

July 3, 2018



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

Capitol Hill happenings, news from NASADAD, and more.

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Capitol Hill Happenings

Jennifer Smith (SSA, PA) speaks during House of Representatives briefing on warm hand-off



On June 28, 2018, Jennifer Smith, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and NASADAD Member, spoke on a panel for a U.S. House of Representatives briefing entitled, "Modernizing Opioid Addiction Treatment Protocol: Emergency Departments as a Point of Care." Other panelists included: Karen Perry, Executive Director of the N.O.P.E. Task Force; Dr. Ross Sullivan, Medical Director of Helio Health; Patricia Kunz Howard, Enterprise Director of Emergency Services at University of Kentucky HealthCare; and Steve Fera, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs for Independence Blue Cross.

Secretary Smith spoke about the State's response to the opioid crisis. In particular, she highlighted emergency room protocols that have improved outcomes for patients who have survived an overdose. These protocols include connecting survivors with an on-site recovery support specialist. She also described the "Blue Guardian" program in Lehigh County, PA, in which police officers and recovery specialists visit a survivor's home a few days after an overdose has occurred in order to show support and encourage them to seek treatment.

Senate Appropriations Committee approves Labor-HHS bill

On June 28, 2018, the Senate Appropriations Committee [marked up](#) and passed the Labor, Health & Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) spending bill for FY 2019. For programs within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Committee recommends:

- Level funding of \$1,858,079,000 for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant
- \$451,927,000 for the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), which would be an increase of \$46.5 million compared to FY 2018.
- \$200,219,000 for the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), which would be a decrease of \$48 million compared to FY 2018.
- \$1.5 billion for the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant program, an increase of \$500 million compared to FY 2018.

The House Appropriations Committee was scheduled to markup its L-HHS bill last week, but the markup has been postponed.

Paul Samuels of Legal Action Center receives "Friend of NASADAD" Award

On June 27, 2018, Paul Samuels, who serves as Director and President of the [Legal Action Center \(LAC\)](#), received the "Friend of NASADAD Award." This annual award goes to someone who is not a member of NASADAD who has demonstrated outstanding service and leadership to the field of substance use prevention, treatment and recovery. Paul Samuels has been an incredible supporter of NASADAD and its members for decades. This support stems from a commitment to help our nation's most vulnerable gain access to lifesaving substance use disorder services. Paul has been a champion of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), was a critical resource as Congress and the Administration worked on health reform, and remains a leader on current reforms through his position as co-chair of the Coalition for Whole Health (CWH).



The award was presented to him by Arlene González-Sánchez (SSA, NY), Vice President of NASADAD, and Shalini Wickramatilake-Templeman, NASADAD's Federal Affairs Manager, during a New York State Behavioral Health Services Advisory Council meeting.

We're hiring!

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)--the Washington, DC-based non-profit association doing technical assistance and research for State Agencies on substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery services--is hiring a research associate within our Research and Program Applications Department. We seek an experienced, team-oriented person with demonstrated understanding of substance use issues, human services, or healthcare; strong writing and research skills; experience with meeting coordination; and excellent communication skills.



Learn more about this job opportunity [here](#).

Upcoming Events

SAMHSA webinar on Substance Use Disorders in the Zero Suicide Framework

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Suicide Prevention Resource Center is hosting a webinar that will highlight innovative ways that mental health, substance use, and other health care organizations are changing organizational practices and providing improved services for patients with substance use disorders who are at heightened risk for overdose and suicide.

The webinar aims to help participants:

- Identify ways to improve staff attitudes and confidence toward working with patients at risk for suicide and overdose deaths.
- Share unique patient engagement and suicide care management plan considerations for this population.
- Describe the importance of a patient-centered perspective to treating suicide risk and overdose risk concurrently.

The [webinar](#) will be held on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 from 3:30–5:00 pm EST.

National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) "open call"

Each month the [National Alliance for Recovery Residences](#) hosts a call that is open to stakeholders who are interested in the recovery field. The "Open Call" is NARR's monthly forum for recovery residence operators, staff, and those interested in quality residence operation. This month's call will focus on recent legislation that recently passed the House of Representatives that would establish national recovery housing best practices ([H.R. 4684](#)). The call will also

Online course on 42 CFR Part 2 and HIPAA

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the American Bar Association Health Law Section are offering an online course about sharing substance use and mental health information in compliance with the law. The course will review existing laws, regulations, and sub-regulatory guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights and SAMHSA. The course will elaborate on those materials and address the

review the recently released [recovery housing policy guide for State agencies](#), which was developed by NARR and the National Council for Behavioral Health. The call will be held on Friday, July 6, from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EST. Call-in number and code: (605) 475-3235 | 322459#

impact of privacy laws, specifically 42 CFR Part 2 and HIPAA, on the practice of health law.

The course will be held on July 11th at 12:00 pm EST. Register [here](#).

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