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Meet the Member

Kevin Gabbert, State Opioid Treatment Authority for Iowa, LISW, IAADC, Project Director, Access to Recovery and Medication Assisted Treatment - Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction Grants

Kevin has been with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) since 2007, serving as the project director for the Access to Recovery (ATR) and Medication Assisted Treatment - Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction (MAT-PDOA) grants. In his current position he serves as the State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA), in addition to overseeing SUD Treatment Services for Iowa’s Integrated Provider Network (SAPT-funded providers).

Prior to coming to IDPH, Kevin worked for 15 years as a behavioral health clinician and a program director in rural Iowa. He received his Associate’s Degree in Human Services from Des Moines Area Community College, his Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Upper Iowa University, and his Master’s Degree in Social Work from the University of Iowa. Kevin is a Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW) and a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (IAADC).
New NASADAD Resource: Reauthorization of the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant Program

The State Opioid Response (SOR) grant program, housed within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA), is a federal grant program designed to address the “opioid overdose crisis by providing resources to states and territories for increasing access to FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder (MOUD), and for supporting the continuum of prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support services for opioid use disorder (OUD) and other concurrent substance use disorders (SAMHSA, 2022).”

NASADAD serves as the voice of State alcohol and drug agencies in Washington, D.C. NASADAD’s members are the State Single Agencies (SSAs) responsible for applying, receiving, and distributing SOR funds to programs and providers. The SOR grant program is currently up for reauthorization. As a result, NASADAD has developed an overview of key provisions in legislation in the the House of Representatives and Senate to reauthorize the program.

For more information about how States are using SOR funds, please visit the IMPACT OF STATE TARGETED RESPONSE & STATE OPIOID RESPONSE GRANTS.

The Resource can be accessed on our webpage here.

Around the Agencies

DEA Issues Public Safety Alert on Counterfeit Pills Containing Fentanyl

Last week, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a Public Safety Alert concerning the nationwide increase in the lethality of counterfeit prescription pills that contain fentanyl. The DEA Laboratory reports that six out of ten fentanyl-laced counterfeit prescription pills this year contain a lethal dose of fentanyl, up from four out of ten in 2021. This is the second such Public Safety Alert related to fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills with the DEA issuing one last year on the widespread drug trafficking of fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills. The DEA has also established the One Pill Can Kill awareness campaign to educate the public on the dangers of counterfeit pills.

Applications for 2023 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Addictions Counselors Now Open

The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) is accepting applicants for the 2023 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program for Addictions Counselors (MFP-AC). The NBCC MFP-AC aims to reduce health disparities and bolster community health by making mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) care accessible for all, regardless of culture. The MFP-AC offers fellowships for master’s-level counseling students committed to providing addictions counseling services to underserved and underrepresented communities to better engage diverse populations and raise the number of SUD professional counselors who provide direct services to minority populations. This program is funded by a grant awarded to the NBCC Foundation, in collaboration with NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC), by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Eligible applicants must demonstrate experience in SUD or addiction services to one or more of: underserved minority communities, child/adolescent and geriatric groups, minority communities in inner cities and rural areas, minority persons (including LGBTQIA2S+), or veterans or those from military families.

The MFP-AC will distribute up to 40 master’s degree-level counseling fellowships of $15,000 for addictions counseling students, plus travel expenses to participate in program-related trainings. The application deadline is December 31, 2022. Fellowship
awardees will be announced by the end of March 2023. More information on eligibility and how to apply can be found here.

**SAMHSA Releases 2022 Technical Assistance Collaborative Paper Series: From Crisis to Care: Building from 988 and Beyond for Better Mental Health Outcomes**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in collaboration with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), released the *From Crisis to Care: Building from 988 and Beyond for Better Mental Health Outcomes 2022 Technical Assistance Collaborative Paper Series*. The Series consists of 10 technical assistance collaborative papers providing resources for State leaders, policy makers, providers, peers, and others to learn about innovative services being used across the country and the need for further support 988 implementation. The papers aim is to help build services to establish a continuum of care that can prevent crises and provide a safety net for care for those who experience a health crises. The complete Collaborative Paper Series can be downloaded in full here.


The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH), in partnership with the Center for Public Health Systems Science at Washington University in St. Louis, published a new supplement to the Best Practices User Guide *Tobacco Where You Live: Retail Strategies to Promote Health Equity*. The Tobacco Where You Live supplement intends to empower State and local programs to take action to reduce tobacco use in communities with the highest prevalence by providing actionable guidance to implement retail strategies equitably and to achieve tobacco control goals. Since tobacco retailers tend to be concentrated in low-income areas and communities of color, these retail strategies can advance health equity by limiting access to commercial tobacco products, curbing exposure to tobacco marketing, and promoting cessation. Specifically, the Tobacco Where You Live: Retail Strategies to Promote Health Equity supplement helps:

- “Understand the local retail environment,
- Implement commercial tobacco retail strategies equitably,
- Learn how communities have used retail strategies to advance health equity, and
- Identify the best resources and tools to get started.”

The guide can be downloaded here.

**New COSSAP Resource: Five Steps to Effective Integration of Peer Recovery Support Services in the Criminal Justice System**

The Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) released a new resource on *Five Steps to Effective Integration of Peer Recovery Support Services in the Criminal Justice System*. Serving as the introduction to the Effective Integration Toolkit, to be released as a series of publications in the coming months, this resource provides steps to implement peer recovery support services in criminal justice settings and strives to embed recovery values and concepts in criminal justice system programs. The resource contains a checklist designed to inform peer practitioners’ next steps related to each of the following five “Ps” for effective integration in criminal justice settings:

1. “Promote recovery orientation,
2. Prepare to integrate,
3. Plan appropriate supports,
4. Produce peer-supportive policies, and
5. Provide supervision and support.”

**New SAMHSA Resource: Community Engagement: An Essential Component**
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a new resource on Community Engagement: An Essential Component of an Effective and Equitable Substance Use Prevention System. This resource is intended for practitioners, administrators, community leaders, and health educators and aims to provide an overview of how community engagement can play a pivotal role in the uptake of evidence-based policies in the substance use disorder (SUD) prevention system. The resource highlights research on how to effectively participate in community engagement in SUD prevention and provides guidance and examples for implementing evidence-based community engagement SUD prevention strategies from three organizations currently using them today. The resource can be downloaded here.

SAMHSA is hosting a webinar, in conjunction with the Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC) Network, highlighting findings from the guide on December 16, 2022, at 2:00 pm (ET). Registration is required.

**Webinars to Watch**

**DOJ Opioid Affected Youth Initiative Webinar: Trauma, Victimization, and Substance Use Disorder: Trends and Promising Practices to Facilitate Youth Resilience**

The Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI) is hosting a webinar on the relationship between trauma, victimization, and substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), with best practices for treatment and recovery for youth and families. This no-cost webinar will be offered on December 9, 2022, at 11:30 am (ET). The webinar is one of an eight-part series by OAYI addressing the challenges associated with OUD and other SUD among youth and families. This webinar will highlight strategies for leadership, coordination, and evidence-based practices for youth trauma, victimization, and SUD to create safer communities and enhance youth’s wellbeing. Registration is required. Specifically, the webinar will:

- “Analyze the relationship between trauma, substance use and SUDs, and victimization
- Explore evidence-based practices, tools, and strategies for addressing and treating trauma in youth
- Explore the common physical, emotional, and biological responses to trauma that prompt susceptibility to substance use/SUDs, and victimization
- Illustrate culturally responsive considerations to addressing the connection between race and trauma.”