

August 6, 2026



**DC Update: Meet the Member, Senate Votes to Approve Nominee to Lead CDC, SAMHSA
Presentation on Evidence-Based Strategies for Youth Vaping Prevention, and More.**

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Meet the Member

Dr. Thomas Janousek, Single State Authority (SSA) Director for Nebraska

Dr. Thomas Janousek serves as the Single State Authority (SSA) Director for Nebraska. Dr. Janousek is the Director of Behavioral Health for the state of Nebraska, where he oversees state funding to provide assistance to individuals ineligible for Medicaid as well as statewide behavioral health initiatives such as the 988 crisis line, no-cost naloxone program, and the Nebraska Integrated Health Project. Additionally, he maintains oversight to the Lincoln and Norfolk Regional Centers.



Dr. Janousek is a licensed psychologist. In his clinical practice, Dr. Janousek has worked with multiple state and private institutions conducting assessments on individuals at risk for violence, substance abuse, misconduct, and pathological mental health functioning. He has also served as a Neuropsychologist at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals, specializing in the clinical evaluation of individuals with neurocognitive disorders such as dementia, traumatic brain injury and recovery from stroke. He has served as the Vice President of Quality and Compliance for Burrell Behavioral Health where he oversaw Quality

NASADAD News

NASADAD Participates in SAMHSA Meeting on the Nation's Peer Workforce

On August 3rd and 4th, NASADAD Executive Director Robert Morrison participated in a meeting in Bethesda, Maryland sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) titled, "Scaling the Peer Workforce Across the Healthcare Sector." The meeting featured remarks by Dr. Timothy Westlake, SAMHSA Chief of Staff and nominee to serve as Assistance Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use; Dr. Monty Burks, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Center on Faith; Dona Dmitrovic, Senior Advisor, SAMHSA's Office of Recovery; and others. The meeting convened leaders in the recovery field from across the country to identify barriers, highlight effective models, and consider strategies to expand the availability of peer support specialists across the healthcare continuum.



[Pictured left to right: Paul Kalchbrenner, SAMHSA Public Health Advisor, Dona Dmitrovic, SAMHSA Office of Recovery, and Robert Morrison, NASADAD]

NASADAD Visits Children's Bureau at Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

On July 29th, NASADAD's Executive Director Robert Morrison and Deputy Executive Director Melanie Whitter met with Dr. Ryan Hanlon, Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau, at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Dr. Hanlon comes to ACF with over two decades of experience working on issues related to childcare, foster care, and adoption. This work includes service at the National Council for Adoption (NCA) where he served as President and CEO. NASADAD staff reviewed the role of State alcohol and drug agencies, shared information about NASADAD, and reviewed NASADAD's specific interests related to the intersection of child welfare and substance use disorders. This work includes NASADAD products related to Family First, collaboration between State child welfare agencies and State alcohol and drug agencies, the role of State alcohol and drug agencies in ACF's Regional Partnership Grants (RPGs), and other topics. ACF is led by Alex Adams, ACF Assistant Secretary.



To learn more about Dr. Hanlon, visit <https://acf.gov/cb/about/bio/ryan-hanlon>.

To learn more about Dr. Adams, visit <https://acf.gov/about/bio/alex-j-adams>.

NASADAD Visits Former Intern Currently Working at National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

On Monday, July 27th, NASADAD Executive Director Robert Morrison visited Audrey Wang, former NASADAD Intern, now interning in NIAAA's [Section on Fibrotic Disorders](#), one of Institute's intramural labs, led by Dr. Resat Cinar. After meeting with Audrey, Rob met with [Dr. Bin Gao](#), Senior Investigator and leader of the Section on Liver Diseases. Dr. Gao spoke of the Laboratory of Liver Diseases' cutting edge work to better understand how alcohol is metabolized in the human body. Audrey will conclude her service at NIAAA

in a few weeks to head back to Penn State for her senior year. Congrats Audrey! The leader of NIAAA is Dr. George Koob and the Deputy Director is Dr. Patricia Powell. Rob serves on the Executive Committee of the Friends of NIAAA, a coalition of groups dedicated to supporting NIAAA's work across prevention, treatment, and recovery.

To learn more about NIAAA, visit <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/>.

To learn more about the Friends of NIAAA, visit <https://friendsofniaaa.com/>.



Capitol Hill Happenings

Senate Votes to Approve Nominee to Lead CDC

On Wednesday, August 5th, the Senate voted 51-44 to approve Dr. Erica Schwartz as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). President Trump was nominated to serve as CDC Director on April 16, 2026. Dr. Schwartz is a retired rear admiral in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (2005-2021) and served as Deputy Surgeon General from 2019-2021. Dr. Schwartz also served in various capacities in the United States Coast Guard and served in the United States Navy from 1997-2005. Dr. Schwartz attended Brown University where she received her BS degree and MD degree. She went on to the Uniformed Services University where she earned an MPH and completed a residency in occupational and environmental medicine. Dr. Schwartz also earned her JD from the University of Maryland.



Around the Agencies

988 Day Activation Workshops

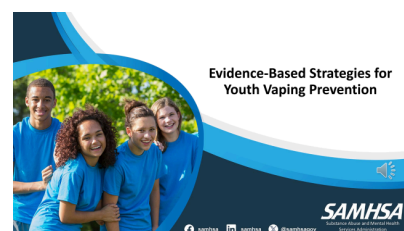
988 Day will be held on Tuesday, September 8. The SAMHSA-funded 988 Crisis Systems Response Training and Technical Assistance Center will host Activation Workshops on Monday, August 10, and Thursday, August 20, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET. 988 Day aims to raise awareness and support for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline through creative activities led by communities, organizations, businesses, advocates, crisis centers, and individuals nationwide. This year's theme is "988 Reasons." The workshops will provide an overview of 988 Day and offer breakout sessions for participants to develop ideas together.

Registration for the August 10 Activation Workshop is available [here](#).

Registration for the August 20 Activation Workshop is available [here](#).

SAMHSA Resource: Interactive Presentation for Evidence-Based Strategies for Youth Vaping Prevention

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released an [Interactive Presentation for Evidence-Based Strategies for Youth](#)



[Vaping Prevention](#). This interactive presentation offers evidence-based strategies to enhance the reach and impact of anti-vaping campaigns geared toward youth and young adults. Specifically, it describes the use of effective platforms, themes, message framing techniques, and trusted information sources; the connections between vaping and co-occurring mental disorders; how to integrate mental health awareness and literacy into prevention messages; and an interactive activity to help attendees apply strategies to real-world campaigns.

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

“Talk. They Hear You.” Community Engagement Meeting

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will host a virtual [community engagement meeting](#) for the [“Talk. They Hear You.”](#) campaign on August 26 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will provide campaign updates, feature a partner spotlight on the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii, and include an open discussion and Q&A session on opportunities for campaign adaptation, replication, and community engagement. Attendees will hear opening remarks from Rear Admiral Chris Jones, Pharm.D., Dr.P.H., M.P.H., director of SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. The agenda also includes presentations on adapting and localizing campaign materials by staff from the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii and Valerie Mariano, Chief of the Community and Crime Prevention Branch of Hawaii's Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division, along with contributions from campaign team members and network partners.

Registration is available [here](#).

Webinars to Watch

SAMHSA Webinar: How Wearables and Other Digital Tools Are Driving Innovation in Behavioral Health

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will host a free webinar on August 18 from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. ET, as a companion to the newly released [Advisory: How Wearables and Other Digital Tools Are Driving Innovation in Behavioral Health](#). This session is designed for healthcare providers, public health professionals, policymakers, and patients and their families. The webinar will examine how emerging digital innovations can facilitate the monitoring and management of mental health challenges and substance use disorders (SUDs) by delivering real-time data, supporting self-management, and enabling personalized interventions to enhance treatment outcomes and overall well-being. Stephanie Carreiro, M.D., Ph.D., a physician-scientist and nationally recognized expert in the application of wearables for behavioral health, will present evidence-informed perspectives on integrating wearable devices, mobile applications, and other digital tools into behavioral health care. Key learning objectives include:

- Emerging digital innovations that help to monitor and manage mental health conditions and SUDs
- The benefits of using wearables and other digital tools to improve treatment outcomes and well-being
- Strategies for selecting digital tools that support behavior change, and/or enhance motivation, engagement, and self-management
- Ethical, privacy, and security considerations to increase adoption and help ensure the safe use of digital tools.

Registration is available [here](#).

988 Webinar: Integrating Perinatal Mental Health and Substance Use Care within Crisis Systems



The SAMHSA-funded 988 Crisis Systems Response Training & Technical Assistance Center will host a free webinar, "[*Integrating Perinatal Mental Health and Substance Use Care within Crisis Systems*](#)," on August 19 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm EST. This session is intended for state crisis system leaders, 988 staff, and providers who work with pregnant and postpartum women. The webinar will address strategies for crisis systems to better identify, engage, and connect these women to care through cross-sector collaboration and integrated mental health and substance use response pathways. Learning objectives include the following:

- Describe the unique mental health and substance use risk factors associated with pregnancy and the postpartum period, including physiologic, psychosocial, and system-wide influences
- Explain how a "no wrong door" framework can strengthen coordination across crisis services, obstetric care, maternal and child health programs, behavioral health providers, and child welfare systems
- Identify at least two effective pathways for warm handoffs between 988, the National Maternal Mental Health Hotline, and local treatment and support services
- Examine an example crisis-to-treatment continuum that demonstrates cross-system collaboration and identify opportunities to adapt key elements within their own state or community

Registration is available [here](#).

NCSACW Webinar: Plan of Safe Care (POSC) Implementation Readiness Self-Assessment Tool

The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) will host a free webinar on the newly published *Plan of Safe Care (POSC) Implementation Readiness Self-Assessment Tool* on August 20 from 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm ET. This session is intended for collaborative teams, including hospitals, child welfare agencies, treatment providers, and early intervention professionals. The webinar will introduce a practical self-assessment instrument designed to strengthen collaborative POSC responses, facilitate effective cross-system partnerships, and ultimately improve safety and health outcomes for infants affected by prenatal substance exposure while supporting caregiver recovery.

Registration is available [here](#).

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