

March 19, 2026



**DC Update: House Appropriations Committee Hearing National Institutes of Health (NIH), AEI Event Explores Recently Released Book on Opioid Crisis, 2026 National Prevention Network (NPN) Conference, and More.**

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## Capitol Hill Happenings

### House Appropriations Committee Holds Hearing with National Institutes of Health (NIH)

On Tuesday, March 17, the House Appropriations Committee held a hearing regarding FY 2027 appropriations for the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#), which includes the [National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#), the [National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism \(NIAAA\)](#) and others. The Subcommittee's Chair is Robert Aderholt (R-AL), and the Ranking Member is Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, Director of NIH, provided testimony before the Subcommittee and answered questions. While the hearing explored NIH priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, the Administration has not yet released its FY 2027 proposed budget given that Congress recently cleared the FY 2026 measure during the first week of February. As a reminder, Dr. Bhattacharya is also serving as Acting Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). To view a replay of the hearing, and review Dr. Bhattacharya's written statement, visit the House Appropriations Committee's website [here](#).



**National Institutes  
of Health**

## House Panel Holds Hearing on Waste, Fraud and Abuse in Medicare and Medicaid

On Tuesday, March 17, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing, “Protecting Patients and Safeguarding Taxpayer Dollars: The Role of CMS in Combatting Medicare and Medicaid Fraud.” The Subcommittee is Chaired by Rep. Joyce (R-OH), and the Ranking Member is Rep. Yvette Clark (D-N.Y.). The Chair of the Full Committee is Rep. Guthrie (R-KY) and the Ranking Member is Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.). The hearing featured testimony from Ms. Kimberly Brandt, Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In her testimony, Ms. Brandt described the reach of CMS, core principles driving the agency’s work on fraud, and recent examples of agency action to make improvements. She concluded her opening statement by noting “Crushing fraud is simply not about recovering funds after the fact. It’s about preventing harm, preserving trust, and ensuring that these programs remain strong for current and future generations.” To view the hearing, or review the Hearing Memo providing the background on the hearing, please visit the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation website [here](#).

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## Around the Agencies

### SAMHSA Resource: New Toolkit for CCBHCs Serving Veterans and Military Families



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a new toolkit on ways for [Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics \(CCBHCs\) to Support Veterans and Military Families](#). This toolkit aims to help CCBHCs strengthen support for military-connected communities. Specifically, the resource seeks to support CCBHCs in fulfilling their statutory criteria for program requirement 4.K "intensive community-based mental health care for members of the Armed Forces and Veterans." The toolkit includes:

- "Strategies to better engage service members, veterans and families"
- Guidance on military culture and experiences
- Ideas for building partnerships with veteran-serving organizations
- Practical tools to strengthen behavioral health services"

Download the toolkit from the SAMHSA website [here](#).

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## NASADAD News

### AEI Event Explores Recently Released Book on Opioid Crisis



On Wednesday, March 18, Robert Morrison, NASADAD Executive Director, attended an event in Washington, D.C. hosted by the [American Enterprise Institute \(AEI\)](#) titled “Inside America’s Opioid Crisis: A Book Event.” The panel, moderated by Dr. Sally Satel, senior fellow at AEI, featured a presentation by Richard Baum, former Acting Director of the [Office of National Drug Control Policy \(ONDCP\)](#) and author of “Inside America’s Opioid Crisis.” Mr. Baum reviewed core policy recommendations included in his book. The session then moved forward with reactions from the following panelists: Emily Dufton, Independent Scholar; David M. Kennedy, Criminal Justice Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Brendan Saloner, Brown University; and Brian Mann, correspondent from National Public Radio (NPR). The dialogue also touched on the early history of drug policy, including the work of Dr. Jerome Jaffe, leader of the first office on

drug policy for President Nixon. Dr. Jaffe was in the audience at the AEI briefing. To learn more about the panel, visit the event page [here](#).

## 2026 National Prevention Network (NPN) Conference Call for Abstracts & Registration Open Soon

The 2026 NASADAD/[National Prevention Network \(NPN\)](#) Conference will be held virtually on September 29-30, 2026. This event seeks to bring together prevention professionals, coalition leaders, researchers, and federal partners to share research, best practices, and evaluations that support prevention efforts. The conference typically hosts 700 to 1,000 participants, including prevention providers, school personnel, government agency representatives, directors, law enforcement, policymakers, coalition members, counselors, health education specialists, and social workers. The call for abstracts opens March 30, 2026, and registration begins April 7, 2026. For more information, please visit the NPN Conference website [here](#).

## Research Roundup

### NIH News Update: Clinical Trial Results Support Use of Weekly Extended-Release Buprenorphine for OUD Treatment During Pregnancy

A National Institutes of Health (NIH)-supported research team published a study in [JAMA Internal Medicine](#) comparing extended-release and sublingual buprenorphine in pregnant adults with moderate to severe opioid use disorder (OUD). In this randomized clinical trial, 140 participants received either weekly extended-release buprenorphine injections or daily sublingual buprenorphine, which is the current standard of care. The study found that weekly extended-release injections led to higher rates of abstinence from illicit opioids and fewer serious adverse events compared to daily sublingual treatment. The authors conclude that weekly extended-release buprenorphine is more effective than the current standard of care.

The full report is available [here](#).

JAMA Internal Medicine | Original Investigation | WOMEN'S HEALTH

#### Extended-Release vs Sublingual Buprenorphine in Pregnancy Through 12 Months Post Partum A Randomized Clinical Trial

T. John Winhusen, PhD; Michelle R. Lofwall, MD; Frankie Kropp, MS; Daniel Lewis, BA; Marcela C. Smid, MD; Jessica L. Young, MC; Candace Hodgkins, PhD; Elizabeth E. Krans, MD; Zachary Hansen, MD; Elisha M. Wachman, MD; Davida M. Schiff, MD; Constance Vania Rudolf, MD, MPH; Tara Chowdhury, PhD, MCR; Lawrence Leeman, MD; Mitra Lewis, MS; Abigail G. Matthews, PhD; Gerald I. Jacque King, MS; Christine Wilder, MD; Carmen Rosa, MS

**IMPORTANCE** Treating opioid use disorder (OUD) in pregnancy with sublingual buprenorphine is an evidence-based practice, but it has disadvantages that could be addressed with an extended-release formulation.

**OBJECTIVE** To evaluate the effectiveness and safety of extended-release buprenorphine vs sublingual buprenorphine for OUD in pregnancy through 12 months post partum.

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## Webinars to Watch

### CFRI Webinar: Dually Enrolled Medicaid and Medicare Beneficiaries: Publicly Available Databases and Tools to Improve Understanding and Provide Relevant Services Webinar



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) [Center for Financing Reform and Innovation \(CFRI\)](#) is hosting a webinar on [Dually Enrolled Medicaid and Medicare Beneficiaries: Publicly Available Databases and Tools to Improve Understanding and Provide Relevant Services](#). This no-cost webinar is on March 25 at 2:00 pm ET. The webinar will present findings from a new SAMHSA report on *Dually Enrolled Medicaid and Medicare Beneficiaries: Publicly Available Databases and Tools to Improve Understanding and Provide Relevant Services*. Specifically, the webinar will highlight findings from the report on how publicly accessible data sources can support better understanding of dually eligible individuals and inform data-driven decision-making efforts to improve care and outcomes for this population through a panel discussion and Q&A session with national experts.

Registration is available [here](#).

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