

July 21, 2022



D.C. Update: House Passes Defense Bill Provisions on the Opioid Crisis, HHS Renews Public Health Emergency Declaration, Ohio Announces First Opioid Settlement Payments, and More

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Meet the Member

Laura Garcia, SSA for Illinois, Director, Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery



Laura Garcia is the Director of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR). For two decades, Director Garcia has worked to expand behavioral health services that improve the social determinants of health for individuals, families, and communities socially and systematically disenfranchised. She previously served as the Director of Clinical Programs for the Salvation Army and Program Administrator for Healthcare Alternative Systems (HAS). She completed a Master of Arts from DePaul University, a second Master's degree in Counseling from Governors State University, and is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor (CADC). She is committed to IDHS/SUPR's mission to provide a system of prevention, treatment, and recovery where individuals with substance use disorders, those in recovery, and those at risk are valued, treated with dignity, and stigma and accompanying attitudes are eliminated.

Capitol Hill Happenings

[House Passes Defense Bill with Provisions to Respond to the Opioid Crisis](#)

The House of Representatives passed [the National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\) for Fiscal Year 2023](#) (H.R. 7900) on July 14th, which authorizes \$840 billion in defense spending for FY23 to bolster the development of new technology, coordination with America's network of allies and partners, and support for service members and their families. The NDAA also contains priorities related to combating the opioid crisis, including Representative David Trone's (D-MD-6) [Fighting Emerging Narcotics Through Additional Nations to Yield Lasting \(FENTANYL\) Results Act](#). The FENTANYL Act would authorize the State Department to develop programs to assist foreign law enforcement efforts to identify synthetic drug trafficking and establish an exchange program for international drug demand reduction experts.

A summary of the NDAA FY23 provisions is available [here](#).

HELP Hearing on The Federal Response to The Fentanyl Crisis



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON
Health, Education
Labor & Pensions

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) will hold a hearing on [Fighting Fentanyl: The Federal Response to a Growing Crisis](#) on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 10:00 am ET.

Witnesses include:

- Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA),
- Carole Johnson, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA),
- Christopher Jones, Pharm.D, Dr.PH, MPH, Acting Director, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIOC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Kemp Chester, Senior Policy Advisor for Supply Reduction and International Relations, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

Around the Agencies

CDC Foundation Advances Overdose Response Strategy Nationwide



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation recently launched the [Overdose Response Strategy](#) (ORS), an initiative that aims to help local communities from all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands reduce drug overdoses by sharing timely data and innovative, evidence-based strategies. The CDC Foundation assists the ORS by building capacity and fully staffing the program with support from 33 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), as well as developing multisector partnerships, jurisdictional strategic plans, and providing technical assistance, training, and overall programmatic implementation and evaluation for the public health portion. The ORS is funded by CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and supported the recent hiring of 60 public health analysts to partner with public health and safety offices nationwide.

HHS Renews COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration



The Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Secretary, Xavier Becerra, [renewed the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration](#), effective July 15th. The declaration gives health care providers and State and Territorial health departments continued flexibility to respond to the pandemic, such as rapid patient care within emergencies, including waivers from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for some requirements under [section 1135](#) of the Social Security Act. The first U.S. COVID-19 public health emergency declaration was signed in January 2020 and has been renewed every 90 days per law. HHS will provide no less than 60 days' notice

before the termination of the declaration.

NCSACW Announces Virtual 2023 Policy Academy



The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) announced the 2023 Policy Academy: *Advancing Collaborative Practice and Policy: Promoting Healthy Development and Family Recovery for Infants, Children, Parents, and Caregivers Affected by Prenatal Substance Exposure*. The Academy will meet virtually over six months, beginning in September 2022, with pre-and post-event activities and a virtual event session on January 24-26, 2023. The Policy Academy aims to help States, Tribes, and large counties enhance cooperation to support infants affected by prenatal substance exposure, their parents, and caregivers. Teams will make action plans to develop strategies to boost collaboration, improve outcomes for affected families, and mitigate systemic bias and stigma toward people with substance use and mental disorders.

Participation in the Policy Academy includes:

- “An orientation webinar Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 11:00 AM PT/ 2:00 PM ET
- Policy Academy pre-event technical assistance from a designated NCSACW Change Liaison and three plenary webinars from national subject matter experts
- Facilitated team time, expert consultation, and peer-networking opportunities at the three-day Policy Academy virtual session convening
- Policy Academy post-convening event technical assistance to support implementation of the action plan developed during the conference”

NCSACW invites joint applications from the state child welfare agency, the State substance use treatment agency, the Administrative Office of the Courts overseeing dependency courts, Tribes or tribal consortiums, State public health agencies, and counties with a population over 2 million. There is no fee to participate in the Policy Academy. Applications are due on August 24, 2022, at 5:00 pm PT. Application instructions and more information on the Academy can be found [here](#).

State Spotlight

Governor DeWine Announces First Local Government Payments from National Opioid Settlement

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine [announced](#) that the first payments of the more than \$8.6 million of funds from the OneOhio settlement with national opioid distributors were made electronically on July 15th to local governments. Local governments will determine how to best use the payments to combat the opioid epidemic in their communities and will continue to receive payments for the next 18 years. The funds must be applied according to the approved Ohio Abatement Strategies of Exhibit A of the [OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding](#). Additional funding for the benefit of all communities in Ohio will also be available through the [OneOhio Recovery Foundation](#).

A full list of payments made to eligible and participating political subdivisions can be found [here](#). The list also indicates if the payments were made directly to the entity or, if less than \$500, were redirected to the county.

988

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Volunteer and Job Opportunities

In May, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) created a [webpage](#) that links prospective applicants to 988 crisis center hiring or volunteer pages. The 988



network is looking to bring on new volunteers and paid employees to answer calls, chats, and texts from people in crisis. All employees and volunteers will receive training on how to respond to someone who may be experiencing a mental health, substance use, or suicidal crisis.

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