

January 13, 2022



D.C. Update: Biden Administration nominates January Contreras to lead ACF, study finds racial differences in alcohol consumption and smoking behaviors, and more

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Meet the Member

Isaac Coy, Treatment Coordinator for State of Montana

Isaac Coy is a Montana Licensed Addictions Counselor and Nationally Certified Addictions Counselor. He currently serves as the Behavioral Health Section Supervisor with the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD) Division for the State of Montana. He has worked for the BHDD since 2013. BHDD is housed in the MT Medicaid branch and oversees substance use disorder (SUD) services for all ages and mental health services for adults. Prior to working for the State, he worked directly with patients as an addiction's counselor in both outpatient and residential settings and as a correctional officer at both the Montana State Prison and a federal facility for youth offenders. He graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in Sociology in 2004.



NASADAD Staff Spotlight

Emma Neller, Research Associate at NASADAD

Emma Neller is a Research Associate who works with the National Prevention and Treatment Networks and supports the state Prevention and Treatment Coordinators. Before coming to NASADAD she held a fellowship position working with the Washington State Health Care Authority, where she supported substance



use disorder prevention services throughout Washington State. Emma received a B.A. in Public Health-Global Health from the University of Washington.

White House Happenings

Biden Administration nominates January Contreras to lead ACF

President Biden recently [nominated](#) January Contreras to serve as Assistant Secretary for Children and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). If confirmed, Ms. Contreras would serve as the leader of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). She is a former county prosecutor and assistant attorney general who went on to lead a legal aid center for children and young adults who have experienced abuse, neglect, family separation, homelessness, and human trafficking. She previously served in the Obama-Biden Administration as Ombudsman for Citizenship and Immigration Services at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and as a designee to the White House Council on Women and Girls. At the State level, Ms. Contreras oversaw the Arizona Department of Health Services after serving as Assistant Director of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, Arizona's Medicaid agency. She earned her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Arizona.



Around the Agencies

SAMHSA recruiting American Indian/Alaska Native peer reviewers

The Division of Grant Review within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is currently recruiting new American Indian/Alaska Native Peer Reviewers for funding opportunities from the agency. SAMHSA is interested in recruiting applicants with academic qualifications and professional work experience in mental health and substance use disorder prevention and treatment services. As described by SAMHSA, peer reviewers will evaluate grant applications through a fair, equitable, and objective review process to provide SAMHSA and grant applicants with accurate feedback. The peak grant review season usually occurs from January through July and all reviews will be coordinated virtually. For more information, click [here](#).

SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS



SAMHSA's GAINS Center Seeks Experienced Trainers to Participate in Trauma-Informed Responses Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Event for Individuals

Apply by February 18, 2022

SAMHSA accepting applications for train-the-trainer event

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) GAINS Center is soliciting applications from experienced trainers who are interested in developing their capacity to provide trauma-informed training in their local agencies/communities via its "How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses" curriculum. The

target audiences for the training program are community-based criminal justice system professionals, including law enforcement, community corrections (probation, parole, and pre-trial services), court personnel, as well as human service providers that serve adult justice-involved populations. Selected applicants will learn to facilitate the training via a virtual TTT event and subsequently deliver the training program in their local communities. Applications are due February 18th and more information can be found [here](#).

Research Roundup

Study finds racial differences in alcohol consumption and smoking behaviors

A recent [study](#) from researchers within the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) research programs, American University, and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, found racial differences in alcohol consumption and cigarette smoking. As described in a [research spotlight](#) from NIMHD, researchers gathered data from 1,692 individuals with over half (58.3%) meeting the criteria for alcohol use disorder and 37.8% smoking cigarettes. Results of the study indicated that more Black/African American study participants smoked cigarettes and had alcohol use disorder than White participants. Black/African American participants also had higher risks of alcohol problems than White participants. In contrast, the relationship between cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption was stronger in White than Black/African American participants. Researchers noted that additional studies should examine the relationship between alcohol consumption and cigarette smoking and differences across racial categories.



Upcoming Webinars



Webinar: Leveraging real world data to address states' pressing public health questions

On Thursday, January 20, 2022, noon-1pm EST, IQVIA will host a free webinar to show how State public health agencies can benefit from real world data (RWD) to recover from COVID-19 and address other public health emergencies such as the opioid epidemic. [In this webinar](#), RWD and public health experts will explain what RWD is and demonstrate how States can access it (no programming or coding required). Webinar attendees will vote to select one of five priority topics for live exploration during the webinar: opioid and other controlled substances prescribing, antibiotic prescribing, COVID-19 therapies, immunizations, or HIV drug utilization and access. Learn more and [register here](#) for access to the live webinar and event recording.
