
Meet the Member

Kate Dobler, MEd, BS, CPM, IMH-E, WSC for Arizona, Project Manager for PPW-PLT, Division of Grants Administration, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

Kate is the Project Director for Arizona’s State Pilot Grant Program for the Treatment of Pregnant and Postpartum Women (PPW-PLT) diagnosed with substance use disorder (SUD), together with their babies and families. Kate built her career driving positive bottom-line results for State of Arizona agencies by overseeing system development and improvement in the State’s early childhood development, health, and maternal mental health systems that support healthy babies and families. Kate holds a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University (2019), a Certificate in Public Management (ASU, 2015), a Bachelors of Science in Family Resources with an emphasis in Child Development (UoF, 1995), and is an endorsed infant-toddler mental health professional with the Infant Toddler Mental Health Coalition of Arizona. Kate works to build systems that meet people where they are, with what they need, when they need it, and in the way they want to engage. At the core of Kate’s work, is the belief that babies live in families, families live in communities, and that it takes all of us to support healthy, happy, and safe families. She also serves as the Women Service’s Coordinator (WSC) for Arizona.

Kate lives in Green Valley in the southern part of Arizona and enjoys the year-round gardening opportunities of the desert, playing with her kids and dogs, watching monsoon sunsets and desert rain, and looks forward to adding chickens to her garden ecosystem.
NASADAD News

New NASADAD Webpage on SUPTRS Block Grant

NASADAD now has a new webpage with resources dedicated to the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant (formerly the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant [SAPT Block Grant or SABG]). Visit our webpage to learn more about the Block Grant.

White House Happenings

LAPPA Model Act on Substance Use During Pregnancy and Family Care Plans

On March 7, the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA), funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy released the Model Substance Use During Pregnancy and Family Care Plans Act.

According to the press release, “The Model Substance Use During Pregnancy and Family Care Plans Act (1) provides certain protections to pregnant or postpartum individuals with a substance use disorder so that such individuals are not penalized for receiving medical treatment, including medication(s) to treat the substance use disorder and (2) establishes that an infant born affected by parental substance use disorder or showing signs of withdrawal is not, by itself, grounds for submitting a report of child abuse or neglect.”

The full text can be read here.

Capitol Hill Happenings

Three Bipartisan Bills Designed to Require Actions by FDA to Address the Opioid Epidemic Reintroduced

Last week, Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Mike Braun (R-IN) reintroduced three pieces of bipartisan legislation that would require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to take additional measures to address the drug epidemic.

The Ensuring the FDA Fully Examines Clinical Trial Impact and Vitalness before Endorsement (EFFECTIVE) Act (S. 607) aims to “provide FDA with authority to review the public health impacts of opioid approvals and deny new drug applications for opioid analgesics if the product is not clinically superior to other commercially available products.” This bill was developed in response to requests by FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf to “provide the agency with additional legal authority to implement recommendations outlined by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, in their 2017 report, Pain Management and the Opioid Epidemic.”

The Changing the Culture of the FDA Act (S. 604) is designed to “require the FDA to amend its mission statement to include specific language on the FDA’s responsibility for protecting public health by considering the dangers of addiction and overdose deaths when approving and regulating opioids.”

Finally, the Protecting Americans from Dangerous Opioids Act (S. 606) would “require that FDA revoke approval for an opioid drug currently on the market for every new opioid medication approval. The bill also requires that FDA prioritize revoking non-abuse deterrent opioids and consider the public health impact of the drug being on the market.”
Around the Agencies

NIDA Funding Opportunity: Substance Use Prevention Services in Primary Care Challenge

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) recently launched a new funding opportunity, "the Substance Use Prevention Services in Primary Care Challenge." For this funding challenge, NIDA is seeking “primary care-based substance use prevention models that address risk identification and provision of/referral to substance use prevention interventions. Responses should be aspirational, creative, and feasible, introducing new ideas for research and implementation.” The Challenge will reward a total of $100,000 across 4 awards of $25,000 each. Submissions are due May 19, 2023.

New NHSC Loan Repayment Programs: One Application, Three Programs

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Bureau of Health Workforce announced a new opportunity to apply for three loan repayment programs from the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) using just one application. In exchange for a commitment to serve at an NHSC-approved facility, practicing clinicians providing primary medical, dental, or mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) care services may qualify for a loan repayment of up to $50,000 with the NHSC Loan Repayment Program, or up to $75,000 for the NHSC Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program. Additionally, practicing clinicians can qualify for up to $100,000 for the NHSC Rural Community Loan Repayment Program, which works in coordination with Federal Office of Rural Health Policy FORHP’s rural opioid response programming to provide evidence-based substance use disorder treatment. The deadline to apply is April 25th, 2023.

Results of COSSAP’s ODMAP and Tribal Responses Demonstration Projects

In January 2023, the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) and Tribal Responses to Drug Overdoses demonstration projects, two Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) initiatives created to help eight States and four Tribal areas adopt ODMAP, held their final meeting. The meeting's results found that “all eight states and four tribal areas reported that ODMAP had provided their overdose responses a new degree of efficiency, collaboration, and optimism that better outcomes lay ahead.” The ODMAP Program was founded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

More information about these programs and the meeting's findings can be found here.

Research Round-Up


Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) published a systematic review describing polysubstance studies and their prevalence estimates among pregnant people in the U.S. The review found that “polysubstance use during pregnancy is common, especially with alcohol, marijuana, and/or tobacco/nicotine.”

The article can be found here.

SAMHSA’s PR CoE Releases Report on Findings
From Optimizing Recovery Funding Project

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) Peer Recovery Center of Excellence (PR CoE) recently released a report on the findings of their Optimizing Recovery Funding Project. The SAMHSA-funded Project “identifies and recommends best practices and strategies to optimize funding for high-quality and effective recovery support services.”

The PR CoE employed a two-part approach for this project, involving an assessment of the opportunities and barriers in accessing funding experienced by organizations in the area of recovery and an analysis of how states are administering funds to support recovery services. This report presents the findings and policy recommendations of the Optimizing Recovery Funding project, split into two volumes:

- “Volume 1 reviews the methods, findings, and recommendations from a national assessment of the challenges and successes experienced by organizations in the ecosystem of recovery in securing sustainable funding.
- Volume 2 reviews the methods, findings, and recommendations for the analysis of how states allocate funding to organizations for recovery support services (RSS).”

Webinars to Watch

MHTTC and CoE PHI Virtual Learning Series: Federal Health Privacy Laws: Basics for School Professionals

The Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) Network and the Center of Excellence for Protected Health Information (CoE PHI) are hosting a two-part virtual learning series on Federal Health Privacy Laws: Basics for School Professionals. This virtual learning series aims “to assist mental health professionals working in schools in understanding how the federal health privacy laws apply to student mental health information.” This no-cost series will:

- “Describe how federal health privacy laws (e.g., HIPAA and FERPA) apply to student mental health information
- Explain how student mental health information can be protected and shared in compliance with federal health privacy laws
- Discuss common scenarios involving student mental health information that arise in school settings through case study discussions led by clinical and legal experts
- Demonstrate how relevant resources and technical assistance can be accessed through the MHTTC Network and the CoE PHI”

Session 1 will be offered on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 1:00 PM (ET). This session will “focus on the importance of protecting and sharing student mental health information.” It will also “provide an overview of the federal health privacy laws that apply to student mental health information.”

Session 2 will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 1:00 PM (ET). This session will build upon Session 1 by “reviewing common scenarios in school settings that involve student mental health information. Subject matter experts will lead a discussion about clinical and legal considerations for each scenario.”

Registration is required.