

October 3, 2019



D.C. Update: Illinois launches video campaign to connect individuals with treatment and recovery services, call for programs from Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse, and more

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## News from the States



### Illinois launches video campaign to connect individuals with treatment and recovery services

The Illinois Department of Human Services' (IDHS) Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR), led by NASADAD member Dani Kirby, [announced](#) the release of a statewide video campaign to bring awareness to the Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances. The helpline, supported by State Targeted Response (STR)/State Opioid Response (SOR) grant funds, connects individuals struggling with substance use to appropriate treatment and recovery services. The helpline has received over 16,700 calls and 40,000 website visits since 2017. The "Help is Here" video campaign features recovery stories from individuals with lived experience, as well as organizations that provide treatment and recovery services. The campaign will include TV spots, transit posters, social media ads, billboard postings, and will be posted on the [IDHS YouTube page](#).

### New Jersey Governor announces \$8 million investment to provide MAT in county jails

The administration of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy recently [announced](#) an \$8 million investment to provide medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to individuals in county jails. The New Jersey Department of Human Services and the Department of Corrections, with assistance from the Department of Health, will use the funding to provide MAT to individuals who are incarcerated and create community partnerships to offer continuing treatment post-release. This initiative is an expansion of a pilot program already in effect in the Atlantic County jail which was built on New Jersey's State prison MAT program. Valerie Mielke, New Jersey's Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction

## Capitol Hill Happenings

### House Energy and Commerce Republicans continue investigation on patient brokering

Republican leaders on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce recently [announced](#) the launch of a new phase in the patient brokering investigation that began last Congress. The initial investigation focused on patient brokering and was expanded to include broader advertising and marketing practices used in the substance use disorder (SUD) treatment field. As a result of the investigation, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held two hearings and sent bipartisan letters to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), six States, and eight call centers that connect patients to treatment facilities. According to the press release, Energy and Commerce Republicans are "[requesting information](#) regarding the challenges, failures, fraud, and abuse" within the industry and are also interested in suggested best practices and other ways to improve SUD treatment.

### President signs stopgap spending measure to avert government shutdown

The House of Representatives and Senate recently passed a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government funded past the end of the current fiscal year (FY 2019) on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The President signed the stopgap funding measure on September 27<sup>th</sup>, keeping the government open through November 21<sup>st</sup> and giving appropriators an additional seven weeks to finalize appropriations for federal programs, including NASADAD's priority programs within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

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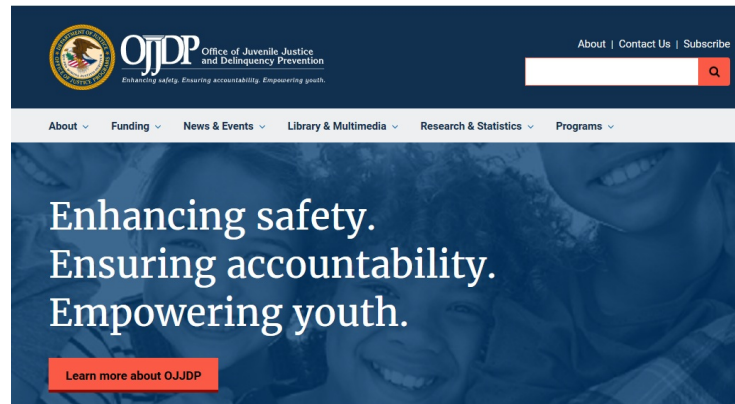
## Around the Agencies

### OJJDP launches new website

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) within the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced the launch of its new [website](#).

As described in an announcement, the redesigned website

provides a modern look and feel, enhanced technology, and a more user-friendly experience. The website will feature new search options, updated site navigation, and new content including a State support page, expanded funding information, and a multimedia page with video messages, webinars, and training resources.



### FDA releases updated opioid timeline

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently released an [updated](#) "Timeline of Selected FDA Activities and Significant Events Addressing Opioid Misuse and Abuse." The chronological information is compiled in a summary of key events and includes tabbed years that provide additional information on actions taken by the agency.

### CDC releases State strategies to address opioid use disorder during and after pregnancy

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in partnership with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), released a [report](#) from

the Opioid Use Disorder, Maternal Outcomes, and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Initiative Learning Community (OMNI LC). As part of this Learning Community, 12 State teams participated in a meeting to define five focus areas to address opioid use disorder (OUD) among pregnant and postpartum women and infants prenatally exposed to substances: 1) access to and coordination of quality services; 2) provider awareness and training; 3) data, monitoring, and evaluation; 4) financing and coverage; and 5) ethical, legal, and social considerations. The OMNI LC determined that strategies to provide quality services and trained providers is a priority for most States in their work to improve perinatal outcomes.

### **AHRQ releases new MAT resources**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently released new resources for providing medication-assisted treatment (MAT). The [Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder Playbook](#) provides an interactive guide for implementing MAT in primary care and other ambulatory care settings with an emphasis on rural primary care. The second resource, [Medication-Assisted Treatment Tools and Resources Collection](#) is a searchable tool and is organized by topic for providers, staff, and patients who offer or use MAT services.

### **Office of the Inspector General releases report on DEA response to opioid diversion**

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) within the Department of Justice (DOJ) released a [report](#) on the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) efforts to control the diversion of opioids. The report examined the regulatory activities and enforcement efforts of the DEA from FY 2010 through FY 2017 and found that the Administration was slow to respond to the growing use and diversion of opioids. The OIG also determined that the DEA did not adequately use their regulatory authorities, data systems, and enforcement tools to detect and regulate the diversion of opioids. In addition, the report acknowledges that the DEA has recently taken steps to increase enforcement efforts and concludes with 9 recommendations to further improve the Administration's response.

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### **In the News**

#### **Call for Programs and Services from Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse**

The Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse recently released a Notice of Public Call for Programs and Services and is requesting recommendations for substance use, mental health, in-home parent skill-based, and kinship navigator programs to be



considered for systematic review. The Clearinghouse was established by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As required by the Family First Prevention Services Act, the Clearinghouse "conducts an objective and transparent review of research on programs and services intended to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster placements." The purpose of this call is for the public to recommend programs and services for systematic review that will be rated as well-supported, supported, promising, or not currently meeting criteria for inclusion in the Clearinghouse. Submission instructions can be found [here](#).

#### **Health Affairs blog discusses methadone barriers and policy recommendations**

A blog [post](#) in *Health Affairs* examines the persistent barriers in receiving methadone and offers potential solutions to make the medication more readily available. The authors note that while there is extensive evidence of methadone's effectiveness, it remains heavily regulated by the federal government. The blog post offers three recommendations for increasing access to methadone: regulating mobile methadone vans to reach patients who are

unable to travel to an opioid treatment program (OTP); State promotion of medication units to provide additional sites for dosing; and revising policies that restrict the number of OTPs or the services they provide through statutory caps and burdensome application requirements.

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## Research Roundup

### Study on the use of MAT in adolescent populations

The *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* conducted a [study](#) on the use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for adolescent populations with opioid use disorder (OUD). The systematic review examined evidence of the efficacy and potential risks associated with the three most commonly used medications to treat OUD and compared the benefits and risks with that of no treatment or treatment without medications. Results of the study found that methadone may be effective for treatment retention in adolescents with heroin use disorder, and buprenorphine improves opioid abstinence and treatment retention. Recent data also suggests that naltrexone is a potential option for this population and the authors note that a wide range of evidence indicates “that the risks of untreated OUD far outweigh the risk of any of the previously discussed medications.”

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