

January 20, 2023



D.C. Update: DEA Issues Letter on Statutory Changes to Data-Waiver Program, SAMHSA Announces New Director of the 988 & Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office, New Webinars on Integrating Mental Health and SUD Services, and More.

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Meet the Member

DeAnn Decker, SSA of Iowa, joins NASADAD Board of Directors as Director of Region VII

We are excited to announce that Ms. DeAnn Decker, SSA in Iowa, is joining the NASADAD Board as Director of Region VII. Congratulations DeAnn!

DeAnn has served as Bureau Chief of Substance Abuse for the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for over 16 years. Her Bureau is made up of approximately 30 FTE staff that specialize in substance use disorder prevention and treatment. The Bureau also leads work on problem gambling and suicide prevention for the State of Iowa. Prior to coming to the Department of Public Health, she worked as a substance use disorder clinical reviewer for Magellan Behavioral Health for 11 years. Magellan was the first state's managed care company for mental health and substance use disorder services from 1995- 2016. Ms. Decker received her bachelor's degree in Family Services from the University of Northern Iowa. She is also a Certified International Alcohol and Drug Counselor.



Welcome DeAnn!

Capitol Hill Happenings

January Congressional Recess, Both Houses to Return Next Week

The Senate adjourned on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, after convening on January 3, 2023, for the start of the 118th Congress. The Senate is set to return to session on January 23, 2023. The House adjourned late last week on Friday, January 13, 2023, and will also resume session early next week on January 24, 2023.

Robert B. Aderholt Selected as Chairman of House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education

On January 16th, 2023, Representative Robert B. Aderholt (R-AL-4) was [selected](#) as the new Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. [Representative Aderholt's statement](#) following his selection as Chairman of the subcommittee with the largest non-defense discretionary spending bill announced his priorities are oversight and fiscal responsibility. The House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education has the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within their jurisdiction.

Around the Agencies

Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Issues Letter on Statutory Changes to Data-Waiver Program



On January 12, the DEA issued a letter providing initial information regarding action taken by Congress through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 that eliminated the "X-Waiver." The letter notes that:

- the DATA-Waiver is no longer required to treat patients with buprenorphine for opioid use disorders,
- all prescriptions now only require a standard DEA registration number,
- there are no longer any limits or caps on the number of patients a prescriber may treat for opioid use disorder with buprenorphine, and
- the Act does not impact existing State laws or regulations that may be applicable.

As you may know, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 also included new training requirements for all prescribers. The training requirements go into effect on June 21, 2023. As a result, the letter goes on to note that the DEA is working with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to develop and release guidance about these training requirements.

To see the letter, please visit [DEA announces important change to registration requirement \(usdoj.gov\)](#).

NIDA Announces 2023 National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week

The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) announced the [2023 National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week® \(NDAFW\)](#), which will be March 20-26, 2023. NIDA is calling on the public to plan events to empower teens and young adults in communities nationwide to make informed decisions about alcohol and other drug use. NDAFW offers a five step model to create these opportunities for unified action raising awareness of and preventing substance use among teens in communities. The five steps are:

- "Step 1: [Learn](#) about NDAFW with NIDA as your guide. NIDA offers a host of resources to help you and your planning team make the most of this annual, weeklong health observance that inspires dialogue around the science of drug use and addiction among youth.
- Step 2: [Plan](#) your NDAFW event using inspiration from NIDA's many [activity ideas](#). From videos and quizzes to lesson plans and conversation starters, NIDA resources are tailored for teens, parents, and educators to explore and interact.
- Step 3: [Register your event!](#) It only takes a few minutes to complete and gets your

event listed on the NIDA [events map](#) online.

- Step 4: View NIDA's [Research Topics](#) to find the science on specific substances or other areas of interest. Secure the science with the help of NIDA. View lessons and conversation starters to help further [education](#) and [conversation](#).
- Step 5: [Promote, promote, promote!](#) Whether it's via email, social media posts, or pitching local news to cover it, you can amplify your community activity or event to increase participation and spread the science."

More details on registering an event for NDAFW can be found [here](#).

SAMHSA Announces New Director of the 988 & Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced that Monica S. Johnson, M.A., LPC, is SAMHSA's new director of the [988 & Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office \(BHCCO\)](#). Ms. Johnson has worked in the mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) field for 26 years, most recently serving as Interim Commissioner at the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). The 988 & Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office:

- "Provides leadership on behavioral crisis services at the federal, state, local, territory, and tribal levels.
- Facilitates coordination, communication, and partnerships with the goal of creating a transformative and equitable behavioral health crisis system.
- Manages the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline grant program and operations."

Ms. Johnson's bio can be read [here](#).

CDC Releases New State Fact Sheets: Addressing Excessive Alcohol Use

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released [State Fact Sheets: Addressing Excessive Alcohol Use](#). These new fact sheets highlight the public health problem of excessive alcohol use, its impact, and policy solutions currently employed in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. CDC worked with States and communities to create these State-specific products that can be downloaded and shared with communities, decision makers, and other partners with the intent of educating States on evidence-based strategies to prevent excessive alcohol use.

New Opioid Response Network Course: The Disease Process and Addressing Substance Use Disorders



The Opioid Response Network (ORN), led by the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) and a coalition of national professional organizations funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is offering an online course about [The Disease Process and Addressing Substance Use Disorders](#). This no-cost on-demand course is designed to provide a foundational understanding of the medical aspects of substance use disorder (SUD), including:

- "the science of addiction;
- misconceptions;
- evidence-based practices needed in the prevention, identification, and treatment of SUDs and co-occurring psychiatric disorders for individuals involved with the justice system;
- cultural considerations; and
- the role of trauma and addiction as threats to reducing recidivism."

The course is intended for any professional working in the justice system, including judges, and justice system stakeholders who interact with individuals with SUD.

Webinars to Watch

National American Indian and Alaska Native ATTC Indigenous Behavioral Health Webinar Series - Fundamentals of Substance Use



The [National American Indian and Alaska Native Addiction Technology Transfer Center \(ATTC\)](#) will host an Indigenous Behavioral Health [Webinar Series](#) on Fundamentals of Substance Use. This no-cost webinar series spans five sessions; the first, an Overview of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders, is offered on January 24, 2023, at 12:00 pm (ET). That session will provide an overview of substance use and substance use disorder (SUD) and their impact on indigenous populations in particular. The remaining sessions, with topics and dates, include:

- “Session 2: Prevention (2/7)
- Session 3: Treating Substance Use Disorders (2/14)
- Session 4: Case Illustrations (2/21)
- Session 5: Reflections Upon Important Substance Use Topics - Q/A (2/28)”

[Registration](#) is required for the series as a whole.

National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services Webinar: Emergency Medical Services and Integration of Behavioral Health and Primary Care Services

The [National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services \(NACRHHS\)](#) is hosting a [webinar](#) on Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Integration of Behavioral Health and Primary Care Services. This 75-minute no-cost webinar is being offered on January 24, 2023, at 1:00 pm (ET). The webinar will dive deeper into topics of importance to rural areas identified at NACRHHS’s 90th meeting, including access to EMS in rural areas and the integration of mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services in primary care. The webinar will also review two policy briefs and recommendations regarding those topics submitted to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). [Registration](#) is required.

The policy brief and recommendations regarding Access to Emergency Medical Services in Rural Communities can be found [here](#).

The policy brief and recommendations regarding Behavioral Health and Primary Care Integration in Rural Health Facilities can be found [here](#).