

April 11, 2019



D.C. Update: "Dear Colleague" letter on SAMHSA funding, new opioid-related resources from AHRQ, and more

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## Capitol Hill Happenings

### **Bipartisan letter on SAMHSA funding sent to House appropriators**

On March 28, 2019, a bipartisan group of 54 members of Congress sent a "[Dear Colleague" letter requesting the highest possible funding level for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) in FY 2020. The letter, led by Rep. Max Rose (D-NY), was sent to leaders of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies, Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK).

In describing SAMHSA's "critical role in leading substance use efforts at the national level," the letter highlights the importance of SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), and the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant in ensuring that Americans receive the prevention, treatment, and recovery services that they need. Some programs that are described in the letter include the Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) grant within CSAP, the Medication-Assisted Treatment-Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction (MAT-PDOA) program within CSAT, and grants to improve family-based services for pregnant and postpartum women within CSAT.

### **NASADAD attends meet-and-greet with House of Representatives Freshmen Working Group on Addiction**

Earlier this year, Rep. David Trone (D-MD) [announced](#) the creation of the Freshmen Working Group on Addiction within the House of Representatives. The working group is comprised of over 50 bipartisan newly-elected members of Congress who aim to develop and promote policies that reduce the prevalence of substance use disorders. As described in a press release by chair of the working group, Rep. Trone, "As part of the working group, Members will meet on a regular basis to hear from experts and stakeholders, make site visits to institutions focusing on research and treatment, and promote legislation in order to tackle the epidemic."



On April 10th, NASADAD's Executive Director, Robert Morrison, and Federal Affairs Manager, Shalini Wickramatilake, attended a working group meet-and-greet. During the event, Rep. Trone, who was joined by other members of the working group, spoke about his mission to combat addiction and overdose deaths, and noted the importance of coordinating with the variety of stakeholder groups represented at the event in order to address the opioid crisis.

## Around the Agencies

### New AHRQ efforts focus on addressing the opioid crisis

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has announced two new initiatives that align with the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) ongoing efforts to address the opioid crisis. The first is a report that aims to help reduce opioid misuse. "[A Stakeholder-Driven Action Plan for Improving Pain Management, Opioid Use, and Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Through Patient-Centered Clinical Decision Support](#)" has been developed by the AHRQ-supported Patient-Centered Clinical Decision Support Learning Network. The report includes five detailed patient scenarios demonstrating ways that clinical decision support can lead to better outcomes.

The second initiative is the development of a draft [evidence map of treatment for acute pain](#). The evidence map provides an overview of current guidelines and systematic reviews on pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic treatments for acute pain, including opioids. AHRQ is accepting public comments on the evidence map through April 25th.

### SAMHSA releases new guide on MAT in criminal justice settings

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released a new guide, "[Use of Medication-Assisted Treatment in Criminal Justice Settings](#)," which focuses on the use of MAT in jails and prisons, and during the reentry process. The guide provides an overview of the implementation of policies and practices that reduce the risk of overdose, and other harmful consequences for those with opioid use disorder who are in criminal justice settings or are transitioning back into the community.

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## News from NASADAD

### Wayne Lindstrom, Ph.D., to leave NM Behavioral Health Sciences Division

Wayne Lindstrom, Ph.D. (SSA, NM) will be leaving his role as Director of the Behavioral Health Services Division and CEO of the Behavioral Health Collaborative within the New Mexico Human Services Department on May 3rd. Dr. Lindstrom has served as a member of NASADAD for several years, and has been instrumental in leading the New Mexico's substance use and mental health efforts. Recently, Dr. Lindstrom was acknowledged by Mayor Jackie McKinney for his work in McKinley County, NM to improve access to care addiction and mental health care services. NASADAD recognizes Dr. Lindstrom for his leadership within the State of New Mexico, and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

### Robert Morrison presents on federal funding for addiction programs at NAADAC conference

On April 10, 2019, Robert Morrison, Executive Director/Director of Legislative Affairs, presented at NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals' Advocacy in Action conference. Mr. Morrison's presentation offered [an update on federal funding that supports substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery](#). In particular, he reviewed the efforts within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to address addiction, especially through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant, and State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant.

### Seeking nominations for 2019 Ramstad-Kennedy Award

The Ramstad/Kennedy Award was established in 2008 to recognize a Single State Authority (SSA) Director who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in support of recovery and *National Recovery Month* and to acknowledge Congressmen Jim Ramstad (R-MN-ret) and Patrick Kennedy (D-RI-ret) for their commitment to recovery and recovery-oriented policies. Award planners are currently seeking nominations for the 2019 award. [Applications](#) are due April 26, 2019, and the award will be presented at the [NASADAD Annual Meeting](#) in Bethesda, MD, which will be held June 4-6, 2019.

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## Upcoming Events

### National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day on May 6th

This year's [National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day](#) will be held on May 6. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Awareness Day focuses on the importance children's mental health, especially as it relates to healthy development. This year's Awareness Day event will take place at the Hubert Humphrey Building

in Washington, DC. During the event, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, will focus on the impact that suicide has on youth, young adults, and families, and will review evidence-based programs that help those in crisis. The event will be livestreamed [here](#) on May 6th at 3:00 pm EST.

SAMHSA encourages States, tribes, territories, and communities across the nation to [host events](#) and activities around children's mental health throughout the month of May.

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