

February 15, 2019



D.C. Update: Republican leadership encourages continued bipartisan work to address the opioid crisis, new SAMHSA TIP on services for American Indians/Alaska Natives, and more

Visit our Website

## Capitol Hill Happenings

### House Energy and Commerce Committee Republican leaders request continued bipartisan efforts to address the opioid crisis

Earlier this week, Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Greg Walden (R-OR), along with Ranking Members of the Subcommittee on Health Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-TX), and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Brett Guthrie (R-KY), sent a [letter](#) to Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Subcommittee on Health Chair Anna Eshoo (D-CA), and Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Chair Diana DeGette (D-CO), requesting that the Committee continue its bipartisan work to help combat the opioid crisis in the 116th Congress.

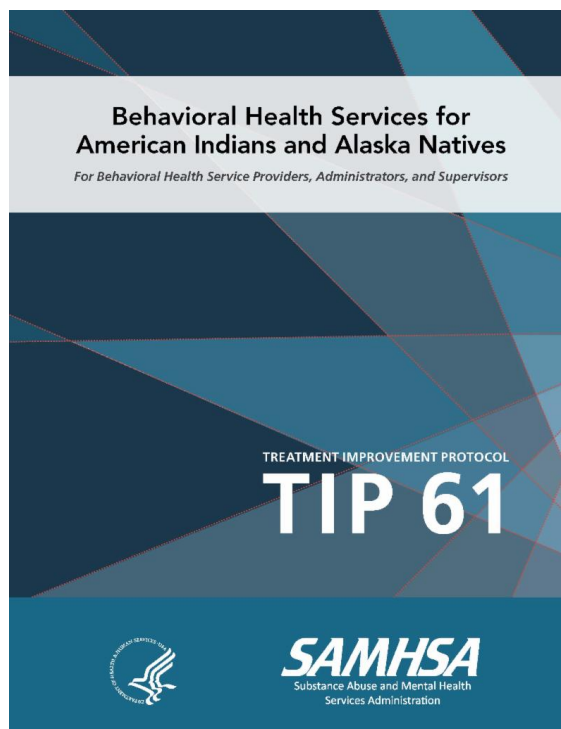
Specifically, the Republican leaders requested: hearings to examine the implementation of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act of 2018; discuss additional efforts to address the ongoing opioid crisis; review the recommendations of the committee's [investigation into opioid distribution](#); and continued [investigations](#) into opioid manufacturers and [patient brokering](#).

## Around the Agencies

### SAMHSA releases new Treatment Improvement Protocol on services for American Indians and Alaska Natives

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recently released a new Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP), "[TIP 61: Behavioral Health Services for American Indians and Alaska Natives](#)." The TIP summarizes substance use and mental illness among American Indians and Alaska Natives and discusses the importance of delivering culturally responsive, evidence-based services to address these issues. TIP 61 is divided into three parts:

- Part 1 focuses on American Indian and Alaska Native history, historical trauma, and critical cultural perspectives. It discusses demographics, social challenges, and behavioral health, highlighting the importance of providers' cultural awareness, competence, and culture-specific knowledge. It also describes specific treatment interventions, including traditional American Indian and Alaska Native interventions and cultural adaptations to standard behavioral health approaches.
- Part 2 is intended for administrators, program managers, and clinical and other supervisors to help foster a culturally responsive environment for American Indian and Alaska Native clients. Specific topic areas include workforce development,



- considerations in program and professional development, and culturally responsive program policies and procedures.
  - Part 3 provides a literature review.
- 

## News from the States

### Stateline article highlights impact of federal opioids funding in South Carolina

Last week *Stateline* published an article, "[Opioid Money Has Helped, But States Want More](#)," which highlights the impact that recent federal funding to address the opioid crisis, such as the State Targeted Response (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grant programs, has had on South Carolina.

As described by writer Christine Vestal, "At the Medical University of South Carolina [MUSC], three new programs designed to expand access to effective treatment for opioid addiction were funded in part with allotments from the more than \$27 million in federal grants the state received in 2017 and 2018. For South Carolina, the new funds amounted to a roughly 50 percent increase in available federal dollars for addiction services for the uninsured." The three programs include addiction treatment specifically for pregnant women, access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in hospital emergency departments, and training and support for primary care doctors who want to help more patients with opioid addiction.

These programs at MUSC are funded through the STR grant program, which was authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act of 2016. Within the State of South Carolina, these grant funds are managed by the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS), led by Sara Goldsby, who serves on the NASADAD Board of Directors.

### Gov. Little signs bill to expand access to naloxone in Idaho

Yesterday Governor Brad Little of Idaho signed into law a [bill](#) that will allow certain health care professionals to prescribe and dispense naloxone to:

- A person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose;
- A person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose;
- A person who, in the course of his official duties or business, may encounter a person experiencing an opiate-related overdose; or
- A person who, in the opinion of the prescriber, has valid reason to be in the possession of an opioid antagonist

As described in a [press release](#), Governor Little stated, "My administration is fully committed to fighting the scourge of opioid abuse head on. We look forward to coordinating with all public and private entities to reverse this epidemic."

Rosie Andueza, Idaho's Single State Authority, serves as Vice President for Internal Affairs on the NASADAD Board of Directors.

---

## News from NASADAD

### Seeking nominations for 2019 Ramstad-Kennedy Award

The Ramstad/Kennedy Award was established in 2008 to recognize a Single State Authority (SSA) Director who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in support of recovery and *National Recovery Month* and to acknowledge Congressmen Jim Ramstad (R-MN-ret) and Patrick Kennedy (D-RI-ret) for their commitment to recovery and recovery-oriented policies. Award planners are currently seeking nominations for the 2019 award. [Applications](#) are due April 26, 2019, and the award will be presented at the [NASADAD Annual Meeting](#) in Bethesda, MD, which will be held June 4-6, 2019.

---

## Upcoming Events

### Rx Summit to be held April 22-25 in Atlanta, GA

The 2019 Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit is the annual event for addressing the opioid crisis. Government officials, first responders, law enforcement personnel, clinicians, physicians, nurses, educators, public health and prevention officials, and families and people in recovery are represented and discuss solutions for addressing the opioid epidemic and healing our

communities. The Rx Summit agenda is designed with timely and relevant information to address what is working in prevention, treatment, and law enforcement.

The 2019 Summit will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, April 22–25. Visit the [Summit website](#) to explore the Summit's comprehensive curriculum spearheaded by field experts and leading organizations engaged in producing the nation's largest and most recognized conference addressing the opioid crisis.

---

NASADAD | 202-293-0090 | [nasadad.org](http://nasadad.org)

---