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D.C. Update: DEA to hold drug take back day, Ohio passes "Tobacco 21" law, SAMHSA announces new regional administrators, and more

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Meet the Member

Rosie Andueza, Vice President of Internal Affairs

Rosie Andueza works for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), Division of Behavioral Health, and serves as Idaho's Single State Authority (SSA) and as NASADAD's Vice President for Internal Affairs. As an employee of DHW for more than 20 years, Rosie worked in public assistance programs, ultimately serving as Idaho's Food Stamp Director, prior to joining the addiction field in 2013. During her tenure as SSA, Idaho has expanded its medication-assisted treatment (MAT) delivery system, delivered Recovery Coach training statewide, opened nine Recovery Community Centers, passed a Good Samaritan law, implemented criminal history waivers for peers, and hosted several recovery-themed public events. As a person in long-term recovery, Rosie uses her role to give voice to the power of recovery and reduce the stigma surrounding the disease of addiction. In 2019, she was awarded the National Treatment Network (NTN) Champion award for her leadership in the addiction field and within NASADAD. In addition to serving as a member of the NASADAD Board, Rosie serves on the Idaho State Behavioral Health Council and is Secretary for the Idaho Conference on Alcohol and Drug Dependency.



SAMHSA announces 3 new Regional Administrators

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced the appointment of three new Regional Administrators (RAs) responsible for managing SAMHSA's Regional Offices. Tom Coderre, who currently serves as the Senior Advisor to the Governor of Rhode Island, will be the new RA for Region I. Mr. Coderre previously served as SAMHSA's Chief of Staff and was integral in the production of "Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health." Mr. Coderre also has an extensive background in government and was a member of the Rhode Island Senate from 1995-2003. Captain Michael King, representing Region IV, is a social worker and epidemiologist and previously served as an instructor and field supervisor with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Finally, Captain Emily Williams will be the new RA for Region IX, after spending more than 20 years in service delivery of substance use and mental health within the Indian Health Service and Department of Defense (DOD).

HHS releases guide for clinicians on tapering and discontinuation of opioids

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently published a [guide](#) for clinicians that addresses appropriate methods for the tapering and discontinuation of long-term opioid use. The guide is a compilation of practices and guidelines contained in peer-reviewed literature to assist clinicians who are considering or initiating a change in opioid dosage for a patient's chronic pain therapy. It contains considerations prior to initiating a taper, with an emphasis on shared decision-making with patients and an individualized approach. Finally, it provides guidance on the treatment of opioid withdrawal, including the use of psychosocial support.

SAMHSA blog post on opioid and illicit drug use among Hispanic/Latino population

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) published a [blog post](#) highlighting the prevalence of opioid and illicit drug use among Hispanic and Latino populations. According to the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 1.1 million Hispanic/Latino youth used illicit drugs in the past year and 92% of Hispanic/Latino youth with substance use disorders (SUD) did not receive treatment in a specialty facility. As described in the blog post, the rates of substance use in this population can lead to adverse health consequences, which are often exacerbated by a lack of bilingual treatment programs and healthcare coverage. The blog post highlights the need for culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention and treatment programs and a robust workforce trained in treating this population.

SAMHSA seeking applications for Practitioner Education grant

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced a [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) (FOA) for the Expansion of Practitioner Education (Prac-Ed) grant. As stated in the FOA, the purpose of the grant is to integrate substance use disorder (SUD) education into the standard curriculum of healthcare and health services education programs. The Prac-Ed grant is intended to expand the SUD workforce and reduce barriers to accessing and providing care. Professional associations and universities/professional schools are eligible for the two-year grant.



DEA to hold drug take back day

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) [announced](#) an upcoming National Prescription Drug Take Back Day that will be held on October 26th in various locations across the country. According to the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 9.9 million Americans misused prescription drugs and a majority of these drugs were obtained from family and

friends. The DEA's Take Back Day website includes a collection site locator, with

over 6,258 sites at its most recent event in April of 2019. The website also includes public service announcements, results of previous take back events, other resources, and treatment information and locator.

SAMHSA seeks applications for grant supporting SUD treatment for individuals experiencing homelessness

The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) within The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) (FOA) for Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals. The five-year grant program supports the development and implementation of community infrastructure to integrate substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, housing services, and other necessary services for individuals, youths, and families experiencing homelessness. The \$5.2 million grant is anticipated to be awarded to 13 entities.

HHS awards \$16 million for primary care practices to address unhealthy alcohol use

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently [announced](#) a \$16 million grant program to help primary care providers address patients' unhealthy alcohol use. Six grantees will work with over 700 primary care practices to assist in the implementation of evidence-based interventions, including screening for unhealthy alcohol use, brief interventions, and medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for patients with alcohol use disorder (AUD). Grantees will be provided with resources, tools, and evidence-based practices to facilitate the integration of the program within primary care settings.

News from the States

Ohio passes "Tobacco 21" law

The State of Ohio recently passed a "Tobacco 21" law, raising the legal age to purchase cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, and other tobacco products from 18 to 21. The law, which went into effect on October 17th, also makes it illegal to give tobacco products to individuals under the age of 21. Retailers are required to post signs indicating the new age requirement, and penalties for selling nicotine products to persons under the age of 21 have also increased. For a first offense, the seller is subject to no more than 30 days in jail and the retail establishment is subject to a \$2,000 fine. The NASADAD member for Ohio is Lori Criss, Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.



Delaware law creates opioid impact fee

Delaware's General Assembly recently implemented an opioid impact fee. The legislation, signed into law by Governor John Carney in June 2019, requires opioid manufacturers to pay a fee to the State based on the volume of opioids dispensed. The funds collected from manufacturers will be used to supplement State funding that supports substance use disorder services across the continuum of care. The NASADAD member for Delaware is Elizabeth Romero of Delaware's Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming webinar on the relationship between opioid use and suicide

The Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network (ATTC) and Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network (MHTTC), funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced an upcoming webinar, "The Integration of Opioid and Suicide Identification, Prevention, and Care: A National Perspective." The webinar will include presentations from two national experts covering overall data on opioids and

suicide; affected sub-groups; challenges and opportunities regarding opioid use and suicide; and several suicide prevention initiatives. The webinar will be held on November 4, 2019 from 11:00a.m.-12:00p.m. CST. Register [here](#).



National Family Partnership to hold Red Ribbon Week

The Red Ribbon Campaign is celebrating their annual [Red Ribbon Week](#) from October 23rd through October 31st. Red Ribbon Week, sponsored by the National Family Partnership, began in 1988 and has taken on national significance, collaborating with families, schools, and communities each year. This year's theme is "Send a Message. Stay Drug Free," and encourages communities and

parents to speak out in support of healthy choices. Individuals are invited to wear red ribbons during the month of October to represent a pledge to live drug free. In collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the DEA Red Ribbon Toolkit also provides fact sheets and promotional materials available to download.

In the News

News article discusses rise in methamphetamine use in Wisconsin

An [article](#) in *Wisconsin Watch* addresses the rise in methamphetamine use in the State of Wisconsin. As noted in the article, service providers and public health officials have observed a surge in methamphetamine use in western and northern parts of the State, and the State Crime Laboratory has seen an increase in methamphetamine cases, far surpassing the number of heroin cases. Robert Morrison, Executive Director of NASADAD, was quoted in the article and applauded Congress's efforts to appropriate funds to address the opioid crisis, but also noted the importance of flexibility in the use of funds for States like Wisconsin that are seeing increases in the use of substances other than opioids.