

October 8, 2026



The D.C. Update

HRSA awards over \$525M for home visiting services; CMS releases new CCBHC guidance; FDA RFI for ibogaine clinical trials & more.

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Meet the Member



Patricia Zuber-Wilson, National Prevention Network Coordinator for N.Y.

In 2025, **Patricia Zuber-Wilson** assumed her current role as Associate Commissioner of Government Affairs and Community Programming and Relations at the New York State NYS) Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS). In this position, she is responsible for aligning agency initiatives with evolving policies and programs, while maintaining vital relationships with local, state, and federal elected officials. Her work focuses on strategically advancing the agency's goals and priorities to build the robust external

support and resources necessary to serve New Yorkers. This builds directly upon her prior appointment in 2019 as Associate Commissioner for the Division of Prevention, where she

managed policy oversight for a comprehensive continuum of statewide substance use prevention frameworks and problem gambling support systems.

Ms. Zuber-Wilson has over 30 years' experience working in various capacities in the executive and legislative branches of government. She joined OASAS in 2007 as the Director of Government Affairs and Federal Policy, where she monitored state and federal legislation, regulations, and policy issues, working with elected officials, government agencies, and federally recognized Native American nations.

A recognized national leader in her field, Ms. Zuber-Wilson currently serves as the President of the National Prevention Network (NPN). In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the advancement of public health and advocacy, she was honored as the recipient of the national 2022 NPN Ketty Award from the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD). Ms. Zuber-Wilson graduated from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, with a BA in Organizational Behavior and Management and completed graduate-level coursework at the State University of New York at Albany.

Around the Agencies

Drug Enforcement Administration: The Red Ribbon Campaign champions prevention to advance a Fentanyl Free America

This October, the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) honors the legacy of DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena with the annual Red Ribbon Campaign, the nation's largest, and longest-running, drug prevention program, a cornerstone of the agency's prevention efforts. The Red Ribbon Campaign supports DEA's Fentanyl Free America initiative by serving as a nationwide call-to-action to increase public awareness and education around drugs containing fentanyl and emerging drug threats. This year's Red Ribbon theme, in collaboration with National Family Partnership, is "Make a Difference. Be a Hero. Stay Drug Free."



To read the full press release, click [here](#).



Health Resources & Services Administration

Health Resources & Services Administration awards more than \$525M to strengthen and expand evidence-based home visiting services nationwide

On October 5, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced over \$525M in Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program awards to 56 state and jurisdiction recipients, the largest federal investment in program history. HRSA Administrator Tom Engels announced the awards in Columbus, OH, on Child Health Day. The awards will expand access to evidence-based home visiting services that improve maternal and child health, promote healthy child development, and connect families with the support they need during pregnancy and early childhood.

To view the full press release and awards breakdown, click [here](#).

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services releases guidance on Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Services under Medicaid



On October 6, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance describing the optional state plan benefit for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Services. This optional benefit was authorized by section 209 in Title I of Division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 (Pub. L. 118-42). This legislation amended section 1905 of the Social Security Act (the Act) to establish this new optional CCBHC state plan benefit at section 1905(a)(31), as defined in section 1905(jj) of the Act.

For more information, please visit the [CCBHC Services website](#).

A CCBHC Services state plan amendment (SPA) preprint is available on the [Medicaid SPA Toolkit](#) page of Medicaid.gov.



Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration: Connecting With Youth – A Toolkit for Child Welfare Professionals Supporting Families Affected by Substance Use

Child welfare professionals often work with youth affected by parental substance use, yet many lack practical tools for navigating these difficult conversations. This webinar introduces a new National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) resource to help professionals build trust, strengthen engagement, and have conversations with youth about addiction, parental substance use, and mental health. This webinar will occur on Thursday, October 15th, 2:00 – 2:30 PM ET, presented by Mary Fitzgerald, MSW.

Register [here](#).



Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration: Connecting Through Faith – Promoting 988 in Faith-Based Communities

This webinar aims to equip crisis response professionals, 988 contact centers, substance use disorder providers, mental health providers, and community outreach organizations with strategies for effectively engaging faith leaders and congregations as partners in effective crisis response and prevention efforts. Participants will have the opportunity

explore approaches for building authentic relationships with faith communities, developing community-aligned messaging, addressing stigma related to mental health and help-seeking, and leveraging faith-based networks. The webinar is scheduled to occur Thursday, November 5th, 1:30 – 3:00 PM ET.

Register [here](#).

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration: Secretary Kennedy announces \$96M awarded through new Safety Through Recovery, Engagement, and Evidence-Based Treatment and Support program



On October 2, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. announced the eight communities selected to receive funding through the new Safety Through Recovery, Engagement, and Evidence-based Treatment and Support (STREETS) program. Administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), STREETS will provide \$96M over four years to help build coordinated systems of care for people who are homeless and have serious mental illness, substance use disorders, or co-occurring disorders.

STREETS is intended to advance President Trump's [Executive Order on Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets](#) and the [Great American Recovery](#). STREETS also supports [SAMHSA's Strategic Priorities](#) to advance evidence-based treatment approaches that prioritize recovery, self-sufficiency, and public safety while directly combating the devastating effects of addiction, mental illness, and homelessness in America.

To view the full press release and awards breakdown, click [here](#).



Food & Drug Administration: Request for Information – Design and Safety Considerations for Clinical Trials Involving Ibogaine Drug Products

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is funding clinical development of ibogaine, and the first federally supported trials are expected to study ibogaine in adults with opioid use disorder (OUD) and adults with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is considering approaches to the design of early-phase clinical trials of ibogaine drug products and opening a public docket for comments, particularly on dose selection and escalation, care setting, safety monitoring, eligibility criteria, stopping rules, and safety oversight. FDA will consider all information provided in response to this Request for Information (RFI) to inform whether and how these specific elements should be considered in its review of Investigational New Drug Applications (INDs) involving ibogaine.

For more information, click [here](#).

Government Accountability Office: Combatting Illicit Drugs – Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security Collaboration

Within the Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Homeland Security (DHS), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Homeland Security Investigations have agreements to collaborate on drug investigations. The agreements outline requirements like developing joint training for the agencies to work together. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), a new DOJ memorandum and other developments resulted in uncertainty about which requirements remain in effect. The GAO

report then outlines potential implications of the memo, including the potential that collaboration between agencies could be impacted.

To read the full report, click [here](#).

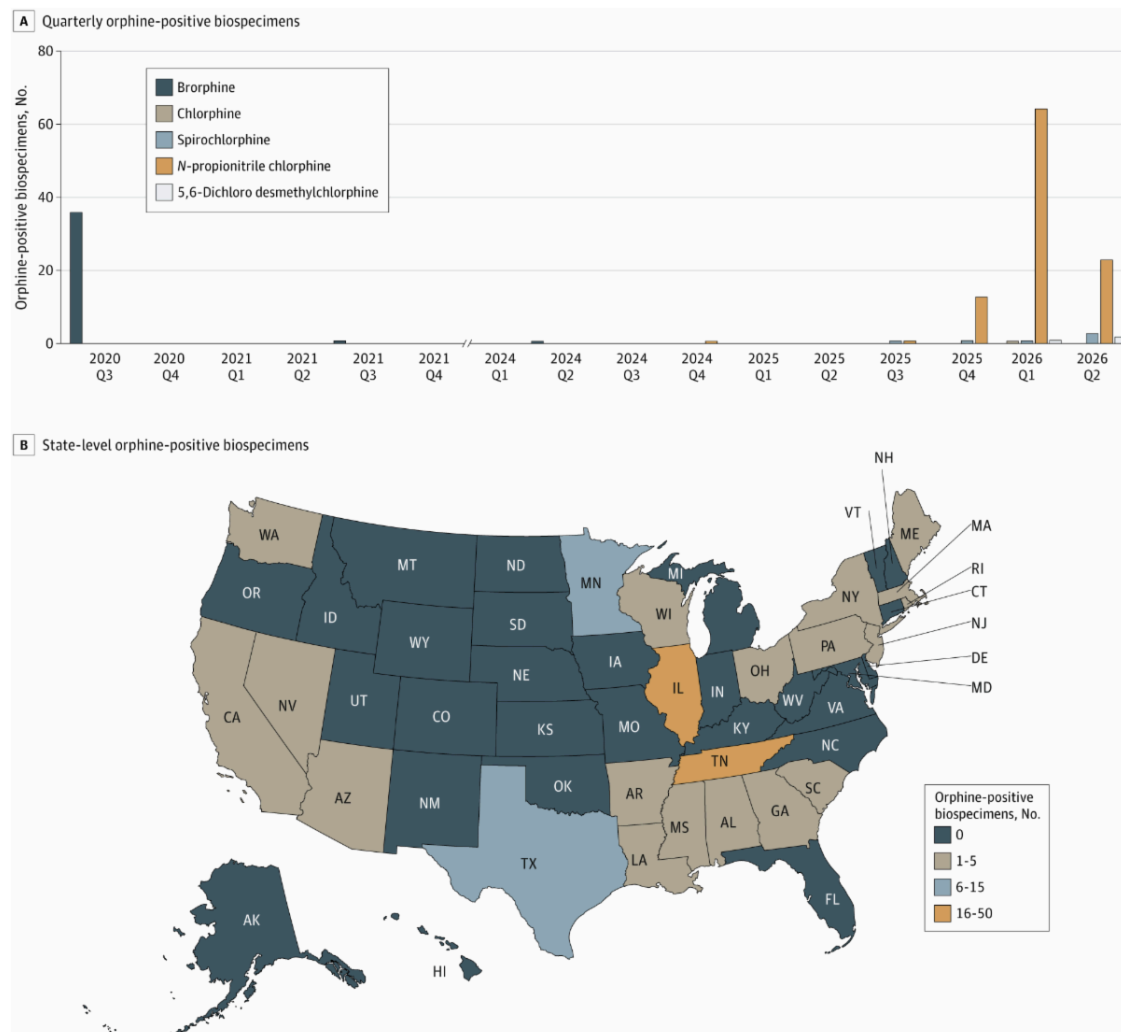


Government Accountability Office: Tobacco Products – FDA Should Monitor Timeliness of Application Reviews

In 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began regulating millions of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products already on the market. In response, FDA received a surge of applications seeking authorization to remain on the market, leading to a backlog of over 25 million applications awaiting review. According to the GAO, FDA has made progress reducing this backlog. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) also noted that the FDA could make improvements to meet its goals for timely reviews. GAO recommended that FDA collect data to help with its goals.

To read the full report, click [here](#).

Research Roundup



Journal of the American Medical Association Psychiatry: Temporal, Geographic, and Polysubstance Patterns in Orphine Analogue Detections

This cross-sectional study documents proliferation of orphine analogues across 22 US states, with a sharp increase since late 2025 driven by N-propionitrile chlorphine, frequently codetected with fentanyl-related compounds. Naloxone appeared in nearly one-fourth of orphine-positive biospecimens, consistent with attempted reversal of opioid-induced respiratory depression.

These findings provide timely evidence of orphine analogues as an emerging drug threat in the US illicit drug supply: orphine analogues are not routinely included in forensic or clinical toxicology testing, fentanyl and nitazene test strips do not reliably detect orphine analogues, and no orphine-specific test strips are available. Clinical guidance for managing orphine-involved overdoses, development of orphine-specific test strips, broader access to confirmatory testing, and naloxone distribution remain key priorities.

To read more, click [here](#).

Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine: Dexmedetomidine Use and Intensive Care Unit Admissions for Patients With Medetomidine Withdrawal

This is a retrospective cohort study of all opioid use disorder-related hospital admissions (n=11,846) at two PA academic hospitals from January 2020 to September 2025. Researchers examined cohorts over time to evaluate trends in withdrawal management after the emergence of medetomidine in the unregulated drug supply. Prior to medetomidine's emergence, 5.8% of admissions received dexmedetomidine; however, after medetomidine's emergence in quarter 2 of 2024 this rose to 19.8% and then to 31.7% by quarter 3 of 2025. Admissions involving dexmedetomidine also had higher rates of opioid withdrawal treatment and oral alpha 2 agonists. Intensive care unit (ICU) admission occurred in 99.5% of cases for dexmedetomidine administration and monitoring.



To read more, click [here](#).

Webinars to Watch



NATIONAL ACADEMY
FOR STATE HEALTH POLICY

National Academy for State Health Policy: Expanding Emergency Medical Services Partnership to Reduce Opioid Deaths through Post-Overdose Response

Wednesday, October 14th @ 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET

Presented by Dre Cantwell-Frank, NRP; Emily Henke, MPH; Craig Mosbaek, MPH & Tim Seplaki

This **state-only webinar** will explore how states can partner with EMS to connect people to ongoing care and treatment, including post-overdose outreach, public health and public safety partnerships, and EMS-initiated buprenorphine and other low-barrier treatment models. Opportunities to sustain these approaches, including in rural communities, through the Rural Health Transformation Program, opioid settlement funds, and other funding streams will also be discussed.

Register [here](#).



Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): AI Office Hours – Getting Started with AI for “Talk. They Hear You.” Planning

Tuesday, October 13th @ 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

The “Talk. They Hear You.” campaign aims to reduce underage drinking and other substance use among youths under the age of 21 by providing parents and caregivers with information and resources they need to address these issues with their children early and often. This interactive session will explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can serve as a thought partner for local campaign planning, helping you brainstorm ideas, organize information, draft planning materials, and make the most of approved “Talk. They Hear You.” resources.

Register [here](#).



NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals: The Battle at Home – Exploring the Complexities of PTSD, Substance Misuse & More

Wednesday, October 14th @ 12:00 – 1:30 PM ET

Presented by Thurston Smith, DMIN, LAC/S, MPA, CCS

According to SAMHSA, serious mental illness (SMI), major depressive episode (MDE), and SUD are on the rise in the veteran population: in 2020 alone, 5.2 million Veterans experienced a behavioral health condition (2022). This training will examine the prevalence and complexities of substance misuse, PTSD, and other co-occurring conditions among the veteran population, and explore efficient strategies in clinical care, case coordination, and referral.

Register [here](#).



Georgetown University: M.S. in Addiction Policy and Practice Informational Session

Monday, October 26th @ 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Presented by Ann Herbst

The session is designed to discuss Georgetown University’s Master’s Program in Addiction Policy and Practice. This session is hosted in collaboration with Young People in Recovery (YPR), a national nonprofit providing peer recovery support services for youth/young adults in (or seeking) recovery from SUDs, represented by Ann Herbst, its executive director.

Register [here](#).



Addiction Policy Forum (APF): Alcohol Use Disorder – Addressing the Special Needs of Women and Understanding Recovery Trajectories and Relapse

Thursday, October 29th @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Presented by Shelly Greenfield, MD, MPH; John Kelly, PhD, ABPP & Redonna Chandler, PhD

This webinar will examine alcohol use and alcohol use disorder (AUD) among women in the US, with a focus on the evidence base for treatment and clinical considerations that may shape women's experiences when seeking care. Presenters will review widely used models of recovery, recovery trajectories, and current research on recurrence of alcohol use, including factors that may increase risk and those that may support long-term wellness.

Register [here](#).

Thank you for reading.

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