White House Happenings

Jim Carroll sworn in as Director of Office of National Drug Control Policy

On Thursday, January 31, 2019, James Carroll was sworn in as Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), after being confirmed by the U.S. Senate on January 2nd. The swearing-in was conducted by Vice President Mike Pence in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The ONDCP Director is the principal advisor to the President on drug control issues. ONDCP coordinates the drug control activities and related funding of 16 federal departments and agencies. NASADAD’s Rob Morrison and Shalini Wickramatilake attended the ceremony. NASADAD congratulates Director Carroll, and looks forward to our continued partnership with ONDCP.

ONDCP releases National Drug Control Strategy

Last week, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), led by Director Jim Carroll, released its National Drug Control Strategy. The Strategy is intended to guide federal efforts with three overarching categories: 1) preventing illicit drug use through education and evidence-based prevention programs; 2) reducing barriers to treatment services so that access to long-term recovery is available for those suffering from substance use disorder; and 3) reducing the availability of drugs in the United States through law enforcement and cooperation with international partners.

News from NASADAD

Federal agency leaders attend annual CADCA/NASADAD/NPN Luncheon

National Prevention Network (NPN) members representing 25 States attended the annual Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Leadership Forum, February 4-7, 2019, at the National Harbor just outside of Washington, DC. Each year during
the Forum, NASADAD staff, NPN members, and CADCA staff meet during a luncheon to share updates on State and regional substance use prevention activities. This year, a few special guests joined the luncheon, including the Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Jerome Adams; Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director Jim Carroll; and the CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Director, Dr. Debra Houry. “NASADAD looks forward to this event and thanks CADCA for hosting and carrying on the tradition of State prevention directors getting together to share updates about their important work,” stated NASADAD’s Executive Director Rob Morrison, who attended the event. He added, “The federal partners who joined the luncheon made it even more special by showing their commitment to the importance of substance use prevention efforts.”

NPN President, Michelle Nienhuis (SC), and Surgeon General Jerome Adams at the luncheon on Tuesday, February 5, 2019

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.

Around the Agencies

FDA finalizes policy to encourage innovation and development of new buprenorphine treatments for opioid use disorder
Earlier this week the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued final guidance for industry, “Opioid Use Disorder: Developing Buprenorphine Depot Products for Treatment.” The guidance focuses on drug development and trial design issues related to the study of buprenorphine depot products, such as modified-release products for injection or implantation. The guidance outlines ways that companies can more efficiently advance innovations in buprenorphine depot products; the types of studies the FDA recommends for buprenorphine depot products that are similar to an approved depot product; and information on efficacy studies including trial design and recommended efficacy endpoints.

Federal Funding

SAMHSA releases FOA for Building

CDC announces Overdose Data to Action
Communities of Recovery (BCOR)
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released a funding opportunity announcement for the 2019 Building Communities of Recovery (BCOR) grants. The purpose of this program is to mobilize resources within and outside of the recovery community to increase the prevalence and quality of long-term recovery support from addiction. These grants are intended to support the development, enhancement, expansion, and delivery of recovery support services as well as promotion of and education about recovery. Eligible applicants are Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs), and programs will be principally governed by people in recovery from substance use disorders who reflect the community served. SAMHSA plans to issue 3 grants of up to $200,000 per year for up to 3 years. Applications are due on April 2, 2019.

HRSA to announce Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) funding opportunity
As noted in American Hospital Association Today, the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy has announced that it will soon release a funding opportunity announcement for its new Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP). The program will include about 75 grants of up to $1 million each to expand opioid and other substance use disorder services in high-risk rural communities. HRSA expects to release a notice on the funding opportunity in the next few weeks. Organizations applying for the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program implementation grants must be part of an established network or consortium that includes at least three other separately-owned entities, at least two of which are located in a HRSA-designated rural area.