

March 11, 2021



D.C. Update: NASADAD Member, Mark Stringer, testifies before House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS, SAMHSA now accepting applications for MAT-PDOA grant, and more



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### Meet the Member

#### Anthony Jackson, Prevention Coordinator from State of Tennessee

Anthony Jackson currently serves as the Director of Prevention in the Tennessee Division of Substance Abuse Services (DSAS). In this capacity, he oversees all prevention activities for DSAS, including the prevention portion of the Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Block Grant (SAPT BG) and the State Opioid Response Grant (TN SOR). SAPT BG and TN SOR prevention activities include: supporting the tobacco, prescription drug, and alcohol prevention activities of coalitions and providers; opioid overdose training to key stakeholders throughout the State; developing a multimodal training program for healthcare professionals on the assessment and treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD) including DATA waiver training; ensuring access to naloxone in all the State's high-risk areas to "high risk" individuals; and working to mitigate the circumstances related to opioid overdose outbreaks. He is the Principal Investigator for the Strategic Prevention Framework/Partnerships for Success: Rx and First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) discretionary grants. Other roles and responsibilities include serving as a member of the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Advisory Board of the Tennessee Young Child Wellness Council, the Council on Children's Mental Health, and working closely with the Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW).





### NASADAD Member, Mark Stringer, [testifies](#) before House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS

Earlier today, Mark Stringer (SSA, MO), Director of the Missouri Department of Mental Health, as well as Immediate Past President of the NASADAD Board of Directors and Chair of NASADAD's Public Policy Committee, served as a witness before the House of Representatives' Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Related Agencies. The Subcommittee, led by Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK), oversees funding for programs within the Department of Health and Human

Services, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The title of the hearing is "COVID-19 and the Mental Health and Substance Use Crises."

Mr. Stringer's testimony covered a range of issues related to substance use disorders and the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- The impact of the pandemic on substance use on overdose trends in Missouri, with an emphasis on the disproportionate impact on Black individuals.
- The important role of the SSA in managing the publicly-funded addiction treatment, prevention, and recovery service system, as well as using innovative approaches to adapt to the pandemic.
- Appreciation for the supplemental funding for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant in December 2020 (\$1.65B), as well as the latest package that passed the House yesterday (\$1.5B).
  - The benefits of investing in the SAPT Block Grant, including: helping States with planning; the prevention set-aside; maximizing efficiency by leveraging the current infrastructure; giving States flexibility to address local needs; and plugging gaps that are not funded by Medicare, Medicaid, or commercial insurance plans.

Other witnesses included:

- Lisa Amaya-Jackson, Co-Director, UCLA-Duke University National Center for Child Traumatic Stress
- Arthur Evans Jr., Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President, American Psychological Association
- Verna Foust, Chief Executive Officer, Red Rock Behavioral Health Sciences in Oklahoma

Finally, in her closing remarks, Chairwoman DeLauro emphasized the importance of the SAPT Block Grant as well as the critical role of SAMHSA as the lead coordinating agency for MH/SUD issues.

If you missed the hearing and would like to watch it, the recording is accessible [here](#). Mr. Stringer's testimony begins at 35:15.

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### Capitol Hill Happenings

#### [House of Representatives passes, and President Biden signs, American Rescue Plan](#)

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed—with a vote of 220-211—the [American Rescue Plan](#), their latest COVID-19 relief package that aligns with President Biden's \$1.9 trillion proposal released in January. The Senate previously passed their version of the package on Saturday, and the bill was signed today by President Biden. The substance use- and mental health-related provisions in the

package include:

- **\$1.5 billion for SAPT BG and would allow until Sept. 30, 2025 for funds to be spent.**
- \$1.5 billion for MH BG and would allow until Sept. 30, 2025 for funds to be spent.
- \$420 million for CCBHCs
- \$30 million for grants to “support community-based overdose prevention programs, syringe services programs, and other harm reduction services, with respect to harms of drug misuse that are exacerbated by the COVID–19 public health emergency.”
- \$50 million grants to address “increased community behavioral health needs worsened by the COVID–19 public health emergency.”
- \$30 million for Project AWARE
- \$20 million for Youth Suicide Prevention
- \$10 million for National Child Traumatic Stress Network
- \$80 million for grants within HRSA to “...plan, develop, operate, or participate in health professions and nursing training activities for health care students, residents, professionals, paraprofessionals, trainees, and public safety officers, and employers of such individuals, in evidence-informed strategies for reducing and addressing suicide, burnout, and mental and behavioral health conditions (including substance use disorders) among health care professionals.”
- \$40 million for HRSA to provide grants to “entities providing health care” in order to “...establish, enhance, or expand evidence informed programs or protocols to promote mental and behavioral health among their providers, other personnel, and members.”
- \$20 million for the CDC to “carry out a national evidence-based education and awareness campaign directed at health care professionals and first responders... to encourage primary prevention of mental and behavioral health conditions and secondary and tertiary prevention by encouraging health care professionals to seek support and treatment for their own behavioral health concerns”

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## News from the States

### Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs launches Recovery Rising initiative



The Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), with

funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Opioid Response Network (ORN), launched a new initiative called Recovery Rising. DDAP will convene persons in recovery, family members, and other key stakeholders for conversations, regional meetings, and a statewide consensus-building event to increase understanding of person-centered, recovery support services. An Advisory Commission will then create a framework for change offering specific steps for implementation. The initiative aims to create a recovery environment that supports multiple pathways to improved health and personal wellness; diversity, equity, and inclusion; community acceptance; and personal autonomy and empowerment. A website for the initiative is currently under development and will be available shortly. The NASADAD member--and Secretary as well as Region III Director on the Association’s Board of Directors--is Jennifer Smith, Secretary of the PA DDAP.

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## Around the Agencies

[SAMHSA releases advisory on treatment for co-](#)



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a new [advisory](#)

regarding substance use disorder (SUD) treatment for individuals with co-occurring disorders. The advisory, based on a previously released [Treatment Improvement Protocol](#) (TIP), highlights strategies for counselors and administrators to properly screen, assess, diagnose, and manage the treatment of individuals with co-occurring disorders. The advisory also provides strategies for working with individuals with co-occurring disorders and workforce and administrative concerns in working with this population. Finally, the advisory includes additional resources from SAMHSA, the American Psychiatric Association, Faces & Voices of Recovery, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the American Association for Community Psychiatry.

### CDC launches 2021 Tips from Former Smokers campaign

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced the launch of their 2021 [Tips From Former Smokers](#) campaign, which is now entering its 10<sup>th</sup> year. As described in the announcement, the campaign profiles real people living with serious long-term health effects from



smoking and secondhand smoke exposure. The campaign also features stories of the toll smoking-related conditions have taken on family members. In addition, the CDC released a new feature article, "[10 Years of Tips](#)", sharing how the campaign has led to over one million Americans to quit smoking. It also includes resources for individuals trying to quit smoking and for family members.

### SAMHSA now accepting applications for MAT-PDOA grant

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is now accepting [applications](#) for the fiscal year (FY) 2021 Medication Assisted Treatment – Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction (MAT-PDOA) grant. The purpose of this program is to expand/enhance access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) services for persons with opioid use disorder (OUD) seeking or receiving MAT. As noted in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA), the desired outcomes for this program are increasing the number of individuals receiving MAT and a decrease in illicit opioid and prescription opioid misuse. Eligible applicants include public and private non-profit entities. The anticipated total available funding is \$71,322,952, with States receiving up to \$1 million per year and public or non-profit entities receiving up to \$525,000. The length of the project is 5 years and SAMHSA anticipates a total of 89 to 135 awards. Applications are due April 27, 2021.

## In the News



### LAPPA releases two new model acts regarding fatal overdoses and recovery residences

The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) recently [published](#) two new model acts, the Model Overdose Fatality Review Teams Act and the

Model Recovery Residence Certification Act. The first model act creates a legislative framework for establishing county-level, multidisciplinary overdose fatality review (OFR) teams in individual States. As described in the announcement, the model act addresses the duties, responsibilities, and composition of OFR teams in order for them to properly examine and understand the circumstances leading up to a fatal overdose. The second model act, the Model Recovery Residence Certification Act, is designed to implement a voluntary certification process in each State for recovery residences. The model act would

allow either a State agency or an approved certifying organization contracted with the State agency to certify residences. In addition, the act addresses potential zoning issues that have been issues in the past.

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