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

News from NASADAD, new federal resources, and more.

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News from NASADAD

Tracy Plouck, State Director in Ohio, Steps Down from State Service

Tracy Plouck, State Director in Ohio, is leaving her post overseeing the substance use disorder and mental health system. Tracy spent a number of years as the State's Medicaid Director under Governors Taft and Strickland. Governor Kasich then appointed her to oversee the addiction and mental health system in 2013. Tracy provided leadership in a number of areas, including work to address mental health and addiction needs of those in the criminal justice system. She pursued this work at the national level through leadership positions at the Council of State Governments' (CSG) Justice Center. She dedicated a tremendous amount of time promoting the Stepping Up Initiative – an initiative led by CSG, National Association of Counties (NACo), and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation (APA Foundation). NASADAD wishes to recognize and thank Tracy for her leadership!

In the News

National Academies release summary of workshop on intersection of opioid use disorder and infectious disease epidemics

In March 2018, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine hosted a workshop on Integrating Infectious Disease Considerations with Response to the Opioid Epidemic, and they recently released a [summary of the event](#). During the workshop, participants discussed the scope of the problem, giving particular attention to viral hepatitis, HIV, and endocarditis. Attention was given to reducing the infectious disease co-morbidities of injection drug use, especially strategies that emphasize empathy, respectful treatment, and patient satisfaction. Speakers at the workshop presented on how the opioid epidemic has changed the epidemiology of infectious disease. In panel and open discussion, participants discussed strategies to prevent and treat infections in people who inject drugs, especially ways to work efficiently though the existing public health and medical systems.

Around the Agencies

VA releases Older Veteran Behavioral Health Resource Inventory

The Department of Veterans Affairs has released an [Older Veteran Behavioral Health Resource Inventory](#). The Inventory provides an overview of resources for health and social service professionals interested in enhancing their outreach and support for older veterans who have or are at risk for mental health and substance use disorders. In particular, the Inventory offers an overview of programs and publications on topics including substance use disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicide prevention, long-term services and supports, and more.

CDC releases promising practices to address tobacco use by individuals with MH and SUD

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released a [resource on](#)

[promising policies and practices from several States on addressing tobacco use among individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorders](#). The States highlighted in the document are New York, Oklahoma, Hawaii, Texas, and Kentucky. Some of the policies and practices described include: having a smoke-free campus; screening clients for tobacco use; offering tobacco cessation counseling; offering nicotine replacement therapy (NRT); and offering non-nicotine tobacco cessation medications. This CDC resource uses data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Upcoming Events

Partnerships to Advance Tribal Health Town Hall

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is hosting a Partnerships to Advance Tribal Health (PATH) National Town Hall on Combating Opioids and Substance Abuse. PATH provides a national forum for tribal and federal officials to engage in joint dialogue to improve the impact of HHS resources in tribal communities. The PATH Town Hall will include remarks from HHS senior leadership, congressional officials, and tribal leaders, and is being moderated by Chief Marilyn Malerba of the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut. The event will be held on Tuesday, July 24, 2018, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m. EST and will be livestreamed [here](#).

HHS Partnership Center announces summer webinar series on the science and practice of community-based prevention of substance use

[Brain Under Construction: Building Pathways to Resilient Futures](#)

Thursday, July 26, 2018, 12:00-1:00 p.m. EST

This webinar will feature Ruben Baler, PhD, health scientist at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), who will describe the brain science behind the struggles teens may face in resisting drugs and other risky behaviors. Dr. Baler will share the latest science on the teen brain – how different parts of the brain develop at different rates, what brain development means, and how teens can make choices that may help strengthen their brain and their resiliency.

[ACEs: The Role of Life Experiences in Shaping Brain Development](#)

Thursday, August 9, 2018, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. EST

This webinar will focus on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which can put young people at significant risk for substance use disorders and can impact prevention and substance use recovery efforts. The webinar will feature public health experts in Tennessee on their curriculum [Building Strong Brains: The Role of Life Experiences in Shaping Brain Development](#), in which community and education leaders to increase protective factors and reduce the impact of ACEs for children and adolescents.

[Prevention in Practice: Building Communities that Strengthen the Resiliency of Future Generations](#)

Wednesday, August 15, 2018, 12:00 -1:00 p.m. EST

This webinar will feature faith and community presenters on the strategies they are implementing to strengthen the resilience of young people to resist using drugs and alcohol.