

May 8, 2026



DC Update: NASADAD President Participates in White House Event Launching National Drug Control Strategy, National Prevention Week: May 10 – 26, SAMHSA CFRI Webinar on Revised Regulations for Opioid Treatment, and More.

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NASADAD News

NASADAD President Participates in White House Event Launching National Drug Control Strategy

On Wednesday, March 6, NASADAD President Sara Goldsby (South Carolina) participated as a panelist during a White House event focused on the recently released National Drug Control Strategy. Speakers at the event included Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director Sara Carter and other senior Administration officials. Sara Goldsby spoke about her work as a leader of the South Carolina Single State Authority (SSA) coordinating with sister State agencies, providers, and others to collect, share, and leverage data to help plan and deliver services.



The Drug Control Strategy can be viewed by visiting [whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/National-Drug-Control-Strategy-2026-1.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/National-Drug-Control-Strategy-2026-1.pdf).

[Sara (left) is pictured with ONDCP Director Carter (middle) and Dr. Roneet Lev, ONDCP's lead over public health initiatives]

NASADAD Presents at Meeting of State Opioid Settlement Coordinators Meeting in Texas

On May 6, NASADAD Executive Director Robert Morrison served as a presenter regarding substance use financing during a meeting of State opioid settlement coordinators and others in Austin, Texas convened by the National Academy of State Health Policy (NASHP). The panel also featured Cindy Beane, former State Medicaid Director in West Virginia, and moderator Becky Boss, former NASADAD member from Rhode Island. The following panel featured Nora Bock, State Director from Missouri, along with other State leaders sharing perspectives on cross agency collaboration and coordination. A subsequent late afternoon panel featured opioid settlement coordinators sharing "lessons learned" to help promote State-to-State sharing. We wish to recognize and thank our partners at NASHP including Katie Greene, Rebekah Falker, Maddie Hraber, and Mary Davis for their work on this meeting.



[Rob Morrison pictured with Nora Bock, Missouri]

Around the Agencies



National Prevention Week: May 10 – 26

National Prevention Week is a public education campaign that showcases the work of communities and organizations across the country that are preventing substance use promoting well-being. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) [National Prevention Week Webpage](#) has details on how to participate in the celebration, prevention-focused activities to implement in communities, and prevention resources. In recognition of National Prevention Week, SAMHSA released the [National Prevention Week Toolkit](#), which contains various resources to raise awareness on the importance of substance use prevention. Specifically, the toolkit contains social media shareables, key messaging, and other promotional tools to promote prevention efforts.

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

HRSA Funding Opportunities: Two New Rural Community Opioid Response Program Funding Opportunities

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently announced two new funding opportunities for the [Rural Community Opioid Response Program](#). The program is designed to support the development of coordinated behavioral health systems in rural areas across the prevention, treatment, and recovery spectrum, with the aim of reducing the risks associated with substance misuse and substance use disorder. Specifically, the two opportunities will fund RCORP-Planning and RCORP-Impact.

- [RCORP-Planning](#) aims to help rural communities build the capacity to develop and sustain substance use disorder (SUD) services by lowering barriers to federal funding and preparing funded organizations to create larger, more complex networks. HRSA has \$4 million for up to 40 awards and recipients can receive up to \$100,000 per year over a two-year project period.
- [RCORP-Impact](#) aims to help rural communities by expanding access to evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery services through the building of a larger, more responsive workforce to meet behavioral health needs. An integrated and coordinated partnership approach across health and social services is required, leading to sustained long-term recovery and reduction in morbidity and mortality.

HRSA has \$60 million for up to 80 awards and recipients can receive up to \$750,000 per year over a four-year project period.

Applications are due by May 29 at 11:59 PM EST in [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). A technical assistance webinar will be recorded. To receive updates when documents are posted, subscribe to the NOFO on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

Contact ruralopioidresponse@hrsa.gov with any questions.

PIRE Press Release: CEO Search

On May 4, 2026, the [Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation](https://www.pire.org) (PIRE) issued a [press release](#) announcing the commencement of a formal search for its next Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The PIRE Board of Directors has launched this nationwide effort to identify a successor to Dr. William Wieczorek, who is retiring after 10 years of service. The Board has appointed an internal search committee to engage internal and external partners, ensuring a deliberate and inclusive process to select PIRE's next chief executive. The Board expects to announce the new CEO later this year.



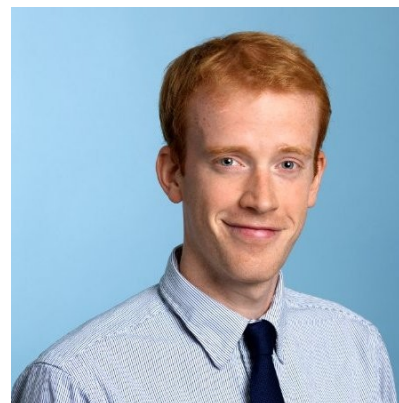
The application for the CEO position can be accessed [here](#).

The press release can be accessed [here](#).

Alumni Update: Where Are They Now?

Andrew Whitacre

Andrew Whitacre began his policy career at NASADAD as a Public Policy Associate from May 2012 to March 2014. Andrew monitored Congressional hearings and tracked key legislation affecting substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery. He participated in coalition working groups, authored membership updates, and produced fact sheets. Andrew credits his experience at NASADAD for providing him with a deep understanding of both federal and state policy.



After NASADAD, Andrew joined the National Association of Counties as a Health Associate, managing grant-funded initiatives, leading multi-county dialogues to improve public health, and authoring publications on parity and the Affordable Care Act's impact on local justice systems. He then moved to The Pew Charitable Trusts, where his roles have steadily advanced over nearly a decade. As Senior Officer, Andrew manages the Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Initiatives. His work at Pew has included targeted regulatory efforts, support for executive orders, and the removal of federal barriers to treatment.

Andrew emphasizes the value of early-career experience in policy, noting that working on Capitol Hill or with national organizations like NASADAD can open doors. He remains closely connected to NASADAD alumni, citing the organization's collaborative culture and the enduring impact of its mentorship on his professional journey.

Webinars to Watch

SAMHSA CFRI Webinar: Revised Regulations for Opioid Treatment

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Financing Reform and Innovation (CFRI) is releasing a report and hosting a webinar titled "[Revised Regulations for Opioid Treatment Programs: Establishing a Baseline to Measure](#)

[Progress Over Time.](#)” This no-cost webinar is on May 14 at 1:00 pm ET. This webinar will examine the extent to which states/territories and OTPs have adopted the changes outlined in 42 CFR part 8 within the first year since the revised regulations were put into effect. Specifically, the webinar will feature a panel discussion and Q&A session with leadership within OTPs and State Opioid Treatment Authorities (SOTAs), offering perspectives on how these changes improve care for individuals with opioid use disorder and strategies used to effectively implement the updated regulations. Featured presenters include:



- Karran Phillips, MD, MSc, Acting Director, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), SAMHSA – Opening Remarks
- Jennifer Caputo, PhD, Senior Research Associate, Westat – Welcome/Housekeeping
- Rikki Welch, MA, Principal Research Associate, Westat – Report Overview
- Nichole Smith, MHS, Chief, Regulatory Programs Branch, Division of Pharmacologic Therapies (DPT), CSAT, SAMHSA – Panel Moderator
- Patti Juliana, PhD, LCSW, Division Director, DPT, CSAT, SAMHSA – Panelist
- Adam Bucon, LSW, State Opioid Treatment Authority, New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Panelist (Invited)
- Chrissie Martin, LMFT, LAC-S, CS, National Clinical Director – Midwest Division, Behavioral Health Group TM – Panelist
- Dustin Mets, JD, Chief Executive Officer, CompDrug – Panelist

Registration is available [here](#).

CoE-PHI Webinar: Navigating Information Blocking: Practical Considerations for Health Care Providers

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information (CoE-PHI) is hosting a webinar on [Navigating Information Blocking: Practical Considerations for Health Care Providers](#). This no-cost webinar is on May 21, 2026 from 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm ET. This webinar seeks to assist participants in understanding and applying the Information Blocking Rule's requirements and exceptions as they pertain to maintaining and sharing SUD and MH treatment information. Learning objectives include:

- “Describe the Information Blocking Rule and who it applies to
- Understand how the rule interacts with Part 2 and HIPAA
- Explore commonly applied exceptions to the Information Blocking Rule through interactive case studies examining real-world scenarios
- Identify relevant existing resources to increase understanding of the Information Blocking Rule”

Certificates of completion will be provided to those who attend the webinar.

Registration is available, [here](#).

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