

August 27, 2026



DC Update: National Recovery Month, International Overdose Awareness Day, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and More.

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Meet the Member

Grace Kindt, National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for Pennsylvania

Grace Kindt serves as the Prevention Section Chief at the Pennsylvania Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs (DDAP) and as the National Prevention Network (NPN) Coordinator for Pennsylvania. In this capacity, Ms. Kindt oversees the 20% set aside prevention component of the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant, as well as other state and federal prevention funding. She also helps manage the Pennsylvania Student Assistance Program, the Pennsylvania Youth Survey, the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup, and several statewide prevention initiatives. In addition, Ms. Kindt leads the national Prevention



Survey Consortium, launched in 2023, which provides states a space to share survey innovations and solutions.

Ms. Kindt has worked in DDAP's Prevention Section for the past 16 years. She earned her Master's in Public Health from the University at Albany and is Certified in Public Health.

NASADAD News

NASADAD Attends White House Event on the Chronic Disease of Addiction

On Wednesday, August 26, Robert Morrison, Executive Director of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Agency Directors (NASADAD), attended a White House event "Chronic Disease of Addiction National Transformation Forum." The event featured remarks by Kathryn Burgum, White House Senior Advisor and Co-Chair of the Great American Recovery Initiative; Dr. Tim Westlake, Chief of Staff at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and President Trump's nominee to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use; Sara Carter, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); Jenny Korn, Deputy Assistant to the President, White House Faith Office; and Monty Burks, Director, Center for Faith, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Executive Director of the Great American Recovery Initiative. The event included topics such as the Neurobiology of Addiction with Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA); Systems, Outcomes and Funding featuring Ken Ortvals, CEO of WestCare; and observations from Dr. Stephen Loyd, Director of the West Virginia Office of Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) along with others.



[Pictured: Kathryn Burgum and Rob Morrison]

Special thanks to Morgan Rapsky, Policy Intern

Morgan Rapsky, NASADAD Public Policy Intern since January 2026, is leaving the Association. We wish to thank and recognize Morgan for her incredible work. During her internship, Morgan made remarkable contributions to NASADAD in general, and the Public Policy Department in particular. She spent time researching legislative issues, covering events on Capitol Hill, drafting the D.C. Update, supporting the Annual Meeting, and much more. Morgan will be heading to Capitol Hill where she will serve as an Intern in the Office of Madeleine Dean of Pennsylvania. Morgan is a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania where she attended Chatham University. Morgan will continue her studies at Georgetown University where she is pursuing a Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree. Thank you Morgan! Best of luck as you start a new chapter in your career.



Farewell to Jason Yu

Please join us in saying goodbye to NASADAD Office Administration Intern Jason Yu! Jason joined NASADAD in June 2026 while a student at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac, Maryland. During his time with NASADAD, Jason's work included supporting the accounting department's daily operations, managing attendee reimbursements for the

SAMHSA/NASADAD Annual Meeting, and assisting with general office administration. Jason now heads back to Churchill for his senior year.

Best of luck, Jason!



Around the Agencies

September is National Recovery Month

September is recognized as National Recovery Month. National Recovery Month is an annual observance dedicated to celebrating the millions of Americans who are in recovery from mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) and the community of recovery supporters across the nation, supporting evidence-based recovery practices, and promoting the message that recovery is possible. This year's theme is "Recovery is REAL (Restoring Every Aspect of Life)." In recognition of Recovery Month, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the [2026 Recovery Month Toolkit](#), which contains social media shareables to raise awareness for Recovery Month, weekly messages and themes on the process of recovery, and resources for learning about and supporting those in recovery. SAMHSA's Office of Recovery will also be hosting a webinar series throughout the month of September.

The 2026 Recovery Month Toolkit and webinar schedule can be accessed [here](#).

Additional resources on recovery and recovery support services can be accessed [here](#).

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) is August 31st, 2026

August 31 is International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD), an annual campaign dedicated to ending drug overdose and remembering those lost to overdose. This year marks IOAD's 25th anniversary, with the theme "25 Years On. Still Needed." IOAD aims to honor those who have died from overdose, support people who use drugs and those in recovery, raise awareness of overdose risks, share information on prevention, treatment, and recovery services, and promote evidence-based strategies to prevent overdose. The CDC has developed an [IOAD Partner Toolkit](#) with sample social media posts and outreach materials that can be shared to raise awareness and promote overdose prevention efforts in your community. The CDC will also mark IOAD day by releasing two resources:



- "A new *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*: *Buprenorphine Dispensed by Pharmacies and Administered in Emergency Departments in Urban and Rural Areas — United States, 2019–2025* which examines access to buprenorphine across urban and rural communities."
- "Enhanced trend view for overdose death data on the [SUDORS](#) dashboard, allowing viewers to examine drug overdose patterns across multiple years—by drugs involved, demographics, and circumstances surrounding deaths."

The International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) Toolkit can be accessed [here](#).

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is an annual observance dedicated to raising awareness about suicide, reducing stigma, promoting hope, and connecting people with life-saving support resources, such as the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. This observance highlights suicide warning signs, encourages open discussions about mental health and substance use disorder (SUD), and connects individuals to evidence-based treatment. To support these efforts, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released the [2026 Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Toolkit](#), which includes messaging, social media materials, and additional suicide prevention resources.

The 2026 Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Toolkit can be accessed [here](#).

Additional resources on suicide prevention can be found on SAMHSA's Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) [here](#).

HHS & ACF Press Release: New Peer Support Prevention Services



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

On August 18, 2026, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), issued a press release titled, "[HHS Announces New Peer Support Prevention Services to Strengthen Families, Advancing the Great American Recovery and A Home for Every Child Initiatives](#)." In this release, the department shared that two new peer support interventions satisfy the evidence standards required for inclusion in the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. This designation allows states to claim federal matching funds when implementing these services. The approved programs are Family-Based Recovery, an intensive in-home clinical treatment that supports parents of children ages 0 to 5 with addiction and provides weekly peer support meetings, and the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP), a facilitated peer group program delivered by trained peer facilitators to support individuals with mental health challenges and addiction. These programs are now included in the Clearinghouse with a Supported rating, alongside other peer support programs Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (START) and Parents Anonymous.

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

SAMHSA Blog: Addressing the Intersection of Aging, Substance Use, and Mental Health in Men

On August 18, 2026, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) published a blog post titled "[From Midlife to Later Life: Addressing the Intersection of Aging, Substance Use, and Mental Health in Men](#)." The post identifies midlife as a critical period for men, during which significant life changes and transitions may increase vulnerability to depression, anxiety, and substance misuse. Cultural expectations of self-reliance, social stigma, and the similarity of symptoms to typical aging often discourage men from seeking necessary assistance and contribute to frequent underdiagnosis. The post underscores the importance of routine substance use disorder (SUD) screening with age-appropriate tools, integrated care models, telehealth services, and peer support. These strategies aim to improve outcomes by reducing stigma, recognizing men's lived experiences, and involving families when appropriate.

The blog can be accessed [here](#).

CoE-PHI Resources on 42 CFR Part 2

The Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information (CoE-PHI) offers a comprehensive suite of resources to assist State Agency Leaders and other stakeholders in understanding and implementing the updated Part 2 regulations. These updates stem from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) releasing a Final Rule on February 16, 2024, updating 42 CFR Part 2 ("Part 2"), which governs the confidentiality of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment records. This Final Rule implements changes mandated by Congress in the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security

(CARES) Act to align certain provisions of Part 2 with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. Resources include the following:

- [December 2024 Archived Webinar: 42 CFR Part 2 Final Rule – What You Need to Know](#)
- [Archived Webinar – From Rule to Reality: Preparing for Part 2's Upcoming Compliance Date](#)
- [Implementation Fact Sheet](#)
- [Substance Use Disorder Counseling Notes](#)
- [Template: Consent for Uses and Disclosures of Part 2 Records](#)
- [Notice to Accompany Disclosures of Information](#)
- [Commonly Asked Questions About the 2024 Part 2 Final Rule](#)



To submit questions about the CoE-PHI and their work or request technical assistance, the CoE-PHI contact form can be accessed [here](#).

CoE-PHI Learning Module: Federal Privacy Regulations When Providing SUD and Mental Health Services

The Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information (CoE-PHI) has released an eLearning Module on ["Federal Privacy Regulations When Providing SUD and Mental Health Services"](#). This module provides a quick introduction to the federal privacy laws that protect substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health (MH) information. These laws include the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the SUD privacy law (42 USC § 290dd-2 and 42 CFR Part 2, also known as "Part 2", and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Participants can obtain certificates of completion. Learning objectives include:

- Describe the basic frameworks of HIPAA, Part 2, and FERPA
- Identify how HIPAA, Part 2, and FERPA protect SUD and MH information
- Explain how HIPAA, Part 2, and FERPA work together

The eLearning Module can be accessed [here](#).

CHCS Report: Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy and Medicaid Considerations



In August 2026, the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS), supported by the Psychedelic Mental Health Access Alliance (PMHAA), published a report entitled ["Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy and Medicaid: Considerations for Coverage and Access"](#). The report focuses on the emerging evidence for psychedelic-assisted therapy (PAT), a treatment approach that integrates psychedelic drugs or drugs with psychedelic properties with psychological support or therapy, in treating select conditions such as treatment-resistant depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance use disorders, particularly for people who have not responded to existing treatments. The report also reviews current federal and state policy developments and addresses considerations for Medicaid coverage and care delivery. Informed by interviews with state Medicaid and behavioral health officials, health care providers, and other subject matter experts, the report identifies opportunities to build the evidence base for

Medicaid decision-making, inform care delivery models, draw lessons from existing coverage frameworks, and enhance stakeholder and community preparedness.

The report can be accessed [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

CoE-PHI Webinar: Resources for Families and Caregivers

The Center for Excellence in Protected Health Information (CoE-PHI) is hosting a webinar titled "[National Webinar: CoE-PHI Resources for Families and Caregivers](#)," on September 3, 2026 from 2:00pm to 2:30pm EDT. This webinar is intended for behavioral health providers, peer professionals, family support specialists, recovery organizations, and caregivers. This session will introduce CoE-PHI's free family and caregiver resource suite, which was developed to help families better understand HIPAA and 42 CFR Part 2 and navigate common questions about health information privacy. Learning objectives include:

- "Describe the purpose of CoE-PHI's family and caregiver suite of resources
- Identify how to utilize featured resources to equip the families you serve with accessible and accurate information on how to navigate common questions about health information privacy"

Registration is available [here](#).

NAADAC Webinar: Atypical Intoxicants

NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, is hosting a webinar entitled "[Chasing Other Dragons – Atypical Intoxicants](#)" on September 16, 2026 Wed 12:00 pm EDT. This no-cost webinar seeks to address the usage of atypical substances, such as kratom, "whippets" (NO2 cartridges), aromatic hydrocarbons (eg, glue, acetone, butane, and gasoline), K2-Spice, and air duster. The session will specifically address misuse potential, adverse effects, populations at increased risk, and available treatment options.



Registration is available [here](#).

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