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D.C. Update: DEA announces upcoming prescription drug take back day, SAMHSA to hold webinar on adjustments to drug treatment courts due to COVID-19, and more



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Meet the Member

Lisa Coleman, Prevention Coordinator for State of Michigan

Lisa Coleman is the Partnership for Success Grant Coordinator and Departmental Prevention Specialist for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Office of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care. Her various prevention responsibilities involve oversight of Michigan's Synar program, Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grant contracts, and prevention discretionary grants. Throughout her career she has implemented youth and adult educational programs, parenting classes, jail services, kinship caregiver programs, family management programs, and coalition coordination. She has managed prevention efforts, grant projects, media campaigns, naloxone programs, and SUD prevention provider networks. In addition, she has been a Families And Schools Together (FAST) trainer, Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training (SAPST) facilitator, and Mental Health First Aid (Adult and Youth) instructor. Ms. Coleman received her B.A. in Social Justice from Olivet Nazarene University in 1992.



News from the States

Vermont releases RFI on service delivery coordination across treatment and recovery continuum

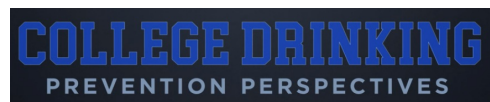
The Vermont Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Programs (ADAP) is pleased to announce that a Request for Information (RFI), titled Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Service Delivery Coordination and

Administration of Funding, has been posted for public comment. Vermont is seeking information on approaches and techniques related to the provision of services along with expanding, retaining, and monitoring the quality of service delivery across the continuum of treatment and recovery providers who provide services related to substance use disorder. The RFI is available [here](#) and comments are due by April 29th at 3:00pm ET.

Around the Agencies

DEA announces upcoming prescription drug take back day

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) announced that its 20th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for April 24th. As described in the [press release](#), the public can drop off potentially dangerous prescription medications at collection sites which will adhere to local COVID-19 guidelines and regulations. At the DEA's last Take Back Day in October, the agency collected close to 500 tons of unwanted drugs and, over the 10-year span of Take Back Day, the DEA has brought in more than 6,800 tons of prescription drugs. The Take Back Day [website](#) includes a collection site locator, several public service announcements to encourage participation in the event, results from previous Take Back Days, and other resources related to unused prescription medications.



SAMHSA releases prevention resources for underage and high-risk college drinking

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released several resources regarding college drinking prevention strategies. The first set includes a [video](#) and [discussion guide](#) titled "College Drinking: Prevention Perspectives 'Lessons Learned at Frostburg State University.'" The video and guide highlight steps taken by the University to reduce campus underage and high-risk drinking among the student population and also discusses how strategies were implemented. The second set also includes a [video](#) and [discussion guide](#) titled "Embracing Culture and Context to Prevention Underage Drinking." Both resources show how historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), as well as other institutions that serve students from distinct backgrounds, regions, and cultures, can create prevention strategies to meet their student's needs.

NIH announces initiative to end structural racism in biomedical science

Earlier this week, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins [announced](#) a new initiative to address structural racism in biomedical science. In response, both Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and Dr. George Koob, Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), released [statements](#) in support of the new initiative. As described in Dr. Volkow's [blog entry](#), the [UNITE](#) initiative is led by five committees with experts from all 27 NIH institutes and centers and is tasked with finding new ways to support diversity, equity, and inclusion. The aim of the program is to dismantle any NIH policies and discontinue any practices in current scientific methods that perpetuate racism. In addition, NIH has released a request for information (RFI) seeking input on approaches to improve and strengthen racial equity, diversity, and inclusion and expanding research to eliminate or lessen health disparities and inequities. Comments are due April 9th and more information on the RFI can be found [here](#).





SAMHSA to hold webinar on adjustments to drug treatment courts due to COVID-19

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) GAINS Center announced an upcoming webinar titled

"Innovations to Support Drug Treatment Court Programs during COVID-19: Spotlight on Technology to Improve Participant Experience." The webinar will discuss how drug treatment court programs across the country have made changes and adopted innovations to continue services during COVID-19, as well as practical strategies for increasing program participation and leveraging the use of technology to improve participant experience. The webinar will be held March 24th from 2:30pm-4:00pm ET and registration can be found [here](#).

Research Roundup

NIDA study finds increases in methamphetamine and marijuana seizures during pandemic

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) [announced](#) the release of a new [study](#) regarding increases in law enforcement seizures of methamphetamine and marijuana during the COVID-19 pandemic. Drug seizure data from March 2019 through September 2020 were analyzed in five key U.S. regions and researchers found that incidences of marijuana and methamphetamine seizures decreased at the beginning of the pandemic. However, those rates began to rise, and at their peak in August 2020, confiscations exceeded pre-COVID-19 seizure rates. In comparison, researchers found no significant changes in seizures of fentanyl, cocaine, or heroin since the onset of the pandemic. As noted in the announcement, it remains unknown if the high seizure rates in August of 2020 represent greater drug availability or whether law enforcement officials were "catching up" regarding previous months of delayed seizures.

AHRQ completes systematic reviews related to the treatment of chronic and acute pain

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCs) recently released five systematic reviews related to the treatment of chronic and acute pain. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded AHRQ to conduct these reviews of the scientific evidence that has been published since the release of the CDC's [Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain – United States, 2016](#). The five systemic reviews include [Noninvasive Nonpharmacological Treatments for Chronic Pain](#), [Nonopioid Pharmacologic Treatments for Chronic Pain](#), [Opioid Treatments for Chronic Pain](#), [Treatments for Acute Pain](#), and [Acute Treatments for Episodic Migraines](#). The CDC will include results from these systematic reviews as they work to update their Guideline document.
