NASADAD National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors

D.C. Update: New COVID-19 resources added to NASADAD website, SAMHSA publishes list of COVID-19 training and technical assistance resources , and more

Visit our Website

Meet the Member
Robert Werthwein, NASADAD Member

Robert Werthwein, Ph.D., is the Director of the Office of Behavioral Health at the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), holding the position since October 2017. Dr. Werthwein directs the operations and administrative oversight of the public mental health and substance use disorder system. He also leads in providing policy, performance management, fiscal and administrative tools, and oversight to a large group of mental health facilities, treatment centers, and clinics statewide. Prior to serving as Director, Dr. Werthwein served as the director of the Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF). He earned his doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Howard University with training focused on the treatment of under-served populations and research of improved care delivery systems.

News from NASADAD
New COVID-19 resources added to NASADAD website

NASADAD continues to update resources on our COVID-19 webpage. The page provides federal guidance and State actions taken by SSAs to date. It is not intended to be exhaustive but

is meant to highlight key actions and resources that may help other States and territories as they prepare for and respond to the virus. This week NASADAD added the following resources:

- California provided their Department of Health Care Services' [Medi-Cal Payment for Medical Services Related to COVID-19 guidance](#)
- California provided their [FAQ: MAT and Telehealth](#)
- Ohio provided their [Telehealth Memo](#)
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for [Emergency Grants to Address Mental and Substance Use Disorders During COVID-19](#)
- SAMHSA's FOA for fiscal year (FY) 2020 [Treatment, Recovery, and Workforce Support Grant](#)
- SAMHSA's [Training and Technical Assistance Related to COVID-19](#) resource guide

NASADAD releases analyses of State STR/SOR profiles

In April of 2019, NASADAD sent an inquiry to the Single State Agencies for alcohol and other drug services requesting information on how they were using the State Targeted Response (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grants to address the opioid crisis in their States. The results of the inquiry were summarized into State-specific profiles highlighting prevention, treatment, overdose reversal, and recovery support efforts. The Association's Research and Program Applications Department analyzed these profiles and created resources highlighting the most common ways States used STR and SOR funds across the continuum of care. To view the resources, click [here](#).
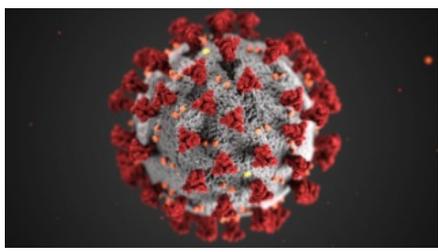
March 2020

How states are using State Targeted Response (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) funds to make a difference

PREVENTION INITIATIVES

In April of 2019, the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) sent an inquiry to the Single State Agencies for alcohol and other drug services requesting information on how they were using the State Targeted Response (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grants to address the opioid crisis in their states. The results of the inquiry were summarized into state-specific profiles highlighting prevention, treatment, overdose reversal, and recovery support efforts. State profiles generally covered a reporting timeframe between May 2017 - April 2019. A total of 50 state responses were received. Washington D.C. and U.S. Territories did not respond to the inquiry. Below is a brief analysis of the most common ways states have used STR/SOR funds for primary prevention initiatives, as well as select examples of innovative prevention initiatives.

Around the Agencies
NIDA director publishes article on COVID-19 and implications for substance use disorders
Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), published a piece in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* titled, "[Collision of the COVID-19 and Addiction Epidemics](#)." Dr. Volkow discusses how the serious health risks of COVID-19 create challenges for people who smoke or vape, struggle with a substance use disorder (SUD), or are in recovery from addiction. For example, people with compromised lung conditions, including those who smoke, vape, or use opioids and methamphetamines, are at a heightened risk for complications from COVID-19. Additionally, social distancing will also decrease the likelihood of observed overdoses and the administration of naloxone may be less likely to occur, potentially resulting in more fatalities. Finally, physical distancing measures
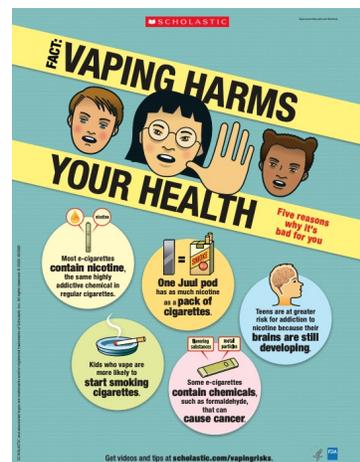
may have a negative effect on people in recovery, as they are unable to obtain the important element of social support needed to sustain recovery. Dr. Volkow also notes the importance of efforts to deploy virtual support meetings and the possibility of take-home medications for individuals on medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

SAMHSA accepting applications for the Treatment, Recovery, and Workforce Support grant

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is now accepting applications for the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Treatment, Recovery, and Workforce Support grants. The purpose of the program is to implement evidence-based programs to support individuals in substance use disorder treatment and recovery to live independently and participate in the workforce. Eligible applicants include entities that provide treatment or recovery services for individuals with SUD and partner with one or more local or State stakeholders that support independent living and participation in the workforce. Recipients must also coordinate with the Single State Agency responsible for carrying out SUD prevention and treatment programs. SAMHSA plans to issue 8 grants of up to $500,000 per year for up to 5 years and applications are due June 1, 2020.

FDA and Scholastic announce virtual youth e-cigarette prevention materials

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Scholastic are continuing to develop youth e-cigarette prevention education materials during the COVID-19 pandemic. All materials, intended for middle and high school students, are available online for free on "The Real Cost of Vaping." website and are configured for virtual learning. With youth out of school, the lessons include activities that involve statistics, reading comprehension, writing, presenting, and media literacy in conjunction with e-cigarette prevention. New resources, including two lessons, worksheets, and five short videos are now available on the site along with a guide for parents to talk to kids about e-cigarettes, infographics, and youth cessation resources.

SAMHSA publishes list of COVID-19 training and technical assistance resources

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) published a list of available training and technical assistance resources for the mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) fields as they navigate COVID-19. The list includes written resources, recorded webinars, and online trainings, from the Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network (MHTTC), Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network, Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC) Network, Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Adviser, Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information (CoE-PHI), Providers Clinical Support System (PCSS), and the Opioid Response Network (ORN). To view the list, click here.

SAMHSA webinar on peer support across the continuum of crisis services

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) announced an upcoming Recovery LIVE! event that will focus on peer support across the continuum of crisis response services. As described in the announcement, the event will focus on peer-run respite programs, warm, lines, and peer support services within hospital emergency departments. Presenters will

cover program models and their successes, as well as best and promising practices for implementation. The virtual event will be held on April 23, 2020 from 2:00-3:00pm ET and registration can be found here.

SAMHSA to hold Spanish language webinar on maintaining recovery during COVID-19

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced an upcoming Spanish language webinar that will address COVID-19 for individuals in recovery. The webinar will cover the loneliness and insecurity that comes from social isolation for people in recovery and will offer tools for self-care. Additionally, pre-recorded versions in English and Portuguese will be available on SAMHSA's website shortly after the live Spanish event. The webinar will be held on April 14, 2020 from 2:00-3:00pm EST and registration can be found here.

In the News
LAPPA publishes model law on use of Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program

The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) recently published their first model law and accompanying analytic confidentiality document. As described in the announcement, the Model Act, titled "Model Overdose Mapping and Response Act", pertains to the use of the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) developed by the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA). The ODMAP provides near real-time information about confirmed and suspected overdose incidents occurring in the United States and the Act is designed for the development of statewide legislation addressing overdose incident reporting. The analytic confidentiality document examines the extent to which the use of ODMAP implicates the protections for health information contained in the Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).