

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information (CoE-PHI) released an eLearning Module on [Sharing SUD Treatment Information with Patients’ Family and Emergency Contacts](#). This module is intended for professionals who provide or administer substance use disorder (SUD) services and provides an overview of the protections under 42 CFR Part 2 related to the sharing of SUD treatment records with patients’ emergency contacts. Specifically, the module is designed to help SUD providers identify what constitutes an emergency, who may serve as a patient’s emergency contact, how a program may obtain emergency contact information, and what information can be shared with an emergency contact under 42 CFR Part 2. Learning objectives include:

- “Identify what constitutes an emergency and who may serve as a patient’s emergency contact
- Explain what a Part 2 program should do to obtain emergency contact information
- Describe the process of notifying a contact in case of an emergency
- Recognize how to obtain additional resources related to protected health information through the CoE-PHI”

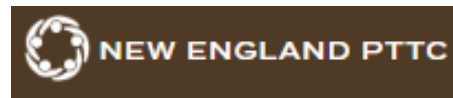
Certificates of completion are available for this module.

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

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## Webinars to Watch

### SAMHSA PTTC Webinar: Building the Future: Prevention Fellows Tell Their Story



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded New England Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC) is hosting a webinar as part of Substance Use & Misuse Prevention Month on [Building the Future: Prevention Fellows Tell Their Story](#). This no-cost webinar is on October 7, at 3:00 pm ET. The webinar will feature PTTC Prevention Fellows who will share their experiences with the Prevention Fellowship Program and lessons learned regarding substance use prevention. Specifically, the webinar will highlight insights and innovations on the delivery of prevention services, including the importance of developing community capacity, the role of mentorship and peer services, and the need to grow and sustain a prevention workforce. Learning objectives include:

- “Personal stories from Prevention Fellows working across PTTC Regional Centers
- Reflections on what they’ve accomplished and what lies ahead
- Innovative ideas they’re bringing to the field
- Lessons learned from experienced preventionists

- Insights into how young professionals are shaping and sharing the prevention narrative
- A call to action to grow and sustain the prevention workforce by building a strong pipeline of young professionals”

[Registration](#) is required.

### **SAMHSA Webinar: States Telling Their Prevention Stories**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) is hosting a webinar as part of Substance Use & Misuse Prevention Month on [States Telling Their Prevention Stories](#). This no-cost webinar is on October 22, at 3:00 pm ET. The webinar will highlight messaging strategies used by States across the country to advance substance use prevention and prevention resources. Specifically, the webinar will feature staff from SAMHSA's CSAP along with members from NASADAD's National Prevention Network (NPN) in Texas, Michigan, and Connecticut who will share real-life examples of messaging they are using to promote prevention services.

Registration is required.

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