
Visit our Website

Meet the Member

Chinazo Cunningham, M.D., SSA for New York, Commissioner of New York Office of Addiction Services and Supports

Dr. Cunningham is a physician, researcher, and public health professional who brings over 20 years of expertise in substance use treatment to the New York Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS).

Prior to joining OASAS, she served as the Executive Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, was a practicing physician at Montefiore Health System, and a Professor of Medicine, Family and Social Medicine, and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Dr. Cunningham has more than 20 years experience in research, care, and program development that focuses on people who use drugs. She has also partnered with community-based organizations to develop pioneering programs to promote the health of this population. Dr. Cunningham led one of the first clinics in New York City to integrate buprenorphine into primary care. She has trained hundreds of doctors to treat substance use disorders in primary care. She has also led several research studies and published numerous research articles that focus on treating substance use disorders.
NASADAD News

Congratulations to our 2022 NASADAD Award Winners!

We are pleased to announce the 2022 NASADAD Award Winners! These individuals were selected based on their tremendous work in supporting State prevention, treatment, and recovery systems. Congratulations to all of the winners!

Ramstad/Kennedy Award for Outstanding Leadership in Support of Recovery - Jay Chaudhary, Director, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration

NASADAD Service Award - Michael Langer, Division Director, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, Washington State Health Care Authority

- The award is given to a State Director (SSA) who has contributed outstanding service to the Association. This service can be in the form of chairing a NASADAD task committee, service as an officer of the association or a regional director on the Board of Directors, or other forms of work to contribute to NASADAD’s mission.

State Service Award - Carrie Slatton-Hodges, Commissioner, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

- This award goes to a State Director (SSA) who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in their respective State. This service and leadership may be in the form of management practices, implementation of evidence-based practices, development of innovative programming, or other categories.

Henrick J. Harwood & Robert E. Anderson Service Award in recognition of distinguished Service in the field of addiction research, training, and evaluation - Holly Hagle, UMKC and Laurie Krom, UMKC

- This award is given to an individual or organization for exemplary work in the area of substance use disorder research, training, or evaluation.

Friend of NASADAD Award - Jeff Coady, Acting Director, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP).

- The award is given to a non-member of NASADAD. The award is given to recognize outstanding service and leadership to the field of substance use disorders in general, and partnership with State alcohol and drug agencies/NASADAD in particular. The individual’s service and leadership should be
President’s Award - Given posthumously to Gajef McNeill, Illinois

- The President’s Award is given at the discretion of the President of NASADAD.

---

**Around the Agencies**

**Biden-Harris Administration Awards More Than $1.6 Billion in Funds for Communities Addressing SUD and Overdose Crises**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded more than $1.6 billion to communities addressing substance use disorder (SUD) and the overdose crisis. The funding is for four awards dedicated to State, Tribal, and rural opioid response, and technical assistance to help communities implement evidence-based and culturally responsive prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support services. The four awards include:

- SAMHSA’s State Opioid Response (SOR) grant program
- SAMHSA’s Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) grant program
- SOR/TOR Technical Assistance program
- HRSA’s Rural Communities Opioid Response Program

HRSA also announced more than $104 million in funding to expand treatment and prevention services for SUD, including medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), in rural communities as part of its Rural Communities Opioid Response Program. A breakdown of HRSA’s announced funding can be found [here](#).

**NIDA Releases Its FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan**

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) recently released its [FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#). The Plan sets priorities based on the current state of research to promote NIDA’s commitment to advancing science on drug use and addiction. The Strategic Plan prioritizes research informed by those with lived experiences of SUD to meet their needs and respond to scientific innovation and the rapidly shifting drug use landscape. NIDA’s 2022-2026 Strategic Plan’s Priority Scientific Areas include:

- Understand Drugs, the Brain, and Behavior
- Develop and Test Novel Prevention, Treatment, Harm Reduction, and Recovery Support Strategies
- Accelerate Research on the Intersection of Substance Use, HIV, and Related Comorbidities
Each priority area includes goals that target areas of emphasis and key focus areas that reflect specific research opportunities and other initiatives NIDA will undertake. The Plan also includes seven cross-cutting priorities that apply across the priority areas. NIDA’s FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan is a living document; updates can be found here.

**FDA Issues New Guidance Designed to Help Facilitate Availability of Naloxone to Prevent Opioid Overdoses and Reduce Death**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently issued new guidance, effective immediately, designed to help expand availability and access to naloxone for harm reduction programs. The guidance clarifies a public health emergency exclusion and exemption from requirements of the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) regarding the distribution of FDA-approved naloxone products to harm reduction programs and includes a related compliance policy. The FDA strives to increase harm reduction programs’ ability to obtain naloxone directly from manufacturers and distributors while expanding public availability as part of its Overdose Prevention Framework.

Although this guidance is immediately in effect, the FDA is accepting comments.

**HHS Releases Roadmap for Behavioral Health Integration**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently released the HHS Roadmap for Behavioral Health Integration. The Roadmap, which proposes policy solutions to better integrate mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) care into the broader health care system, is based on feedback HHS Secretary Becerra received from patients and providers during his National Tour to Strengthen Mental Health. This Roadmap aims to integrate the full spectrum of mental health and SUD health care into other systems as well, including social service and early childhood systems to ensure equitable access to evidence-based and culturally appropriate person-centered care.

As the tour continues, HHS will continue to collect feedback and propose policies that fulfill the Roadmap’s goal of making mental health and SUD healthcare available for all when needed.

**FDA Launches New Online Vaping Prevention and Education Resource Center**

The Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) announced the launch of the Vaping Prevention and Education Resource Center. This online Resource Center provides evidence-based, standards-mapped materials to help students understand the dangers of vaping, nicotine, and substance use disorder (SUD). The Center strives to foster learning and conversation with youths about vaping and features numerous age-appropriate, cross-curricular resources designed for various audiences, including teachers, parents, and teens. In particular:

- “Teachers will find lesson plans, interactive tools, infographics, and videos with tobacco facts and tips about how to teach teens about the dangers of vaping.
- Parents will find fact sheets, videos, and resources to help them understand and recognize vapes, talk with their children, and keep the conversation going over time.
- Students will find real-life stories and relatable content to help them understand vaping, nicotine addiction, common myths about vapes, and how to say no to vaping.”

All content on the Resource Center is free and optimized for each audience. The FDA’s CTP will continuously update the Center with new materials.
**Webinars to Watch**

**SAMHSA Recovery Month Panel Live Stream: Young Adults in Recovery—Making Small Choices, Every Day**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is hosting a panel for Recovery Month, in partnership with Mobilize Recovery, about young adults in recovery. This no-cost virtual meeting will be live-streamed on the SAMHSA Facebook page on September 30, 2022, at 1:15 pm (ET). The panelists will discuss their recovery journeys, barriers to successful youth recovery, and experiences with substance use disorder (SUD). The panel will cover topics including:

- “Seeking treatment for mental illness or substance use disorders;
- Overcoming challenges such as stigma during recovery; and
- Helping the public understand the importance of supporting those in recovery.”

**NIH HEAL Prevention Initiative Webinar: Applying Economic Evaluation to Your Research**

The National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Prevention Initiative (HPI) will host a webinar on strategies for incorporating economic evaluation into health prevention research. This no-cost webinar is on September 30, 2022, at 2:00 pm (ET). The webinar will discuss the real-world value of economic evaluation, approaches used by researchers within the HEAL Prevention Cooperative (HPC), and how to apply them to different programs. Topics and speakers include:

- “Introduction to Economic Evaluation - Max Crowley, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, and Public Policy, Pennsylvania State University
- Activity Based Costing - Kathryn E. McCollister, Ph.D., Health Economist and Professor at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
- Cost-Effectiveness Analysis - Margaret Kuklinski, Ph.D., Director of the Social Development Research Group at the University of Washington School of Social Work
- Budget Impact Analysis - Olga Khavjou, Ph.D., Research Economist for RTI International
- Panel Discussion - Exploring the Real-World Value of Prevention Economic Evaluation Moderator - Sarah Duffy, Ph.D., Associate Director for Economics Research, Deputy Chief, SRB, Division of Epidemiology, DESPR, NIDA”