

January 16, 2020



D.C. Update: NASADAD members testify before House Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, SAMHSA accepting applications for the Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success grants, and more



[Visit our Website](#)

### Meet the Member

#### Dr. Janice Williams, Region VI Director

Dr. Janice Williams, serving as Region VI Director on the NASADAD Board of Directors, is the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), in the State of Louisiana's Department of Health. She is responsible for providing broad oversight of the programmatic allocation and use of prevention and treatment services through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant, the Mental Health Block Grant, as well as other federal and State designated and discretionary grants.

She is the Principal Investigator for the State Targeted Response (STR) grant and supervises staff of the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant.



Dr. Williams has a long history of involvement with NASADAD Board operations, prevention and treatment component groups, as well as national groups. She previously served as a NASADAD member for over 10 years, working on various committees, and was appointed the National Prevention Network (NPN) President. Nationally, she has also served on the Community Anti-Drug Coalition's (CADCA) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for over 8 years and was previously the Prevention Branch Chief for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

Originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Dr. Petersen holds a Ph.D. in Clinical

Psychology from Pennsylvania State University, an M.A. degree in Psychology from Washington University in St. Louis, and a Bachelor's degree from Dillard University in New Orleans.

---

## Capitol Hill Happenings

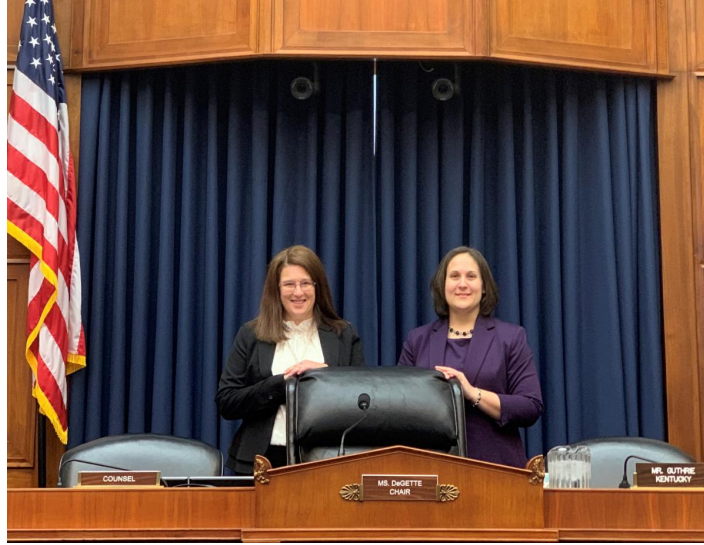


Kody Kinsley (NC) and Christina Mullins (WV) with Chairwoman Diana DeGette (D-CO)

### **NASADAD members testify before House Oversight & Investigations Subcommittee**

On January 14th, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on "A Public Health Emergency: State Efforts to Curb the Opioid Crisis." The Subcommittee, led by Chairwoman Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Ranking Member Brett Guthrie (R-KY), invited five witnesses, three of whom are NASADAD members: Jennifer Smith, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) and Region III Director on the NASADAD Board of Directors; Christina Mullins, Commissioner of the West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health; and Kody Kinsley, North Carolina's Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health and Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities. The other two witnesses were Nicole Alexander-Scott, M.D., Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, and Monica Bharel, M.D., Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

During the hearing—which was attended by NASADAD Policy Department staffers Emily Diehl, Robert Morrison, and Shalini Wickramatilake-Templeman—Secretary Smith, Commissioner Mullins, and Deputy Secretary Kinsley highlighted the positive impact that the State Targeted Response (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grants are having on prevention, treatment, and recovery services in their respective States, including declines in opioid-related overdose deaths. All five witnesses also discussed the need for flexibility within current funding streams as stimulant and polysubstance use rates continue to rise. Witnesses expressed support for sustained provision of resources to allow States and providers consistency as they work to bolster their addiction systems. Written testimonies for all witnesses, as well as a recording of the hearing and other materials can be accessed [here](#).



Christina Mullins (WV) and Jennifer Smith (PA)

### House Subcommittee on Health holds hearing on cannabis

On January 15th, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on "Cannabis Policies for the New Decade". The Subcommittee, led by Chairwoman Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Ranking Member Michael Burgess (R-TX), invited three witnesses to testify: Matthew Strait, Senior Policy Advisor in the Diversion Control Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); Dr. Douglas Throckmorton, Deputy Director for Regulatory Programs in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); and Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA). Witnesses were asked to discuss current evidence and research efforts regarding cannabis, including the difficulties related to studying a Schedule 1 drug under the Controlled Substances Act. Members of the Committee were also interested in discussing the potential harms of cannabis use that require further research. Written testimonies for all witnesses, as well as a recording of the hearing can be found [here](#). The opening statement from Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman, Frank Pallone (D-NJ), is available [here](#) and the statement from Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR), can be found [here](#).

### Bipartisan Energy and Commerce Committee leaders request briefing on stimulants

House Energy and Commerce Committee leaders recently wrote [letters](#) to Alex Azar, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS); and Uttam Dhillon, Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to request a briefing on the increasing use of stimulants, including cocaine and methamphetamine. The letters were announced during the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on State efforts to curb the opioid crisis, at which three NASADAD members testified. The letters were signed by Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR), Health Subcommittee Chairwoman Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Michael Burgess (R-TX), and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Chair Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Ranking Member Brett Guthrie (R-KY).

---

### Around the Agencies

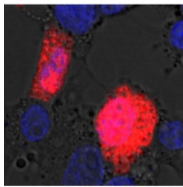
#### NIDA Director says new pain medications will not reach the market for another five to 10 years

Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), recently stated in an interview that it will likely take another five to 10 years before new non-opioid pain medications reach the market. As described in the [article](#), this is

contingent on the medications already in phase two and three of clinical trials proving to be safe and effective and receiving Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval. The NIDA Director noted that new medications could also have the potential for addiction, requiring regulators to ensure strong safeguards to avoid overprescribing and misuse. Dr. Volkow also highlighted the work between NIDA, the FDA, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to accelerate the process of bringing new medications to market.

### SAMHSA accepting applications for the Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success grants (States eligible to apply)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is now accepting [applications](#) for the Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) grants. As described in the announcement, the purpose of the grant is to prevent the onset and reduce the progression of substance misuse, while also strengthening prevention capacity and infrastructure at the community and State levels. Recipients are afforded flexibility as they are responsible for determining the primary substance misused in their jurisdiction and for the development and implementation of strategies to prevent misuse among youth and adults. SAMHSA plans to issue up to 92 grants of up to \$1,000,000 per year for up to 5 years. Eligible applicants include domestic public and private nonprofit entities, including State alcohol and drug agencies, and applications are due March 6, 2020.



The NIH Hepatitis B Cure Strategic Plan Working Group  
November 2019

#### STRATEGIC PLAN FOR TRANS-NIH RESEARCH TO CURE HEPATITIS B



### NIH releases strategic plan to address hepatitis B virus

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced the release of a new strategic plan to address hepatitis B virus (HBV). The [Strategic Plan for Trans-NIH Research to Cure Hepatitis B](#) focuses on three research areas to improve scientific understanding and increase efforts to develop a cure for the virus. As described in the announcement, the first research area focuses on developing a better understanding of the biology of HBV, including the factors that lead to disease, immunity, reactivation, and transmission. The second priority calls for developing and

sharing tools and resources to support the research process. Finally, the third priority focuses on the creation of strategies to prevent and cure HBV. However, as noted in the strategic plan, this priority also requires robust public health efforts to increase hepatitis screening and ensuring adherence to treatment.

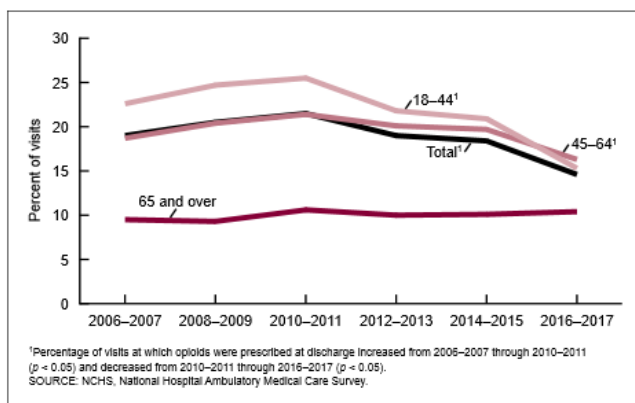


Figure 1. Trends in the percentage of all emergency department visits by adults at which opioids were prescribed at discharge, by age: United States, 2006–2017

### Research Roundup CDC study finds reduction in opioid prescriptions in emergency departments

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center on Health Statistics recently released a [study](#) on opioid prescribing rates upon discharge from the emergency department. Using data from the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, researchers found that the number of opioids

prescribed at discharge fell from 19% in 2006 to 14.6% in 2017. Additionally, the

decrease was highest among adults aged 18-44 with rates falling from 25.5% in 2010 to 15.3% in 2017. The study also noted that for the top diagnoses associated with an opioid prescription, the percentage of patients receiving opioids upon discharge decreased from 2010 to 2017 for all diagnoses except for one.

### **Study examines youth access to evidence-based treatment following overdose**

A [study](#) recently published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics* examined the characteristics of Medicaid-enrolled youth who experience a nonfatal opioid overdose and the extent to which they receive timely evidence-based treatment. Researchers found that the risk of recurrent overdose among youth with a prior overdose involving heroin was significantly higher than those with a previous overdose from other opioids. Additionally, of the 3,6060 youths with an opioid-related overdose, 68.9% received no addiction treatment within 30 days of overdose and 29.3% received some form of counseling. Only 1.9% of youths received pharmacotherapy or medication-assisted treatment (MAT) after experiencing an overdose.

### **Study finds lower rates of overdose deaths in Medicaid expansion States**

A [study](#) recently published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* examined the association between Medicaid expansion and opioid overdose mortality rates. Researchers noted that substance use disorder (SUD) services, including medication-assisted treatment (MAT), have increased more in Medicaid expansion States, but the association with overdose mortality has not been studied. Results of the study indicated that adoption of Medicaid expansion was associated with a 6% lower rate of opioid overdose deaths and counties in expansion States had an 11% lower rate of death involving heroin and a 10% lower rate of death involving synthetic opioids.

---

## **In the News**

### **NASEM releases report detailing a framework for opioid prescribing guidelines**

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) released a consensus [report](#) regarding opioid analgesic prescribing for acute pain. NASEM, in contract with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), was tasked with developing a framework to evaluate current and future opioid prescribing to aid in the development of evidence-based prescribing guidelines. NASEM examined existing guidelines to identify gaps in evidence and included appropriate research methods needed to fill those gaps. The FDA noted that they will consider the recommendations in the report as they work to implement the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act) which requires the development of evidence-based prescribing guidelines for opioids.

