D.C. Update: HRSA awards $103 million to reduce burnout and promote mental health among health care workforce, APHSA publishes policy brief on Family First Prevention Services Act, and more

Visit our Website

Meet the Member

Elizabeth Collier, State Opioid Treatment Authority for State of Wisconsin
Elizabeth Collier, MSW, LCSW, CSAC, ICS is the State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) for the Division of Care and Treatment Services, Bureau of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Elizabeth currently oversees all of the opioid treatment programs (OTP) in the State as well as helping to expand access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT). She has over 20 years of experience working with co-occurring disorders and criminal justice, homeless, HIV, LGBTQ, and opioid use disorder (OUD) populations.

NASADAD Staff Spotlight

NASADAD Welcomes Lacy Adams to the Public Policy Department
On Tuesday, January 18, Lacy Adams joined NASADAD as Public Policy Analyst. Lacy comes to NASADAD from the National Governors Association (NGA) where she last worked as a Health Policy Analyst within the Health Division. Before this position, Lacy served as Policy Coordinator within NGA’s Homeland Security and Public Safety Division. Lacy also has served as an intern on
Capitol Hill. In particular, she worked as an intern with the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. In addition, Lacy worked as an intern in a district office of a Member of the House of Representatives in the State of Indiana. Lacy is a masters of public health candidate at the University of Michigan. She is a graduate of Indiana University where she received her bachelor’s degree in healthcare management and policy.

Around the Agencies

HRSA awards $103 million to reduce burnout and promote mental health among health care workforce
The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), recently announced $103 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to improve the retention and address the needs of health care workers to reduce burnout and promote mental health. As described in a press release from HHS, the awards will fund evidence-informed programs, practices and training, with a specific focus on providers in underserved and rural communities. HRSA has granted 45 awards through the following programs: Promoting Resilience and Mental Health Among Health Professional Workforce, Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Training Program, and the Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Technical Assistance Center. For a list of award recipients, click here.

HRSA announces $13 million for Rural Communities Opioid Response Program
The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), recently announced the availability of $13 million in funding through the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP). As described in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA), RCORP is aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorders (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD) in high-risk rural communities. Eligible applicants include State governments, federally recognized tribes, tribal organizations, and community- and faith-based organizations among others. HRSA anticipates a total of 26 awards to grantees and applications are due April 19, 2022. Click here for additional information.

Research Roundup

JCOIN and NIDA publish study on association between buprenorphine and reduction in recidivism
A study conducted by the Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN), with funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), found that individuals with opioid use disorder who were incarcerated and received buprenorphine were less likely to face rearrest and reconviction after release. The study was conducted in two rural Massachusetts jails and researchers found a 32% reduction in rates of probation violations, reincarcerations, or court charges when the facility offered buprenorphine compared to when it did not. Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of NIDA, noted that “Studies like this provide much-needed evidence and momentum for jails and prisons to better enable the treatment, education, and support systems that individuals with an opioid use disorder need to help them recover and prevent incarceration.” The study was published in the Drug and Alcohol Dependence Journal and can be accessed here.
APHSA publishes policy brief on Family First Prevention Services Act
The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) recently published a policy brief titled “Unlocking the ‘Prevention Services’ in the Family First Prevention Services Act.” The brief provides an overview of the Family First Prevention Services Act, passed by Congress in 2018, and discusses ongoing challenges related to implementation efforts. APHSA also provides detailed explanations of the components of Family First and includes recommendations related to the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse, cross-systems alignment to ensure wrap-around supports for families, and administrative requirements for State agencies.

ARC seeking consultant for INSPIRE grant evaluation
The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is accepting proposals from qualified consultants to conduct an evaluation of the INSPIRE initiative, a grant program aimed at helping communities and States address the workforce impacts of the substance use disorder crisis. The contractor will assess the accessibility of the grant application process and implementation and early impacts of the grants, resulting in a set of recommendations to enhance ARC’s ability to document the effectiveness of the program and improve its implementation in future cohorts. The evaluation will focus on the first two cohorts of INSPIRE grantees. Evaluation activities will include quantitative analysis of grant portfolio data as well as qualitative data collection and analysis, particularly input from INSPIRE grantees. The evaluation will result in a set of actionable recommendations to enhance ARC’s ability to document the effectiveness of the INSPIRE initiative and improve its implementation. The application deadline is February 17, 2022, and more information can be found here.