

March 29, 2019



D.C. Update: NASADAD releases FY 2020 budget overview, news from the NIH, and more

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## Around the Agencies

### **NIH study focuses on new medication to treat cravings associated with opioid dependence**

The National Institutes of Health Clinical Center (NIHCC) has started a clinical trial of an experimental medication designed to treat cravings associated with opioid use disorder (OUD). The NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) is helping to conduct the trial which will assess the safety of an experimental compound used to treat opioid cravings, and how it is processed in the body when given with another drug that is processed by the same liver enzyme pathway.

Henry Masur, M.D., Chief of the Clinical Center's Critical Care Medicine Department stated in a [press release](#), "At this time, there are few pharmacological interventions that specifically target the cravings felt by some patients who have physical dependence or opioid use disorder. This trial will lay the groundwork for future studies; together these may lead to effective treatments for the drug cravings that impede the pursuit of sobriety." The clinical trial is funded through NIH's Helping to End Addiction Long-Term (HEAL) initiative.

### **NIDA announces Dr. Jack Stein as Chief of Staff**

Last week, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) [announced](#) that Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of NIDA, appointed Jack Stein, Ph.D., to be the Institute's Chief of Staff. This is a newly created position to support and assist the Director with coordination and strategic planning of key institute initiatives. As Chief of Staff, Dr. Stein will focus on NIDA's top priorities, including coordination of the NIH HEAL initiative (Helping to End Addiction Long-Term), a series of robust scientific prevention and treatment research projects to help curb the opioid crisis. Dr. Stein has over two decades of professional experience in leading national drug and HIV-related research, practice, and policy. He is currently the Director of the NIDA Office of Science Policy and Communication (OSPC) and will retain that position.

Dr. Stein has worked collaboratively with State Directors and NASADAD for many years. In particular, Dr. Stein worked with the Association on research to practice issues; ensuring communication with State leaders; and providing updates to NASADAD leadership on recent developments and priorities. NASADAD congratulates Dr. Stein on his new role as Chief of

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## News from NASADAD

### NASADAD releases overview of Administration's proposed FY 2020 funding for priority programs

NASADAD has developed an [overview](#) of the Administration's budget for FY 2020. The document outlines proposed funding levels for the Association's priority programs within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and others. Some highlights from the budget include:

- \$1.858 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant (level compared to FY 2019)
- \$1.5 billion for the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant (level)
- \$430 million for the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), a \$30 million cut
  - Elimination of the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) program (\$30 million cut)
  - Elimination of the Minority Fellowship program (\$4.8 million cut)
  - New \$4 million grant program to develop curricula for DATA waivers (+\$4 million)
  - Level funding for all other programs (MAT-PDOA, Pregnant & Postpartum Women, Drug Courts, etc.)
- \$144 million for Programs of Regional and National Significance (PRNS) within the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), a \$61 million cut
  - \$58 million for Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) (\$61 million cut)
  - Elimination of the Minority Fellowship program (\$321,000 cut)
- Moving the Drug Free Communities (DFC) program from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to CSAP
  - Level funding of \$100 million for DFC
  - This \$100 million program is *not* included in the total \$144 million for PRNS within CSAP
- \$701 million for Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) Block Grant (level)
- Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP):
  - The proposed total for ONDCP in FY 2020 includes \$16,400,000 for operations, and \$12,101,000 for other federal drug control programs.
  - In addition to ONDCP's DFC program into SAMHSA, the Administration proposes moving the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant program out of ONDCP and into the Department of Justice.
- \$452 million for the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), a \$74 million cut
- \$1,296,000,000 for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), a \$124 million cut
- Level funding of \$1.625 billion for Community Health Centers within the Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA)
- Creation of \$500 million America's Health Block Grant within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Level funding of \$475 million for the Prescription Drug Overdose (PDO) program within the CDC

### National Prevention Network (NPN) Call for Presentations

The 2019 National Prevention Network (NPN) Conference will be held August 27-29 in Chicago, IL. The purpose of the conference is to highlight the latest research in the substance use prevention field. It provides a forum for prevention professionals, coalition leaders, researchers, and federal partners to share research, best practices and promising evaluation results for the purpose of integrating research into prevention practice.

The [call for presentations](#) is now open for the conference, with a deadline of April 12th.

Highlighted topics for this year's conference include:

- Evidence-based Programs and Strategies to Reduce Substance Use
  - Evidence-informed Innovative Approaches to Reduce Substance Use
  - Prevention Workforce Development
  - Community Stakeholder Empowerment and Community Capacity Building
  - Drug Trends and Emerging Issues
  - Substance Use Prevention and Collaboration with Other Fields
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## In the News

### **Center on Addiction releases report on addiction benefits in State and federal marketplace plans**

The Center on Addiction has released a report, [\*Uncovering Coverage Gaps II: A Review and Comparison of Addiction Benefits in ACA Plans\*](#), which offers findings from a study of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment benefits in individual market plans sold on federal and State marketplaces in 2017. The report notes that Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans sold in many States in 2017 did not comply with legal requirements to cover benefits for addiction treatment. Findings from the study showed that over half of all States offered a plan that did not comply with the ACA's requirements to cover SUD benefits, and 21% of States had plans that violated the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA). The Center on Addiction's concludes that there is need for better implementation and enforcement of laws that are meant to prohibit discriminatory insurance practices.

### **New resources from the National Alliance for Recovery Residences**

The National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) released an announcement highlighting two new publications: [Helping Recovery Residences Adapt to Support People with Medication-Assisted Recovery](#) and the [National Standard 3.0 Compendium](#). The guide to medication-assisted recovery (MAR, the term used in the document by NARR) is tailored to the information needs of recovery housing operators and staff members. It discusses the basics of the most commonly prescribed medications, including how they work, how they are improving recovery outcomes, and how residences can become welcoming and supportive recovery environments. The National Standard 3.0 Compendium responds to requests from recovery residence operators and others interested in the genesis and application of recovery best practices. It is a detailed guide to the sources and rationale for the individual requirements comprising the standard.

### **NAATP announces amended "Code of Ethics"**

The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP) has announced the adoption of an amended version of the [NAATP Code of Ethics](#). NAATP notes that the biggest change to the Ethics Code, titled Ethics Code 2.5, is the following provision: "NAATP Members may not own, operate, or otherwise control directory type websites." The organization stated that it is a fundamental conflict of interest for a treatment provider to operate a directory purporting to impartially direct consumers to care providers. Additional changes to the code include: clarifying the branding requirements for advertising; prohibiting advertising that refers to a competitor name while promoting one's own program; and prohibiting the display of services that are not actually offered by the provider.