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D.C. Update: House L-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee approves FY 2020 funding bill, NAATP releases Treatment Provider Guidebook, and more

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Capitol Hill Happenings

House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee approves FY 2020 funding bill

On April 30, 2019, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies, led by Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK), marked up and approved its [funding bill for FY 2020](#) (Oct. 1, 2019-Sept. 30, 2020). The bill includes funding for all HHS programs, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The bill and accompanying [press release](#) offer the following details on funding for some of NASADAD's priority programs:

- **SAMHSA:** The bill funds SAMHSA at \$5.9 billion (\$115 million increase compared to FY 2019; \$179 million increase compared to [Administration's proposed budget](#))
- **State Opioid Response (SOR) grants:** \$1.5 billion "for carrying out activities pertaining to opioids undertaken by the State agency responsible for administering the substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant" (level funding compared to FY 2019 and the President's request)
 - \$50,000,000 of the \$1.5 billion for SOR shall be made available to Indian Tribes or tribal organizations
 - 15% of the remaining amount shall be for the States with the highest opioid-related mortality rate
- **Substance use treatment within SAMHSA:** \$3.751 billion, "an increase of \$14 million, including continued funding for opioid prevention and treatment, and three new behavioral health programs to enhance treatment efforts."
- **Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP):** \$212 million (\$7 million above FY 2019; \$68 million above President's request)
- **Center for Mental Health Services programs:** "Mental health resources for children and youth including \$84 million for Project AWARE, an increase of \$13 million; and \$71 million for the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative, an increase of \$7 million. Suicide prevention including \$14 million for the Zero Suicide program, an increase of \$5 million; and \$17 million for the Suicide Lifeline, an increase of \$5 million."
- **National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA):** \$1,489,237,000 (\$70 million above FY 2019; \$193 million above President's request)

- **National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)**: \$551 million (\$25 million above FY 2019; \$99 million above President's request)
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—Injury Prevention and Control**: \$697,559,000 (\$49 million above FY 2019; \$69 million above President's request)
- **CDC—Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion**: \$1,073,121,000 (\$114 million cut compared to FY 2019; \$122 million above President's request)

The full House Appropriations Committee, led by Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Ranking Member Kay Granger (R-TX), is expected to mark up the L-HHS funding bill next week.

MACPAC seeking comments on IMD requirements and practices under Medicaid

The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), a non-partisan legislative branch agency, is [seeking comments on the Medicaid Institutions for Mental Diseases \(IMD\) ADDITIONAL INFO Act](#), which passed as part of Section 5012 of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act of 2018 (Section 5012). This section of the SUPPORT Act requires MACPAC to 1) conduct a study on IMDs receiving Medicaid payment under fee-for-service or managed care, and 2) seek input from a variety of stakeholders including the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), State Medicaid officials, State mental health authorities, Medicaid beneficiary advocates, health care providers, and Medicaid managed care organizations.

MACPAC is currently developing its report to Congress, and to fulfill the requirement to seek input from stakeholders, MACPAC is requesting information from stakeholders about the following topics:

- State requirements, including certification, licensure and accreditation applied to IMDs seeking Medicaid payment and how States determine if requirements have been met;
- Standards (e.g., quality standards, facility standards, and clinical standards) that IMD providers must meet in order to receive Medicaid payment and how the State determines if standards have been met;
- A description of IMDs receiving Medicaid payment including the number of these facilities and the types of services provided; and
- A description of Medicaid funding authorities used to pay IMDs and any coverage limitations placed on the scope, duration or frequency of services provided in IMDs.

Around the Agencies

DOJ/BJA seeking applications for Improving Reentry for Adults with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Illness program

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) within the Department of Justice (DOJ) is seeking applications for funding under the Second Chance Act for State agencies, local government agencies, and Indian tribes seeking to provide reentry services and programs for those with co-occurring substance use and mental illness. Specifically, the goal of the [Improving Reentry for Adults with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Illness program](#) is to improve access to and delivery of standardized screening and assessment, collaborative comprehensive case management, and pre- and post-release programming for returning inmates that address criminogenic risk and needs, including treatment and services that address mental illness and substance use. The program prioritizes coordination among corrections, substance use, and mental health treatment providers, as well as correctional health, and parole or probation services. Applications for the Improving Reentry for Adults with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Illness program are due June 25, 2019.

In the News

LAC applauds recent actions to expand access to MAT in jails

In June 2018, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Washington filed a class-action civil rights lawsuit, *Kortlever v. Whatcom County*, on behalf of individuals in the jail with opioid use disorders (OUDs) who were not receiving access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT). In a recent proposed settlement agreement, Whatcom County Jail agreed to provide MAT for OUD to all individuals incarcerated there with medical need. In a separate case, *Smith v. Aroostook County*, the First Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the District Court of Maine's preliminary injunction requiring a jail to provide a woman with buprenorphine while incarcerated.

Earlier today, the Legal Action Center (LAC) released a statement applauding both of these recent actions. In the [press release](#), Director and President of LAC, Paul Samuels, stated that, "The Legal Action Center has long-advocated for jails and prisons throughout the U.S. to provide all three FDA-approved medications to treat opioid use disorder. As we face a continually escalating overdose crisis, it is imperative that all criminal justice settings pay attention to these critical lawsuits and provide the life-saving medication that incarcerated individuals with OUD need and deserve. The criminal justice system needs to be part of the solution to the current crisis, not a hindrance to vital treatment."

NAATP releases Addiction Treatment Provider Quality Assurance Guidebook

The National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP) has released the [Addiction Treatment Provider Quality Assurance Guidebook: A Guide to the Core Competencies for the Delivery of Addiction Treatment Services](#). The Guidebook was developed as part of NAATP's [Quality Assurance Initiative \(QAI\)](#) to establish strong standards for treatment service delivery.

The Guidebook identifies the core competencies of addiction treatment service through nine categories:

1. Operations;
2. Admissions and Patient Screening;
3. Employment, Training, and Credentialing;
4. Billing;
5. Discharge and Continuing Care;
6. Outcomes Measures;
7. Community Engagement, Public Relations, and Public Policy;
8. Marketing, Advertising, and Visibility; and
9. Ethics.

Within the nine categories are 32 specific guidelines that include commentary as well as resources with links to further information.

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.
