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

FY 2019 appropriations, SUD resources for employers, and more

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Capitol Hill Happenings



Senate passes opioids package

On Monday, the Senate voted 99-1 to pass the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act. The Senate's package is comprised of 70 different proposals from the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP), Finance Commerce, Judiciary, and Banking Committees.

Some of the provisions in the Senate package include:

- Reauthorizing the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis (STR) grant program within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- Establishing a competitive grant program for emergency rooms to create a protocol to support individuals who have survived an opioid overdose, including having onsite peer recovery coaches.
- Creating a grant program to establish at least 10 Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers (CORCs) throughout the U.S.
- Developing and disseminating best practices for recovery housing.
- Broadening the types of practitioners who can prescribe buprenorphine to include allopathic and osteopathic doctors who meet certain criteria.

While the Senate package is similar to the version that passed the House in June, some of the notable differences—including partial repeal of the IMD exclusion, and aligning the substance use disorder confidentiality law (42 CFR Part 2) more closely with HIPAA—will have to be reconciled when the House and Senate go to conference in the coming weeks.

Congress releases FY2019 L-HHS appropriations conference bill and report

Last week Congress released a bipartisan and bicameral funding bill for programs within the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The funding levels for some of NASADAD's priority programs are:

- \$1.858 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant

(level compared to FY2018)

- \$1.5 billion for the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant program (+\$500 million)
- \$458 million for the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) (+\$55 million)
- \$205 million for the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) (-\$42 million)
- \$119 million for the Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success program (level)
- \$89 million for the Medication-Assisted Treatment for Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction program (+\$5 million)
- \$29 million for the Pregnant & Postpartum Women program (level)

Congress is expected to pass this funding bill, packaged with the Defense appropriations bill, before FY2018 ends on September 30th. The Labor-HHS and Defense appropriations package include a continuing resolution to ensure that the government—including agencies that are funded in appropriations bills that do not get passed by the end of the month—stays open through December 7th.

News from NASADAD



Above: Tracy Flinn, NASADAD; Erica Leary, North Coastal Prevention Coalition; John Byrom, North Coastal Prevention Coalition; Michelle Nienhius, NPN President

North Coastal Prevention Coalition (NCPC) wins 2018 National Award for Innovative Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, Practices and Policies

During the National Prevention Network (NPN) Conference in Boston last month, the [North Coastal Prevention Coalition \(NCPC\)](#) won the 2018 National Award for Innovative Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, Practices and Policies. NCPC has facilitated community-level prevention strategies in the cities of Carlsbad, Oceanside, and Vista in North Coastal San Diego County since 1993. Coalition efforts focus on environmental prevention strategies in order to change the community norms, access, and availability that contribute to substance use problems.

In the News

Grayken Center releases resources to help employers understand and address SUDs in their workforce

The Grayken Center for Addiction at Boston Medical Center (BMC), led by former NASADAD Board Member and former Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Michael Botticelli, has launched a set of free online resources for employers to understand and address substance use disorders (SUD) in their workforce. The [Employer Resource Library](#) provides actionable steps that any organization can take to support employees who are dealing with their own or a family member's issues related to substance use disorders.

The library, which was launched on Wednesday September 12 at a Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce session for employers, includes more than 25 downloadable documents that can be tailored by an organization and used to develop the supports needed to address these important workforce issues. The resources are split into five categories: 1) assessing and engaging the organization; 2) empowering and educating managers; 3) supporting and encouraging employees; 4) developing policies and practices; and 5) national and local resources.

Around the Agencies

NIH outlines HEAL Initiative accomplishments

In honor of National Recovery Month and the [President's declaration](#) of this week as Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week, Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) [released a statement](#) outlining recent HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative accomplishments. Some of the highlights include:

- Announcing the innovative Acute to Chronic Pain Signatures Program to understand the origins of chronic pain.
- Awarding new research grants to study the impact of behavioral interventions for the prevention of OUD, or as a complement to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for OUD.
- Issuing new funding opportunities calling for research on pain treatment.

Learn more about the NIH HEAL Initiative [here](#).

SAMHSA releases 2017 NSDUH data

Last week SAMHSA released its 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) data. The 2017 Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators report summarizes the following:

- Substance use (alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, and inhalants, as well as the misuse of opioids, prescription pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives)
- Initiation of substance use
- Perceived risk from substance use
- Substance use disorders
- Any mental illness, serious mental illness, and major depressive episode
- Suicidal thoughts, plans, and non-fatal attempts for adults ages 18 or older
- Substance use treatment and mental health service use

Access the report, detailed tables, and a presentation by Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, [here](#).