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The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Directors
D.C. Update

News from NASADAD, Capitol Hill happenings, and more.

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News from NASADAD

NASADAD staff attend 2018 Recovery Month Luncheon

On September 6th, NASADAD's Rob Morrison and Shalini Wickramatilake attended the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) [2018 Recovery Month Luncheon](#), hosted by the National Council for Behavioral Health. Speakers included Acting Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Jim Carroll; Linda Rosenberg, President and CEO of the National Council; Tom Hill, VP of Addiction and Recovery at the National Council; and Chacku Mathai, President and CEO of Mental Health Association of Rochester.

Awards were presented by Captain Chideha Ohuoha, MD MPH, Director of SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), to the following winners: Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse (RCASA), based in Reading, MA; the Institute for Research, Education and Training in Addictions (IRETA); and Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA), based in Salt Lake City, UT.

NPN Conference and NASADAD Board Meeting in Boston

The 2018 [National Prevention Network \(NPN\) Conference](#) was held from August 27-30 in Boston, MA. The sold-out conference started with a welcome from Monica Bharel, MD, MPH, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Plenary session speakers included Michael Botticelli, Executive Director of the Grayken Center for Addiction Medicine at Boston Medical Center (BMC), and former Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), as well as Fran Harding, Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The NASADAD Board of Directors held its quarterly meeting in conjunction with the NPN Conference. In addition to tending to regular business, the Board heard from several guest speakers, including Gary Tennis, President and CEO of the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL); Michael Botticelli of BMC's Grayken Center; Kathryn Power, SAMHSA Region I Administrator; and Devin Larkin, Bureau Director, Recovery Services, Boston Health Commission.

Capitol Hill Happenings



Senate expected to vote on opioids package

Last week Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, [announced](#) that the Senate will vote this week on the [Opioid Crisis Response Act](#). This bipartisan package combines legislation from the HELP, Finance, Judiciary, Commerce, and Banking Committees. In April 2018, NASADAD's Rob Morrison testified before the HELP Committee during a legislative hearing on the Opioid Crisis Response Act, outlining the Association's priorities related to prevention, treatment, and recovery services. The legislation includes a variety of provisions, including: reauthorizing the State Targeted Response (STR) grant program; authorizing a new grant program within SAMHSA for the creation of Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers (CORCs); developing best practices for recovery housing; authorizing a grant program to implement policies and procedures to individuals who have experienced an opioid overdose; and more.

The House of Representatives passed its opioids package, the [Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment \(SUPPORT\) for Patients and Communities Act \(H.R. 6\)](#) in June. After the Senate votes on the the Opioid Crisis Response Act, the House and Senate will go to conference to reconcile differences between the bills.

Senate passes FY 2019 Labor-HHS appropriations bill

On August 23rd, the Senate passed its FY 2019 combined Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (L-HHS) appropriations bill with a vote of 85-7. The bill includes a \$580 million increase to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); level funding of \$1.858 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant; and \$1.5 billion for SAMHSA's State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant, which continues a 15 percent set-aside for States with the highest mortality rate related to opioid use disorders and a \$50 million set-aside for Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

The House of Representatives has not yet held a floor vote on its L-HHS bill. Once the House passes its bill, the House and Senate will have until the end of the current fiscal year, September 30th, to reconcile differences. If they do not reach an agreement by the end of the month, Congress will have to consider a continuing resolution (CR) to keep current funding levels in effect, or face a government shutdown.

Around the Agencies

SAMHSA's Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit Now Available in Spanish

SAMHSA's [updated Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit](#) is [now available in Spanish](#). This toolkit offers strategies to health care providers, communities, and local governments for developing practices and policies to help prevent opioid-related overdoses and deaths. Resources and information are specifically tailored for community members, prescribers, patients and families, and those recovering from opioid overdose.

SAMHSA releases new resources for first responders

SAMHSA recently released resources to help first responders with their own mental health and substance use issues. A new online training course, "[Service to Self: Behavioral Health for Fire and EMS Personnel](#)," includes videos featuring emergency medical technicians and fire personnel, scenarios, and interactive quizzes. The course addresses occupational stressors; mental health and substance use issues including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidality, and alcohol use; resilience; and healthy coping mechanisms including demonstrations of stress management techniques.

Additionally, SAMHSA's [Quarterly Technical Assistance Journal on Disaster Behavioral Health](#),

which is produced by the SAMHSA Disaster Technical Assistance Center, focuses on the impact of trauma on first responders. This issue of the journal highlights the challenges first responders experience through all phases of disaster response.

Upcoming Events

Release of National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) data on September 14

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will release data from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) on Friday, September 14, 2018 at 10:00 am EST. Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Elinore F. McCance-Katz, MD, PhD, will present an analysis of national data that captures trends in substance use, serious mental illness, and treatment. The event will be livestreamed and can be viewed [here](#) at the time of the event.

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