

April 22, 2021



D.C. Update: SAMHSA releases resources on preventing alcohol use among youth and young adults, Recovery Month theme announced for 2021, and more



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Meet the Member

Susannah Burt, Prevention Coordinator for State of Utah

Susannah Burt has been working in the prevention field since 2001. Her primary responsibility has been developing contracts with Utah's prevention providers and ensuring effective and efficient services are rendered. Ms. Burt helped develop Utah's Needs Assessment for Opioids and chaired a workgroup tasked with developing an evaluation plan for environmental strategies, including policies and campaigns. In addition, she has managed the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant for Utah as well as four discretionary grants. Ms. Burt has also chaired the Utah State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW), Utah's Evidence Based Workgroup, and participates on Utah's Underage Drinking workgroup, Opioid Community Collaborative and Utah's Coalition for Opioid Overdose Prevention. She helps to plan Utah's premier substance use conference, Utah's Fall Substance Abuse Conference as well as designing and implementing a technical assistance system for the entire State. Susannah currently co-chairs Utah's Prevention Advisory Council and in her spare time is a member of her local Communities that Care coalition.



Around the Agencies

Secretary of Health and Human Services, Xavier Becerra, renews public health emergency

On April 15th, Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services, issued a [renewal](#) of the public health emergency put in place due to COVID-19. As described in the declaration, Mr. Becerra renewed, effective April 21, 2021, the January 31, 2020, determination by former Secretary Alex Azar, that a public health emergency exists and has existed since January 27, 2020 nationwide.



DEA launches prevention resources for Native American youth

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), in partnership with Discovery Education and the National Indian Education Association (NIEA), launched their "[Good Medicine Bundles](#)", a set of resources for elementary and middle school students. As described in the announcement, the science-based resources aim to address the opioid crisis and encourage resiliency through a Native approach to balance and wellness. The resources are intended to prevent substance misuse and abuse by reaching vulnerable Native populations at an early age, educating them about the consequences of substance misuse and offering alternatives in line with their cultural practices. Resources include interactive activities, PowerPoint lessons, and educator guides.

SAMHSA releases statement on 42 CFR part 2 amendments process

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recently released a [statement](#) regarding the 42 CFR part 2 amendments process currently underway. The agency noted that it is working with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights on a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to address changes regarding the confidentiality of substance use disorder (SUD) patient records as required by the CARES Act of 2020. The agency also noted that they intend to publish the amendments later this year in the Federal Register, where they will be seeking comments from the public. Until the new regulations are created, the agency stated that the current 42 CFR part 2 regulations remain in effect.

AHRQ publishes blog post on unhealthy alcohol use during pandemic

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently published a [blog post](#) on the screening and treatment of alcohol use during the COVID-19 pandemic. The blog post notes that while there is strong evidence supporting the use of screening

and medications for alcohol use disorder (AUD), implementation of routine screening and treatment remains low in primary care practices. As a result, AHRQ launched its [EvidenceNow: Managing Unhealthy Alcohol Use Initiative](#) in 2019, which funded 6 grantees to implement screening, brief counseling for individuals at high risk, and medication prescribing for those with AUD. However, due to COVID-19, there have been challenges with recruiting primary care physicians and transitioning to virtual settings. At the same time, according to the post, the pandemic has intensified the interest of many clinicians who want to effectively care for patients whose alcohol consumption has become unhealthy.



SAMHSA releases resources on preventing alcohol use among youth and young adults

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released several new resources on the prevention of alcohol use among youth and young adults. The first fact sheet,

[Underage Drinking: Myths vs. Facts](#), compares the myths and facts about alcohol use for preteens and teens. The second resource, [Facts on College Student Drinking](#), offers cited facts about alcohol use among college students and addresses different age ranges, gender trends, and alcohol use consequences. Another resource, [Facts on Underage Drinking](#), offers cited facts about alcohol use among underage youth. Finally, [Tips for Teens: The Truth About Alcohol](#), describes short- and long-term effects of alcohol use and can also be used by prevention professionals, educators, and health care providers.

In the News

National Recovery Month theme announced for 2021

Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR) recently announced that the theme for this year's [Recovery Month](#) will be *Recovery is for Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community*. As described by FAVOR, each

September, Recovery Month works to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the emergence of a strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and community members across the nation who make recovery in all its forms possible. The Recovery Month website includes logos and social media graphics, promotional materials, and a calendar of events.

