

February 18, 2021



D.C. Update: NASADAD releases updated SAPT Block Grant fact sheet, SAMHSA launches National African American Behavioral Health Center of Excellence, and more



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Meet the Member

Paul Fleissner, NASADAD Member for State of Minnesota

Paul Fleissner was appointed as the Director of Behavioral Health within the Minnesota Department of Human Services in 2020. Prior to this role, Mr. Fleissner worked in human services for over 35 years as the Directory of Community Services for Olmsted County and Deputy County Administrator responsible for the Health, Housing, and Human Services Division (HHHS). Mr. Fleissner's work has focused on consumer-focused integrated services and recently integrated the Public Health Department and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority into a human services agency. He is the past president of the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators and previously served on the board of the National Association of County Human Service Administrations. His current work as Director of Behavioral Health focuses on building an effective integrated service system across the mental health and substance use disorder health system in Minnesota.



News from NASADAD

[NASADAD releases updated SAPT Block Grant fact sheet](#)

NASADAD is pleased to announce the release of an updated [Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment \(SAPT\) Block Grant fact sheet](#). The fact sheet offers:

- An overview of the SAPT Block Grant
 - A description of the positive outcomes of the Block Grant (i.e., abstinence from alcohol/drug use, stable housing, no arrests)
 - Discussion of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on SUDs
 - A description of why multi-year investments in the SAPT Block Grant is beneficial to States, providers, and individuals with SUDs
 - Recent data on the financial burden of SUDs and cost-effectiveness of investing in the SAPT Block Grant
 - A description of the prevention set-aside
 - An overview of the Block Grant's role in bolstering recovery support services
 - A description of the role of the State Alcohol & Drug Agency
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Capitol Hill Happenings

[Group of Senators send letter to President Biden calling for increased funding to address addiction in FY 2022 budget](#)

Earlier today, a group of nineteen senators, led by Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), sent a [letter](#) to President Biden urging him to prioritize increased funding for substance use disorder prevention, trservices in the Administration's FY 2022 budget request. Noting the increases in substance use and overdoses during the COVID-19 pandemic, the senators requested the President's support for States, treatment providers, and other entities addressing addiction issues. The lawmakers noted, "In addition to the need for additional emergency funding for opioid and SUD grant programs in future COVID-19 response legislation, we urge you to support additional Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grant funding in the FY22 budget, with continued flexibility, to address this crisis."

Around the Agencies

[FDA issues additional warning letters to ENDS e-liquid manufacturers](#)

On February 12th, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued [warning letters](#) to 11 manufacturers and sellers of unauthorized e-liquids that did not obtain premarket authorization. A previously issued court order determined that applications for premarket review were required to be submitted to the FDA by September 9, 2020. As described in the announcement, the agency is prioritizing enforcement against any electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) product that continues to be sold and for which the agency has not received a timely product application. The warning letters to 11 firms cited specific products and collectively these companies have listed a combined total of more than 150,000 products with the FDA. These letters follow an initial set [announced](#) earlier this year.



[SAMHSA releases new resources for parents to address substance use](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released several new publications to assist parents in addressing substance use with their children. The "Talk. They Hear You." campaign includes three parent brochures that address the risks associated with [marijuana](#), [vaping](#),

and [opioids](#) and the importance of having conversations with children to help avoid substance use. The campaign also includes a [mini brochure](#) for parents and caregivers on the five goals to keep in mind when having conversations about alcohol and substance use with their teens.

[SAMHSA releases publication on MAT in](#)

emergency departments

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released a new [publication](#) on the use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in emergency departments. The publication includes an issue brief with an overview of how emergency departments (ED) are uniquely positioned to help individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD), the pharmacology of MAT, and tips to improve adoption and address stigma. In addition, the resource includes current evidence regarding the effectiveness of ED-initiated buprenorphine, examples of innovative emergency department programs, strategies to ensure success in adopting ED-initiated buprenorphine, and resources for implementing evidence-based programs and practices, monitoring outcomes, and improving quality.

EVIDENCE-BASED RESOURCE GUIDE SERIES

Use of Medication-Assisted Treatment in Emergency Departments



African American Behavioral Health CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

SAMHSA launches National African American Behavioral Health Center of Excellence

The Substance Abuse and
Mental Health Services
Administration (SAMHSA)

[announced](#) the launch of their [National African American Behavioral Health Center of Excellence](#) (AABH-COE). As described in the announcement, the purpose of the Center is to create and provide training, written resources, and technical assistance to service providers in mental health and substance use disorder fields. In addition, there will be information and tools for community partners, families, peer supporters, and individuals living with mental health and/or substance use disorders. Dr. Dawn Tyus, Principal Investigator for the Center, noted that the AABH-COE will work to name and understand the disparities faced by African American individuals and prepare the field to correct the disparities and address their effects. NASADAD will serve as a National Partner to the Center.

Research Roundup

NIAAA study finds changes in gut health with alcohol abstinence

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center recently published a [study](#) on the link between chronic heavy drinking and changes in the levels and types of beneficial bacteria in the gut. Changes in the gut microbiome can lead to further downstream health problems such as liver disease, inflammation, and malnutrition. Researchers collected data from participants enrolled in an alcohol treatment program at NIH and grouped participants as either “less heavy” or “very heavy” consumers. The study found that patients who drank more heavily prior to abstinence had more changes in microbe diversity in their gut over time. As described in the [announcement](#), these findings suggest that the effects of heavy drinking on gut microbiome diversity may be reversed by abstinence.

In the News

Upcoming Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit

The annual Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit is taking place online April 5th-8th. The Rx Summit is the largest and most influential annual conference addressing the opioid and addiction crisis.

Stakeholders from federal agencies to family members will convene online this



year to discuss what's working in prevention and treatment. There will be 75+ sessions being presented across 9 educational tracks, covering everything from prevention and treatment to public safety and technology. Featured speakers include Regina LaBelle, Acting Director for the Office of National Drug Control Policy; Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health; and NASADAD Board Member Jennifer Smith, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. For additional information, download the [brochure](#) and click [here](#) to register.

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