

January 14, 2020



D.C. Update: NASADAD announces two new staff members, CMS issues guidance for States to address social determinants of health, and more



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Meet the Member

Gajef McNeill, Treatment Coordinator for State of Illinois

Gajef McNeill, MPA, CADC, was educated and reared in Washington, D.C. from elementary to high school. He attended Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin where he received his bachelor's degree. He also received a master's degree in Curriculum Instruction and Media (MS) and a master's degree in Public Affairs (MPA) both from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC). He began work in the substance use field in 1989 providing prevention services. Mr. McNeill then attended the substance use track at the Rehabilitation Institute at SIUC, obtained his CADC, and began providing treatment services at the Hill House in Carbondale, IL, which was established for the treatment of adolescent substance users. He left the facility to join an outpatient program in 1994 and worked there for six years before joining the Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA), now known as the Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR), in September of 2001. Currently, Mr. McNeill works as a Contract Manager for SUPR with responsibility for the southern 33 counties and programs with gambling contracts with the State. Mr. McNeill previously served as President of the National Treatment Network (NTN) and currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Master of Public Affairs Program at SIUC.



News from NASADAD

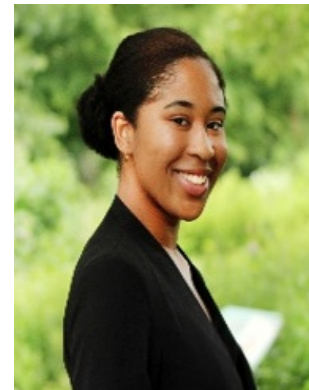
[NASADAD announces two new staff members](#)

NASADAD is pleased to announce two new staff members, Emma Neller and Yasmine Allen, who will both join the Association as Research Associate's.



Ms. Neller will work with the National Prevention and Treatment Networks. Prior to 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. Ms. Neller received a B.A. in Public Health-Global Health from the University of Washington.

Yasmine Allen will support various technical assistance and research projects related to State programs in prevention, treatment, and recovery. Before joining NASADAD, Yasmine was a NOAA Cooperative Science Center for Atmospheric Sciences & Metrology research fellow, where she conducted research products on disaster response and recovery impacting ethnic minorities in the U.S. and Taiwan. Yasmine also pursued global research projects in sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence in South Africa, Tanzania, and Ghana. Additionally, she has research experience on racial and gender inequalities and their overlap with global and public health issues. Ms. Allen is a recent graduate of Howard University with a B.A. in Sociology.



Around the Agencies

New CDC Training and Resources for Safer Opioid Prescribing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released [new training tools](#) and resources to help address the effects of overprescribing on the opioid crisis. One resource, an interactive online training module, highlights strategies for improving patient outcomes by reducing opioid administration and prescribing in the emergency department, diagnosing opioid use disorder (OUD), and initiating treatment of OUD. Another resource, a 4-minute video, describes when and how clinicians should consider initiating opioid tapering and a 3-minute video addresses risk factors likely to increase the risk of opioid-associated harms. Finally, a fact sheet highlights factors that can put patients at higher risk for opioid-related harms.



The Real Cost of Vaping

FDA and Scholastic release new e-cigarette prevention materials for youths

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in collaboration with Scholastic, has [released](#) several youth e-cigarette prevention materials for middle and high school students. The latest release includes a [student magazine](#) and an accompanying [teacher guide](#) that highlight the risks of e-cigarette use and nicotine addiction. Scholastic also launched their "Vaping's Not My Thing" Student Challenge, a [contest](#)

where students will create a poster, infographic, or annotated illustration to convince other youth of the serious health risks of vaping. Additional Scholastic materials include lesson plans, activity sheets, a guide for parents to talk to their kids about e-cigarettes, and infographics.

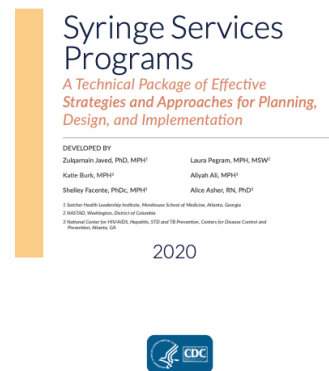
CMS issues guidance for States to address social determinants of health

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently issued [guidance](#) to State health officials encouraging the adoption of strategies that address social determinants of health (SDOH) in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). As described in the [announcement](#), the new guidance describes how States can leverage existing flexibilities under federal law to address adverse health outcomes that can be impacted by SDOH and supports States with designing programs, benefits, and services that can more effectively improve population health and reduce costs. The guidance notes that Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries face challenges such as limited access to nutritious food, affordable and accessible housing, quality education, and opportunities for meaningful employment. The guidance also highlights how State Medicaid and CHIP programs can utilize different delivery approaches, benefits, and reimbursement methodologies to improve health outcomes.

In the News

New publication outlines strategies to support syringe service programs

The National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), along with collaborative work from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recently released [Syringe Services Programs: A Technical Package of Effective Strategies and Approaches for Planning, Design, and Implementation](#) that outlines evidence of the effectiveness of strategies to support syringe services programs (SSPs). The publication includes five key strategies based on current evidence regarding SSPs. As described in the resource, strategies include involving people with lived experience, using a needs-based distribution approach, providing core and expanded services, collecting data at SSPs, and ensuring program sustainability.



New Updated Website for MAT Resources: Addiction Free CA

Health Management Associates (HMA) recently announced the launch of its new [website](#) with updated information and resources on substance use disorders (SUD), opioid use disorders (OUD), and medication-assisted treatment (MAT). The updated website includes a searchable [resource library](#), as well as a [data dashboard](#) that summarizes county risk, support, and treatment projects in the State of California on an interactive map. As described in the announcement, the site serves as a central resource for four projects funded by the State's MAT Expansion Project: Systems of Care, Pregnant and Parenting Women, MAT in Jails and Drug Courts, and County Touchpoints.

Research Roundup

NIDA study finds combination of two medications effective in treating methamphetamine use disorder

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) recently published a [study](#) indicating that a combination of two medications, injectable naltrexone and oral bupropion, was safe and effective in treating methamphetamine use disorder. The research was conducted from 2017 to 2019 at clinics in community treatment programs across the country and enrolled patients with moderate to severe methamphetamine use disorder. All participants in the study indicated that they wished to reduce or stop use of methamphetamine. Researchers found that 16.5% of those given the naltrexone/bupropion combination had negative urine screens, compared to only 3.4% of those in the control group. As described in the

[announcement](#), participants in the treatment group were assessed to have fewer cravings and reported greater improvements in their lives. Finally, researchers noted that the naltrexone/bupropion's benefit as a treatment for methamphetamine use disorder is similar to most medical treatments for mental health disorders, including antidepressants for depression or naltrexone for alcohol use disorder.

Study finds women who use cannabis products less likely to conceive

A [study](#) recently published by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) found that women who use marijuana could have a more difficult time conceiving a child than women who do not use marijuana. Researchers analyzed data from a larger study of more than 1,200 women who had experienced one or two pregnancy losses. Results from the study indicated that women who said they used cannabis products in the weeks before pregnancy, or those who had positive urine tests, were around 40% less likely to conceive than women who did not use cannabis. In addition, 42% of cannabis users became pregnant during the study in comparison to 66% of non-users. Finally, researchers noted that cannabis users also had differences in reproductive hormones involved in ovulation, which could have influenced their likelihood of conception.
