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

Opioids legislation, new SAMHSA resources, and more

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Capitol Hill Happenings

House and Senate leaders announce opioid legislation agreement

On Tuesday, House and Senate lawmakers announced an agreement on legislation to address the opioid crisis. This legislative agreement combines and reconciles differences between previously passed House and Senate bills.

The latest version of the [SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act \(H.R. 6\)](#) includes a variety of provisions, some of which include:

- Reauthorizing grants to States to address the opioid crisis (previously authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act of 2016), and adding to the grant program a 5% set-aside for Indian tribes, as well as up to a 15% set-aside for States and Tribes with the highest age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths based on CDC data. The bill authorizes \$500 million for each of FY 2019 - FY 2021.
- Establishing a 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.
- Student loan repayment for SUD treatment professionals in mental health professional shortage areas or counties that have been hardest hit by drug overdoses.
- Reauthorizing the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), as well as the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) and High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) programs.
- Reauthorizing SAMHSA's Residential Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women (PPW) program for FY 2019-FY 2023.



The House will likely vote on the final version of the SUPPORT Act before the end of this week, and the Senate is expected to vote on the bill next week before sending it to the President's desk.

Senate and House pass FY 2019 L-HHS appropriations bill

Over the past week both the Senate and House passed the FY 2019 appropriations bill for funding the Departments of Labor, Health & Human Services (HHS), and Education. The bill funds several of NASADAD's priority programs withing HHS, 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)

The Labor-HHS appropriations bill was packaged with the Defense appropriations bill, and includes 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. The President is expected to sign the bill before FY 2019 begins on October 1st.

News from the States

GHSA newsletter features collaboration between OK Dept. of Public Safety and Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) recently released its bimonthly [newsletter](#). One of the stories included in the newsletter (pg. 6) highlights a collaborative effort by the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Oklahoma Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) to deliver a free alcohol education program, AlcoholEdu, to Oklahoma high school and college students. As described in the newsletter, this interactive online learning platform helps students make smart decisions about alcohol and impaired driving. Terri White serves as the NASADAD member in Oklahoma.

Around the Agencies

SAMHSA releases resource kit on substance use and mental health disorders among college students

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released a new resource that provides information on the consequences of substance misuse among college students: [The Behavioral Health Among College Students Information & Resource Kit](#). The Information & Resource Kit is designed to increase awareness of the issues faced by college students due to underage and excessive alcohol use, use of tobacco products, illicit drug use, and mental health issues. This kit aims to equip college and university prevention practitioners, student affairs professionals, health center staff, and administrators with summaries of current knowledge, links, and directions that will make it easier to locate materials relevant to prevention efforts targeting the college population.

NIH releases Funding Opportunity Announcements on HEALing Communities Study

Last week, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued two funding opportunity announcements for cooperative agreements to support components of the HEALing Communities Study. This study is a part of the recently launched NIH initiative, Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL), a trans-NIH effort to use science to help communities affected by the opioid crisis. NIH partnered with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to launch this study. For more information on the funding opportunities, go to:

- [HEALing Communities Study: Developing and Testing an Integrated Approach to Address the Opioid Crisis \(Data Coordinating Center\)](#) (Clinical Trials Not Allowed)
- [HEALing Communities Study: Developing and Testing an Integrated Approach to Address the Opioid Crisis](#) (Research Sites) (Clinical Trial Required)

SAMHSA releases new tobacco cessation resources

SAMHSA recently announced the release of [three new tobacco cessation publications](#) for providers and clients, geared specifically towards substance use disorder (SUD) treatment settings:

- Implementing Tobacco Cessation Programs in Substance Use Disorder Treatment Settings: A Quick Guide for Program Directors and Clinicians

- Quitting Tobacco—Help Your Clients to a Healthier Life
- You Can Quit Tobacco—Benefits and Tips To Quit for Good

The publications are resources for SUD treatment providers, program directors, and their clients, and include information about how to implement tobacco cessation programs in their organizations; outline the benefits of such programs; and reduce the use of tobacco products among clients with SUD.