

April 2, 2021



D.C. Update: SAMHSA releases resources on underage drinking, FDA launches Remove the Risk Toolkit, and more



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### Meet the Member

#### Quinetta Womack, Women's Services Coordinator for State of Louisiana

Quinetta Rowley Womack is the Director of Adult Residential & Outpatient Clinical Operations for the Louisiana Department of Health Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and is responsible for the statewide oversight of planning, implementation and execution of effective programs and practices for substance use disorders and other related addictive disorders. She has worked within the Office of Behavioral Health for fifteen years, and previously served as the Director of Children/Youth Best Practices Division, Director of Treatment Services, and the Director of Workforce Development. She has worked in the field of substance use for over twenty years and recently received the 2020 National Women's Services Leadership Award from NASADAD. She received her B.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling Psychology in 1992 and her M.A. in Mental Health Counseling in 1997 from Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge Louisiana. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and received her License as an Addiction Counselor (LAC) in 1999, her Certification as a Compulsive Gambling Counselor (CCGC) in 2005 and also serves as a Certified Clinical Supervisor (CCS). Her background includes working in the areas of medically monitored detoxification, inpatient, outpatient, clinically monitored intensive residential programming, Department of Corrections, and currently services as the Principal Investigator for several federal awards to address Louisiana's Opioid Epidemic.



## Capitol Hill Happenings

### Senators Portman, Whitehouse, Capito, Klobuchar, and Shaheen introduce CARA 3.0

Senators Rob Portman (R-OH), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) recently introduced the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) 3.0 to increase funding levels for programs enacted in the original CARA of 2016 and add provisions to address the opioid crisis during COVID-19.

As described in a [press release](#) from Senator Portman's office, in fiscal year (FY) 2021, CARA programs were funded at \$782 million and several key provisions of CARA 2.0 were enacted as part of the 2018 Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act. CARA 3.0 would create a new program in the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), that would authorize grants to State alcohol and drug agencies to help support their efforts to bolster the prevention workforce. The bill would also require SAMHSA to study existing workforce challenges and make recommendations based on their findings. In addition, CARA 3.0 would authorize \$100 million to provide treatment for pregnant, postpartum, and parenting women through residential treatment programs that allow women to live with their children in facilities provided by the program.

CARA 3.0 also includes proposed policy changes such as mandating physician education on addiction, treatment, and pain management; establishing a pilot program to study the use of mobile methadone clinics in rural and underserved areas; and funding research on long-term treatment outcomes. In addition, CARA 3.0 authorization levels include:

- \$55 million for training and employment for substance use professionals, including peer recovery specialists and \$5 million set aside for workforce retention efforts.
- \$300 million to expand evidence-based medication-assisted treatment (MAT).
- \$200 million to build a national infrastructure for recovery support services
- \$50 million to provide quality treatment for addiction in correctional facilities and in community reentry programs.
- \$30 million for deflection and pre-arrest diversion programs in the criminal justice system.

To view the CARA 3.0 bill text, click [here](#). To view the section-by-section summary, click [here](#). To view a summary, click [here](#).

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## Around the Agencies

### ONDCP releases Drug Policy Priorities

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), led by Acting Director Regina LaBelle, recently released the [Biden-Harris Administration's Statement of Drug Policy Priorities](#). The document outlines the first-year steps that will be taken to address the overdose and addiction crises and includes the following priorities: expanding access to evidence-based treatment, advancing racial equity in their approach to drug policy, enhancing evidence-based harm reduction efforts, supporting evidence-based prevention efforts to reduce youth substance use, reducing the supply of illicit substances, advancing recovery-ready workplaces and expanding the addiction workforce, and expanding access to recovery support services.



### **AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: TALKING WITH YOUR YOUNG ADULT ABOUT UNDERAGE DRINKING**

### **SAMHSA releases resources on underage drinking**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released several

new [publications](#) related to underage drinking. The first resource is a fact sheet informing parents how to effectively talk to their young adult children about the risks of underage drinking. The release also includes several data visualizations highlighting the correlation between alcohol use and other substances, the steady decline of alcohol use amongst adolescents, the drinking habits of adolescents, and heavy alcohol use and binge drinking statistics amongst college age youth.

### **CDC publishes web feature on Drug-Free Communities Program**



### **Drug-Free Communities** *Local Problems Require Local Solutions*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published a new [web feature](#) describing how the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Program supports communities as they work to prevent youth substance use. The web feature discusses the collaboration between the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the CDC to establish and strengthen coalitions in order to reduce substance use among adolescents by addressing risk and protective factors. The feature also includes details on components of the program such as the Seven Strategies for Community Change and the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF). In addition, the feature provides a case study of a successful DFC coalition in the State of Colorado.

### **NIAAA launches Facebook page**

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) announced the launch of their new [Facebook](#) page. As described in the announcement, the account will complement ongoing social media efforts on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and will focus on providing consumer health content for individuals, families, and educators. The page will also focus on sharing information about how alcohol affects health and human development and about the work of NIAAA.



### **FDA launches Remove the Risk Toolkit**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently launched their Remove the Risk Outreach Toolkit to assist consumers in the safe disposal of opioids. As described on the new [webpage](#), Remove the Risk raises awareness of the serious dangers of keeping unused opioid pain medicines in the home and provides

information about safe disposal of medications. The toolkit includes public service announcements (PSAs), including video, radio, and print options. In addition, the page provides social media images and posts, fact sheets, and posters and postcards. The toolkit is available in both English and Spanish.

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## **Research Roundup**

### **NIDA study finds younger age of first cannabis or prescription drug misuse associated with faster development of SUD**

A new [study](#) from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) examining the prevalence of nine substance use disorders (SUD) after first substance use or misuse in young people. Researchers analyzed data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) and examined the proportion of adolescents and young adults who had a SUD in the past year since the first time they used one of nine different drugs: tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, and prescription drugs. Results of the study indicated that the prevalence of past-year cannabis and prescription drug use disorder was higher for

adolescents than young adults at all examined time frames since first use of the drug. In addition, results from the study found that 30% of young adults develop a heroin use disorder and 25% develop a methamphetamine use disorder a year after first using the substance.

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## In the News

### Center on Budget and Policy Priorities releases report on Medicaid for SUD services

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities recently released a [report](#) on the importance of Medicaid for building a comprehensive system of substance use care for low-income individuals. The report notes that in addition to fully leveraging Medicaid State and federal policymakers should: expand Medicaid coverage in the 12 States that have not yet adopted expansion, ensure that State Medicaid plans cover the full continuum of care for substance use disorder (SUD) services, ensure that grants and other temporary funding streams complement Medicaid to expand access to services, and expand and improve access to federal programs such as affordable housing and child-care programs.

