

January 7, 2020



D.C. Update: Sara Goldsby to serve as Vice Chair on NASADAD Policy Committee, CDC releases health advisory regarding overdose deaths, and more



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Meet the Member

Tenesha Barnes, Prevention Coordinator for State of Arkansas

Tenesha Barnes currently serves as the Director of Prevention in the Arkansas Department of Human Services/Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services. In this capacity, she oversees all prevention activities for DAABHS, including the prevention portion of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant, administration of prevention activities carried out through the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant, and the Partnership for Success (PFS) program. Her goals for AR prevention are to, "educate citizens, empower communities, encourage collaboration, and enhance prevention efforts through community mobilization to foster a healthy and positive environment for the GREAT State of Arkansas." Tenesha holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology/Sociology from Henderson State University and a master's degree in Human Resource Development and Leadership from Webster University.



News from NASADAD

Sara Goldsby to serve as Vice Chair on NASADAD Public Policy Committee

NASADAD is pleased to announce that Sara Goldsby will now serve as Vice Chair on the Association's Public Policy Committee. Prior to this, Ms. Goldsby served on



NASADAD's Board of Directors representing Region IV. She was confirmed as Director of the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) by the South Carolina Senate on February 8, 2018, after being appointed Acting Director by Governor Nikki Haley in August 2016, then nominated as Director by Governor Henry McMaster in May 2017. As Director, she has led South Carolina's response to the opioid crisis and currently serves as co-chair of the State Opioid Emergency Response Team. Under her leadership, DAODAS has been instrumental in increasing access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and the opioid overdose antidote

naloxone.

With passion around social determinants of health and access to care, Director Goldsby earned her Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health degrees – with an emphasis on health services, policy, and management – from the University of South Carolina in 2015. Director Goldsby was also the 2019 recipient of the Ramstad-Kennedy Award for Outstanding Leadership, awarded by the National Recovery Month Planning Partners, for her leadership on recovery-related efforts.

[Dr. Robert Werthwein, NASADAD Member from Colorado, speaks publicly about his own depression](#)

NASADAD Member Dr. Robert Werthwein, who serves as Director of Colorado's Behavioral Health Office, recently shared his personal story of experiencing depression and suicidal thoughts. In an [article](#) published by the *Colorado Sentinel*, Dr. Werthwein talks about the death of his twin brother at the age of 15, which led to severe depression. He also discusses his resistance to help at the time, but notes that at the age of 26, while in therapy required by his PhD program, he began to see a shift due to medication and acceptance of his illness. Due to COVID-19 and data showing an increase of depressive thoughts in the State, Dr. Werthwein decided to speak publicly for the first time about his own experiences.



[Around the Agencies](#)

[CDC Feature Article Highlights Smoking Cessation Products](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) released a [new feature article](#) that highlights information on the use of cessation medication to help smokers quit successfully. As described in the article, the 2020 report titled [Smoking Cessation: A Report of the Surgeon General](#), concluded that the combined use of medication and counseling as directed can nearly double a person's chances of successfully quitting. The article outlines what cessation medication does, which medications are approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), how to use cessation medications to maximize quitting success, as well as information on ways to access counseling.



[CDC releases health advisory regarding overdose deaths](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently [released](#) a Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory regarding an increase in fatal drug overdoses driven by synthetic opioids before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Data indicates that approximately 81,230 drug overdose deaths occurred in the 12-months ending in May 2020, the largest

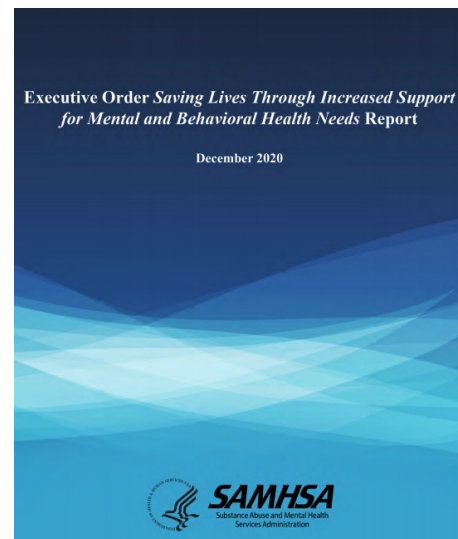
number of overdoses for a 12-month period ever recorded. The CDC also noted an acceleration of overdose deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic. Provisional overdose death estimates indicate large monthly increases in overdose deaths from March 2020 to April 2020 and April 2020 to May 2020. These estimates are the largest monthly increases documented since estimates began to be calculated in 2015. The CDC noted that the primary driver of the increases in overdose deaths is synthetic opioids, as well as a rise in deaths involving psychostimulants. The agency provided several recommendations, including expanding the provision and use of naloxone and overdose prevention education, expanding access to treatment, early intervention for those at high risk of overdose, and improving detection of overdose outbreaks due to substances such as fentanyl.

SAMHSA Releases Preliminary Report on the Drug Abuse Warning Network

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a [preliminary report](#) from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) that captures data on emergency department (ED) visits associated with recent substance use, including those related to opioids. As mentioned in the report, DAWN was authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act of 2016 in order to respond effectively to the opioid and addiction crises in the United States and to better inform public health, clinicians, policymakers, and other stakeholders to respond to emerging substance use trends. DAWN also serves as an early warning system for the emergence of new and novel psychoactive substances. The report includes data on ED visits related to recent substance use and misuse, such as alcohol use, illicit drug use, and nonmedical use of pharmaceuticals.

SAMHSA releases report on addressing substance use caused by COVID-19

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released a report titled “[Executive Order Saving Lives Through Increased Support for Mental and Behavioral Health Needs Report](#),” that outlines a plan to address mental and substance use disorders caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The report highlights the importance of continuing to bolster prevention services, crisis services, Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs), services to individuals involved in the criminal justice system, programs to address homelessness, quality care, and training and technical assistance among others. The report also includes recommendations from federal agencies and suggestions regarding service and funding mechanisms.



Funding Opportunities

OJJDP Seeking Applications for FY21 Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is seeking applications for funding for the fiscal year (FY) 2021 Juvenile Drug Court Treatment Program. As described in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA), this program furthers the Department’s mission by providing resources to State, local, and tribal governments to create and enhance juvenile drug treatment court programs for youth in the justice system with substance use problems, specifically related to opioid use. The program has two grant categories: Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Planning and Implementation and Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Enhancement. Category 1 grants are available to jurisdictions that want to establish a juvenile drug treatment court, and Category 2 grants are available to jurisdictions with a fully operational (for at least 1 year) juvenile drug treatment court to enhance the operation of the court. The closing date of applications is

February 19th, 2021. More information about the program and how to apply can be found [here](#).

DOJ now accepting applications for RSAT Program

The Department of Justice's (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) released a [funding opportunity announcement](#) (FOA) for the fiscal year (FY) 2021 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Program. As described in the announcement, the program assists States with developing and implementing residential substance use treatment programs within State correctional facilities, as well as within local correctional and detention facilities. Notably, the application states that "to be eligible for funding, states must coordinate the design and implementation of the treatment programs between correctional representatives and the state alcohol and drug abuse agency." The anticipated total amount to be awarded is \$27 million to 56 grantees. Applications are due March 2, 2021.
