

July 16, 2022



D.C. Update: 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is Live, New NIDA Funding Opportunity, NASADAD Hiring, and More

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Meet the Member

Tyler Sadwith, SSA for California, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health, California Department of Health Care Services



In July 2022, Tyler Sadwith was named Deputy Director of Behavioral Health in the California Department of Health Care Services. In July 2021, Tyler Sadwith was appointed Assistant Deputy Director of Behavioral Health in the California Department of Health Care Services to help oversee the development of behavioral health care-related initiatives and services for Medi-Cal members. Before becoming Assistant Deputy Director, Tyler was a senior consultant at Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc. (TAC), where he provided strategic advice and technical support to State health leaders on health policy and delivery system reforms. Prior to joining TAC, he was a technical director at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). In this role, he spearheaded efforts in supporting States to introduce comprehensive benefit program and delivery system reforms through Medicaid Section 1115 substance use disorder (SUD) demonstration waivers with the goal of improving care and outcomes for individuals with SUD. Tyler also helped implement the agency's opioid strategy and managed the SUD portfolio of the Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program, a cross-agency strategic support and technical assistance platform designed to support service delivery and payment innovation.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is Live Today!

The launch of the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline goes live across the U.S. today, July 16, 2022. Since the National Hotline Designation Act (Public Law 116-172) was signed into law in 2020, NASADAD has promoted the importance of strategies and programs to address substance use disorders (SUD) as a critical component of the Lifeline. In NASADAD President Sara Goldsby's testimony before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on February 1st, she underscored that "we understand the launch of 988 is the beginning of a long journey that promises to help improve our approach to helping people experiencing a crisis. As we move forward, we ask that Congress and others elevate and specifically reference substance use disorders as a core focus of work related to crisis response. We believe this approach is needed given the many distinct and unique considerations that accompany service delivery for people with substance use disorders."



Resource Spotlight

The [988 Convening Playbook](#), developed by the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) in conjunction with NASADAD, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), was created to help States, territories, and Tribes with the transition to 988. The playbook is written for substance use and mental health directors to assist in determining operational readiness for 988, plan strategies to meet 988's readiness criteria, and identify best practices in the field today to emulate. When people in emotional distress, suicidal crisis, experiencing struggles with substance use, or their loved ones contact the 988 hotline through call, text, or chat, they are connected to 988 counselors trained to support, de-escalate, and connect callers with resources. Within the playbook, States, territories, and Tribes can find case studies of how other States are using crisis services to support those in need. The playbook aims to highlight equity considerations, particularly when considering areas of readiness, and contains information on the use of technology for substance use services, the importance of unified 988 messaging, and pointers for building crisis services.

Around the Agencies

NIDA Funding Opportunity: HEAL Initiative: Research to Foster an Opioid Use Disorder Treatment System Patients Can Count On (RM1-Clinical Trial Optional)



National Institute
on Drug Abuse

The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) announced a [funding opportunity](#) as part of the [Helping to End Addiction Long-term \(HEAL\) initiative](#) aimed at creating opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment systems. NIDA seeks applications for multi-project RM1 Opioid Use Disorder Quality Measurement and Management Research Centers (OUD-QM2RCs). The program aims to create feasible, efficient quality measurement systems to provide information to help patients, families, and payors compare and select providers and help clinicians and providers improve patient outcomes. OUD-QM2RCs will:

1. "Identify key aspects of the partner's quality measurement/management strategy that require additional rigorous research;
2. Conduct the research; and
3. Test or prepare to test the system resulting from that research to determine if implementing it improves patient outcomes."

Each OUD-QM2RC will conduct 2-3 interrelated research projects. Activities should support the acceptability of the quality measurement system, the feasibility, scalability, and sustainability of the system, and equity in clinician/provider selection and treatment delivery.

SAMHSA Resource: Helping Girls and Young Women Stay Healthy by Avoiding Alcohol

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released a new [resource](#) with strategies for avoiding alcohol use and preventing the development of alcohol use disorder (AUD) in girls and young women. The flyer illustrates alcohol use and its consequences among girls and young women compared to boys and young men, as well as provides tips for parents, caregivers, and community members to help young women and girls avoid developing an AUD. More resources on the prevention and reduction of underage drinking can be found [here](#).



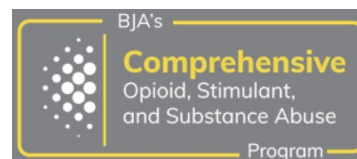
HRSA Best Practices Guide: Telehealth For Behavioral Health Care



The Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) published a [best practice guide](#) for providers on telehealth for behavioral health care. The guide provides strategies for getting started, developing a telebehavioral health strategy, billing for telebehavioral health, and preparing patients for telebehavioral health. It also covers the different types of telebehavioral health—individual teletherapy, group teletherapy, and telehealth treatment for substance use disorder (SUD). The use of telebehavioral health care is increasingly popular given the COVID-19 pandemic, and now, mental health providers can offer and get reimbursed for telehealth services.

COSSAP Announces 2022 Third Edition of The Catching Up With COSSAP Newsletter

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) recently released the 2022 third edition of the *Catching Up With COSSAP* newsletter. This edition centers on harm reduction strategies, including: mobile outreach vans, deflection services, drug courts, contingency management, peer recovery specialists, and more aimed at reducing stigma. To read the newsletter in full, subscribe [here](#).



Research Roundup

NIH/CDC Study Reports Decline in Percentage of Overdose Deaths Involving Methadone



Researchers at the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) published a [study](#) in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Psychiatry* reporting a decrease in the percentage of methadone-involved overdose deaths relative to all drug overdose deaths from January 2019 to August 2021. The study assesses the impact of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) March 16th, 2020, [Opioid Treatment Program \(OTP\) Guidance](#), which permits States to request exceptions for patients to take home doses of methadone rather than going through a federally certified opioid treatment program with daily in-person clinic visits. The data shows that take-home methadone programs are not associated with additional harms and call for expanded access to opioid treatment.

We're Hiring!

NASADAD Hiring For Public Policy Coordinator and Alcohol and Other Drug Research Associate



The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) is hiring for a Public Policy Coordinator and Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Associate. See the job listings and links to apply below.

Public Policy Coordinator

NASADAD is looking to add an entry-level or early career staff-member to serve as the Public Policy Coordinator within the Department of Public Policy. The Public Policy Coordinator's primary responsibility is to help serve the Public Policy Department on federal substance use policy issues under the direction of the Executive Director.

More information on the position, including qualifications, benefits, and how to apply, can be found [here](#).

Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Associate

NASADAD seeks a team-oriented person interested in substance use disorder issues and systems. The candidate should: possess an understanding of substance use issues, have excellent writing and communication skills, and demonstrate strong research and analytic capabilities.

More information on the position, including qualifications, benefits, and how to apply, can be found [here](#).