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D.C. Update: HHS Announces Community Health Worker Training Program, SAMHSA Funding Opportunities, COSSAP Brief on Opioid Intervention Courts, and More

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Meet the Member

Shanel Long, Treatment Coordinator for Utah State Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Shanel Long has over 24 years of experience working in the field of substance use disorders (SUD). She spent 14 years working for the Utah County Department of Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Treatment in many different settings including residential and social detox, women's outpatient, and with individuals involved in the criminal justice system. In 2010, she began working for the State of Utah as a Program Manager for the Access to Recovery Grant Project and has continued to work on recovery support services, criminal justice services, SUD treatment services, etc. She currently is the Substance Use Administrator III; her responsibilities include the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) block grant, COVID Supplemental and American Rescue Plan prevention funding, State general funds, COVID emergency grant funds, budgets and financials, contracting, writing and developing policies and procedures, and quality assurance. Shanel received her Bachelor of Social Science with an emphasis in Psychology from Utah Valley University and received her certification as a Substance use Disorder Counselor in 2008. She is passionate about the work that she does and hopes to make efficient and effective changes to better substance use and mental health disorder services across Utah.



Capitol Hill Happenings

Bipartisan Group of Colleagues Call On Drug Manufacturers To Make Naloxone Available Over The Counter

This week, a bipartisan group of Members along with a bicameral, bipartisan group of colleagues [sent letters to seven major manufacturers of naloxone](#), urging them to apply for over the counter (OTC) status. U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) joined U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Angus King (I-ME) and U.S. Representatives Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), along with a bipartisan group of colleagues in sending the letters to the CEOs of Pfizer, Emergent Biosolutions, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Hikma, Akorn, Adamis Pharmaceuticals, and Amphastar Pharmaceuticals. Full text of the letters can be found [here](#).

Around the Agencies

HHS Announces \$226.5 Million to Launch Community Health Worker Training Program

Today, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced the availability of \$226.5 million in American Rescue Plan funding to launch the [Community Health Worker Training Program](#).

The Community Health Worker Training Program is a new multiyear program focused on education and on-the-job training to build the pipeline of public health workers. The new program will increase the number of community health workers in connecting people to care, including COVID care; mental health and substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services; chronic disease care; and other important health services. Through this program, HRSA plans to train 13,000 community health workers. To learn about eligibility and to apply for the Community Health Worker Training Program, visit [Grants.gov](#). Applications are due June 14, 2022.



SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF Rx)



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs](#) grant application is open through April 25, 2022. There are 6 available awards for funding of \$500,000 for up to 5-years. A full description of the grant is available below.

Description: The purpose of the SPF Rx grant program is to provide resources to help prevent and address prescription drug misuse within a State or locality. The program is designed to raise awareness about the dangers of sharing medications as well as the risks of fake or counterfeit pills purchased over social media or other unknown sources, and work with pharmaceutical and medical communities on the risks of overprescribing. Whether addressed at the State level or by an informed community-based organization, the SPF Rx program will raise community awareness and bring prescription substance misuse prevention activities and education to schools, communities, parents, prescribers, and their patients. In addition, grant recipients will be required to track reductions in opioid related overdoses and incorporate relevant prescription and overdose data into strategic planning and future programming.

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration Renewed

On April 12, U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra renewed the [COVID-19 public health emergency declaration](#), effective April 16. Renewing the public health emergency declaration ensures health care providers and State and territorial health departments have continued flexibility to respond to the pandemic.



COSSAP Brief on Opioid Intervention Courts

The Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) within the Department of Justice (DOJ), recently released a new article on [Peer Recovery Support Services in New York Opioid Intervention Courts: Essential Elements and Processes for Effective Integration](#). As described in the press release, this article highlights the efforts of New York State opioid intervention courts to heighten their impact by incorporating peer recovery support services (PRSS) into their work. The authors present a framework for conceptualizing the adaptation and integration of PRSS into court settings, identifying essential elements of comprehensive programs, essential integration processes, key program design factors, and drivers of success. The framework suggests that while the core elements remain the same, effective integration of PRSS programs will vary from site to site.



DEA Holds 22nd National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will host its 22nd National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ET. This bi-annual event offers free, anonymous disposal of unneeded medications at more than [4,000 local drop-off locations nationwide](#). DEA and its law enforcement partners will collect tablets, capsules, patches, and other solid forms of prescription drugs. Liquids (including intravenous solutions), syringes and other sharps, and illicit drugs will not be accepted. DEA will also accept vaping devices and cartridges provided lithium batteries are removed. A location finder and partner toolbox are available at www.DEATakeBack.com for easy reference to April 30 collection sites.

BJA Funding Opportunity: Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Training and Technical Assistance Program Now Open

Today, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) released the new funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for [FY 2022 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment \(RSAT\) for State Prisoners Training and Technical Assistance Program](#). Through this opportunity, grantees will receive funding to provide training and technical assistance to grantees and practitioners to improve correctional substance use disorder treatment programming and post-release outcomes for individuals who are incarcerated.

Training Time

FOCUS: PHI releases new resources on Telehealth and Privacy Resources

The Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information (CoE-PHI) recently released new resources that contain steps for patients and providers to protect privacy while providing or receiving remote substance use disorder and mental health treatment. The resources include a [video](#) and [1-pager](#) for patients on how to keep their telehealth visits private and strengthens understanding of patient

rights and responsibilities for protecting personal health information. The last resource is a collection of [Federal Guidance for SUD and Mental Health Treatment Providers](#).

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