

January 28, 2022



D.C. Update: CDC to revise guidelines for prescribing opioids, Upcoming webinar on implementation of Plans of Safe Care, and more

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Meet the Member

Julienne Giard, Treatment Coordinator for State of Connecticut

Julienne Giard, LCSW is Director of the Community Services Division in the Office of the Commissioner at the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). This work includes oversight of most of the Department's private non-profit mental health and substance use provider network, the Evidence-Based Practices & Grants Unit, and several initiatives. Ms. Giard has been with CT DMHAS since 2006 and has held multiple leadership positions, including the start of the Department's Evidence-Based Practices & Grants Division in 2010. Before joining DMHAS, she was a faculty member at the Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, conducting work in the area of Medicaid Managed Health Care; Women, Co-Occurring Disorders and Trauma; and other evaluation and implementation projects. She has authored several articles and national presentations.



NASADAD Staff Spotlight

Fachon Simpson, Member Services Coordinator/Meeting Planner at NASADAD



Fachon Simpson is currently a Membership Services Coordinator/Meeting Planner at NASADAD. She has performed a wide-range of executive/administrative duties for the Executive Director/Director of Legislative Affairs, Deputy Executive Director/Director of Research and Program Applications, and Director of Finance for over 10 years. Ms. Simpson provides services for planning and staging the membership's Annual/Board Meetings and all other NASADAD meetings. She is responsible for hotel contracts, meeting room set-up, logistics, arranging exhibitors, travel, lodging, audio/visual equipment set-up, registration and development and distribution of meeting materials. Ms. Simpson is also responsible for scheduling conference calls and meetings, responding to

membership requests for technical assistance, disseminating information via e-mail and fax, and the staging of meetings. Ms. Simpson also performs various tasks within NASADAD's Department of Finance. Her duties include preparing invoices and purchase orders; collecting membership dues; developing spreadsheets and inputting data; and tracking membership funds.

Around the Agencies

CDC to revise guidelines for prescribing opioids

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) is in the process of updating the [2016 CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain](#). The current guidelines provide recommendations for primary care clinicians who are prescribing opioids for chronic pain and addresses when to initiate opioids; opioid selection, dosage, and duration; and assessing the risk and addressing the harms of opioid use. CDC anticipates the draft Guideline update will post in the Federal Register for a 60-day public comment period in the coming weeks. Public comments can be submitted electronically via the website [Regulations.gov](#) or hard copy comments via mail. You can read more about the process for updating the Guideline on CDC's [webpage](#).

Register for NIDA's National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) announced their upcoming National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week (NDAFW) from March 21st through March 27th. As described by NIDA, NDAFW is a week-long national health observance highlighting the science-based facts about drugs, alcohol, and addiction. The website includes lesson plans and other materials for educators, counselors, and prevention specialists. In addition, teens, teachers, and parents can register to hold an NDAFW event. For more information, click [here](#).



FDA releases warning regarding dental issues associated with buprenorphine

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is [warning](#) patients and prescribers about the potential for dental problems associated with buprenorphine medications dissolved in the mouth to treat opioid use disorder (OUD) and pain. Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and leader of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), released a [statement](#) on the issue as well. Dental problems (including tooth decay, cavities, dental abscesses/infection, tooth erosion, and, in some cases, total tooth loss), have been reported even in patients with no history of dental issues. FDA is taking several measures to protect public health and will require that a new warning about the risk of dental problems be added to the prescribing information and the patient Medication Guide for all buprenorphine-containing medicines that are dissolved in the mouth. Prescribers should advise

patients to see a dentist soon after starting the medicine and during treatment. Patients may lessen their risk of dental problems by taking certain preventative measures.

Webinars to Watch

SAMHSA webinar on reentry peer support services

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) GAINS Center announced an upcoming webinar titled "Peer-Led Innovations in Reentry Support Programming: Towards Holistic Recovery." The webinar will provide information about supporting reentry peer specialists and programs through certification, training, and the education to effectively support individuals reentering the community after a period of incarceration. Presenters will discuss the opportunities that come with training and education, along with the policy and practice challenges of supporting individuals in recovery as they transition back into the community. The webinar will be held February 16th at 3:00pm ET and registration can be found [here](#).



Upcoming webinar on implementation of Plans of Safe Care

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) announced an upcoming webinar as part of the release of a three-part series of technical assistance briefs. The final webinar, which will be held on February 8th, will discuss "Lessons from Implementation of Plans of Safe Care." This [brief](#) and the accompanying webinar will provide an overview of the progress, knowledge, and experience States have gained since the passage of the 2016 Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) amendments to the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA). The

webinar will discuss three highlighted lessons including promoting systems collaboration, reducing stigma, and using data to implement effective policies and practices. Registration can be accessed [here](#).
