

July 9, 2026



**DC Update: CMS Informational Bulletin on Rescission of Guidance on “Fast Track” Federal Review Process for Section 1115 Demonstration Extensions, Study on Dedicated High School Health Courses & Substance Use Prevalence, SAMHSA Resource on CCBHs & Criminal Justice System Collaboration, and More.**

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## Problem Gambling

### Ohio's Problem Gambling Services Plan Highlights Initiatives Across the Continuum

In November 2025, Ohio presented its 2025-2026 Ohio Problem Gambling Services Annual Report and Plan to the Ohio Casino Control Commission. In 2022, it was estimated that 254,000 Ohioans had a problem gambling disorder and another 1.8 million were considered at some risk of developing a problem gambling disorder. The report includes an overview of Ohio-specific data and an overview of initiatives related to problem gambling. The NASADAD member in Ohio is Tia Marcel Moretti. Some innovations referenced in the report included:

- The Ohio Gambling Telehealth Network
- The Ohio High School Athletic Association Partnership
- Prevention Fellowships
- Treatment Fellowships, and
- A variety of campaigns designed to address aspects of problem gambling

## Around the Agencies

### CMS Informational Bulletin: Rescission of Guidance on “Fast Track” Federal Review Process for Section 1115 Demonstration Extensions



On July 7, 2026, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an informational bulletin titled “[Rescission of Guidance on ‘Fast Track’ Federal Review Process for Section 1115 Demonstration Extensions](#).” This bulletin announces the rescission of the 2015 CMCS Informational Bulletin (CIB), “Implementation of a ‘Fast Track’ Federal Review Process for Section 1115 Medicaid and CHIP Demonstration Extensions,” to ensure compliance with Public Law 119-21, also known as the Working Families Tax Cut (WFTC) legislation. The WFTC mandates that the CMS Chief Actuary certify budget neutrality for Medicaid Section 1115 demonstrations, which significantly alters the timeline for reviewing and adjudicating Section 1115 demonstration applications. Consequently, CMS is discontinuing the expedited review process to comply with the new budget neutrality requirements and will evaluate all demonstration renewals under the revised statutory and regulatory framework. States with questions are encouraged to contact their project officer.

The informational bulletin can be accessed [here](#).

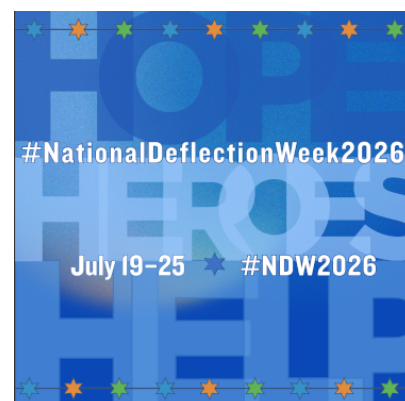
### SAMHSA Resource: Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics and Criminal Justice System Collaboration

In July 2026, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released the publication “[Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics and Criminal Justice System Collaboration](#).” This document provides a high-level road map of how Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) can collaborate with criminal justice systems. Specifically, the paper identifies strategies and opportunities to enhance coordination and improve outcomes when CCBHCs and state CCBHC programs engage with criminal justice systems.

The full publication can be accessed [here](#).

### National Deflection Week is Almost Here: July 19 - 25, 2026

National Deflection Week (NDW) will be observed from July 19 to 25, 2026. This year's theme is *Innovation and Inspiration in Deflection: Highlighting Hope, Help, and Heroes in Our Field*. The global campaign recognizes progress and growth within the Deflection field. Specifically, the goals of NDW are to raise awareness and understanding of diversion, educate target audiences, showcase community diversion efforts, and highlight the work of the Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC).



NDW resources, messages, hashtags, images, and a [sample proclamation](#) can be found in the PTACC's [2026 NDW Media and Social Media Guide](#).

## Research Round-Up

## Study Investigates Relationship Between Sustained Availability of Dedicated High School Health Courses & Substance Use Prevalence

On July 9, 2026, researchers published a study in *JAMA Network Open* titled “[Sustained Availability of Dedicated High School Health Courses and Adolescent Substance Use](#).” The study analyzed 1,942,640 survey responses from students in grades 9 and 11 at 915 California public high schools who completed the California Healthy Kids Survey between the 2017–2018 and 2023–2024 school years. The study found that the sustained availability of a dedicated health course was associated with modestly lower prevalence in several common forms of adolescent substance use. Specifically, sustained availability of a dedicated health course was associated with lower school year prevalence of vaping (–1.36 [95% CI, –2.15 to –0.57] percentage points), marijuana use (–1.22 [95% CI, –1.95 to –0.49] percentage points), alcohol use (–1.11 [95% CI, –1.91 to –0.30] percentage points), and binge drinking (–0.70 [95% CI, –1.17 to –0.24] percentage points). The findings indicate that sustained, dedicated health coursework could potentially serve as a scalable component of school-based substance use prevention.

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

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## Webinars to Watch

### YPAM Webinar: An Overview of the National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS) and Current Drug Threats

The Yale Program in Addiction Medicine (YPAM) is hosting a webinar titled, “[Yale Addiction Medicine Grand Rounds: An Overview of the National Drug Early Warning System \(NDEWS\) and Current Drug Threats](#),” on July 14 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm ET. Guest speakers Linda Cottler, PhD, MPH, and Joseph Palamar, MPH, PhD, will discuss the goals and methods of NDEWS, approaches for integrating data from multiple sources to better understand drug use trends, and the latest information on emerging drug threats, with a focus on fentanyl adulterants.



Registration is available [here](#).

### NCSACW Webinar: Workforce Stability: Staff Transition and Succession Planning Strategies

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) is hosting a webinar on “[Workforce Stability: Staff Transition and Succession Planning Strategies](#).” This no-cost webinar will be held on July 16 from 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm ET. This webinar will focus on the recently published resource brief, “[Workforce Stability in the Regional Partnership Grants Program: Staff Transition and Succession Planning Strategies](#).” Specifically, the session will analyze how collaborative service models, including Regional Partnership Grants (RPG) Program recipients and their partners, can strengthen workforce stability.

Registration is available [here](#).

### SAMHSA OCMO Webinar: Evidence Guided Psychiatric Medication De-Prescribing Support

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Office of the Chief Medical Officer (OCMO) will host a no-cost webinar titled



[“Evidence Guided Psychiatric Medication De-Prescribing Support”](#) on July 16 from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm EST. Featured speakers include Joseph F. Goldberg, MD, and Chris Aiken, MD. The session will address increasing polypharmacy rates, evidence-based prevention strategies, identification of risky medication combinations, and potential implications of long-term chronic medication use. Additionally, the webinar will provide practical guidance on de-prescribing, including safe tapering methods.

Registration is available [here](#).

## **SAMHSA Webinar: Healthy Starts – Postpartum OUD Care Transitions for Mother and Infant Case**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is hosting a dissemination webinar titled [“Healthy Starts – Postpartum OUD Care Transitions for Mother and Infant Case,”](#) on July 28 from 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm ET. This session, based on SAMHSA’s recent publication [Healthy Starts: Postpartum OUD Care Transitions for Mother and Infant](#), will provide providers, care teams, and other stakeholders with practical strategies for coordinated postpartum care for mothers and families affected by OUD. National experts, including Caitlin E. Martin, M.D., and Meghan Masterson, will share effective strategies, promising practices, and lessons learned to improve outcomes for mothers, infants, and families. Learning objectives include:

- “Risk factors that affect women with OUD during the postpartum period and strategies that improve outcomes for mothers and infants.
- The role of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in supporting recovery among pregnant and parenting women.
- Coordinated care models that help pregnant and postpartum women access treatment, recovery support, and other essential services.
- Community-based strategies that strengthen postpartum care and improve family outcomes.”

Registration is available [here](#).

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