

September 8, 2022



**D.C. Update: NASADAD Recognizes Recovery Month, New Resource on the Role of State Alcohol and Drug Agencies, FDA Launches Framework for Overdose Protection, New NCSACW Webinars, and More**

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## Meet the Member

### **Sarah Squirrell, SSA for Maine, Acting Director of the Office of Behavioral Health, Maine Department of Health and Human Services**



Starting on April 19, 2022, Sarah Squirrell became the Acting Director of the Office of Behavioral Health. Sarah has worked in the Commissioner's Office since September 2021 on the development of a plan for increasing school-based health services for Maine. Given the toll COVID-19 has taken on children and youth in Maine, Sarah has also worked with the Department of Education on increasing access to mental health services in schools this year. She previously served as the Commissioner of Mental Health for the State of Vermont from January 2019 to June 2021. In that capacity, among other accomplishments, she created a strategic plan for the State's mental health system, oversaw two state-run facilities, and developed and implemented behavioral health initiatives to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. She managed a Department with 260 employees and an annual budget of \$280 million. She came to that position having led various non-profits in early childhood education and mental health. She has a Master of Science degree in community mental health and clinical counseling.

## NASADAD Recognizes National Recovery Month

Substance use disorder (SUD) affects all communities nationwide. With commitment and support, those impacted can embark on a journey of improved health and overall wellness. The focus of Recovery Month each September is to celebrate all people that make the journey of recovery possible by embracing the tagline, “Recovery is For Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community.” Recovery Month spreads the message that people can and do recover every day.



The impact of SUD is apparent in States, and more than 100,000 died of a [drug overdose](#) in the 12-month period ending in March 2022. Through Recovery Month, people become more aware and able to recognize the signs of SUD and co-occurring diseases and encourage people in need of recovery services to seek help. Managing the effects of these conditions helps individuals achieve healthy lifestyles- both physically and emotionally. The Recovery Month observance continues to work to improve the lives of those affected by SUD by raising awareness and educating communities about the effective services that are available.

NASADAD’s members serve as the lead agency in each State or jurisdiction responsible for managing federal funds dedicated to addressing substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery. This month, our Members wear purple to celebrate recovery and promote awareness of SUD issues. NASADAD is grateful for the work all our members do in their States and jurisdictions to support recovery every day of the year.

NASADAD’s Recovery Month Collage and upcoming Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) events on recovery can be found [here](#).

## New Resource: The Role of State Alcohol and Drug Agencies

We are pleased to share with you an updated resource on “The Role of State Alcohol and Drug Agencies.” A major part of NASADAD’s work is educating decisionmakers about the role State alcohol and drug agencies play in managing the publicly funded prevention, treatment, and recovery system. As a result, NASADAD worked with leadership to develop an overview that explains this important office. While we understand each agency may have a slightly different set of responsibilities, we also know many common elements remain. We offer this document to help educate federal decisionmakers as they consider federal legislative, regulatory, and programmatic actions. We also know this document may help stakeholders at the State and local level as well.



You can find this resource by visiting our [webpage](#) > Our Members > Role of State Alcohol and Drug Agencies or by visiting <https://nasadad.org/role-of-ssas/>.

## Around the Agencies

### International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Month

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAA), among other federal agencies, recognize September 9 as [International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders \(FASD\) Awareness Day](#) each year and September as [FASD Awareness Month](#). International FASD Awareness Day is the world’s largest annual campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of alcohol use during pregnancy and the challenges individuals and families living with [FASDs](#) face. The campaign stresses the range of conditions that can result from [alcohol use during pregnancy](#) and reminds people that FASD is preventable and that there is no safe amount of alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

To learn more about the impacts of Alcohol, NASADAD recently released a fact sheet on the [Landscape of Alcohol Use in the U.S.](#)

## SAMHSA RFI: Role in Possible Agency Actions Regarding Mental Health and Substance Use Wellbeing in the Context of Climate Change and Health Equity



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) issued a [request for information](#) (RFI) on how SAMHSA programs and grants can help address health impacts of climate change and health equity considerations. Specifically, SAMHSA seeks input from clients, providers, family members, and communities on priorities, resources, partners, and collaborating agencies and organizations regarding climate change-related mental health and substance use health challenges. Comments must be received by October 31, 2022.

A direct list of questions for input and additional details on the RFI can be found [here](#).

## FDA Launches New Framework for Overdose Protection, Announces Opioid Prescribing Review



Dr. Robert Califf, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), recently published a [blog post](#) introducing the agency's [new Overdose Prevention Framework](#) to address the opioid epidemic. This new Framework builds on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Overdose Prevention Strategy and President Biden's National Drug Control Strategy to prevent and reduce substance use disorder (SUD), drug overdoses, and overdose/drug-related deaths. The FDA Overdose Prevention Framework's four priorities are:

1. "Supporting **primary prevention** by eliminating unnecessary initial prescription drug exposure and inappropriate prolonged prescribing,
2. Encouraging **harm reduction** through innovation and education,
3. Advancing development of **evidence-based treatments for substance use disorders**,
4. **Protecting the public from unapproved, diverted, or counterfeit drugs** presenting overdose risks."

The Framework is dynamic by design to allow the FDA to recalibrate the strategy to adapt to the continuously evolving overdose crisis. A snapshot of the FDA's activities under the Framework can be found on the blog [here](#).

## NIDA, NIMH Meeting: Facebook Live: The Intersection of Suicide and Substance Use

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) will co-host a [Facebook Live event](#) on the intersection of substance use, substance use disorder (SUD), and suicide to promote [National Suicide Prevention Month](#). This no-cost virtual meeting will be held on September 15, 2022, at 12:30 pm (ET). The meeting recognizes individuals who experience SUD and co-occurring mental health disorders as being of higher risk of suicide and highlights common risk factors, specific populations at elevated risk, suicides by drug overdose, treatment, prevention, and recovery services, and resources for finding help. The event can be watched live on [NIMH's Facebook page](#) and [NIDA's Facebook page](#). Upcoming NIDA meetings and events can be found [here](#).

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## Webinars to Watch

**NCSACW Webinar: Kinship Families Affected by Substance Use and Mental Health**



## Disorders

The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) will host a [webinar](#) to celebrate [National Kinship Care Month](#) on services and supports for kinship and grandfamilies affected by substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders. This no-cost webinar will be offered on September 14, 2022, at 1:00 pm (ET). This webinar will review the barriers kinship families with substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders face in accessing specific developmental services for infants and children with prenatal substance exposure and highlight strategies for helping these families address their children's behavioral challenges. The webinar will give an overview of:

- “Specific needs of kinship and grandfamilies affected by substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders
- Services and supports available to help these families succeed
- About the *Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center.*”

### ONDCP, NCSACW Webinar: Harnessing the Power of State Perinatal Collaboratives to Improve Outcomes for Families Affected by Substance Use Disorder in Pregnancy

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), in collaboration with the National Institute for Children's Health Quality's (NICHQ) National Network of Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (NNPQC) and the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW), will host a [webinar](#) on strategies for implementing “Plans of Safe Care” that support infants, parents, and caregivers affected by substance use disorder (SUD) in pregnancy. This no-cost webinar will be offered on September 15, 2022, at 2:00 pm (ET) and is closed to press. The webinar will provide an overview of a collaborative approach to supporting infants and families affected by prenatal substance use, including:

- “Oklahoma's implementation of family care plans during the prenatal period to improve outcomes for families and prevent unnecessary child placement and to support these infants, families, and caregivers
- Oklahoma's changes in health care, substance use disorder treatment, and child welfare systems that support collaborative practice
- How Oklahoma has aligned and integrated cross-system supports for substance-exposed infants.”

The session will also highlight state Perinatal Quality Collaboratives and technical assistance resources available from NCSACW.

### HRSA Webinar: Caring for Women with Opioid Use Disorder: A Toolkit for Organization Leaders and Providers



The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Office of Women's Health (OWH) and Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs Regions 3 and 9 will host a [webinar](#) on best practices for providing services for women with opioid use disorder (OUD). This no-cost webinar will be offered on September 15, 2022, at 3:00 pm (ET). The webinar will cover emerging issues and innovative women's health practices regarding OUD developed by and for HRSA-supported organizations, community leaders, and other providers. The webinar is part of OWH's [Women's Health Leadership Series](#), which features public health experts spotlighting emerging issues and innovations in women's health.