

May 18, 2023



D.C. Update: President Biden to Nominate New NIH Director, New SAMHSA Funding Opportunity, NIH Study Finds High Levels of Chronic Pain Among Adults, and More.

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Meet the Member

Lisa Cohen, M.A., Illinois DHS, SUPR's Liaison

Lisa Cohen, M.A., came to the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (IDHS/SUPR) in 1999 after completing her master's degree from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration. Currently, Lisa is serving as the Women's Services/Department of Children and Family Services Liaison, manages the Pregnant and Postpartum Person Enhanced Recovery Home program (PPP-ERH), and manages the Child Welfare Collaborative Partnership. She had the opportunity to participate in SAMHSA's Women's Addiction Services Leadership Institute (WASLI) program in 2013 and has been the Women's Services Coordinator (WSC) for Illinois since 2016. Previously, Lisa managed several women-focused programs for the Division including the Department of Corrections Female Criminal Justice Initiative, the Integrated Services: Domestic Violence Addiction Intervention and Treatment Services, and the Illinois Offender Reentry Program (ORP). She served as Project Director for Illinois' Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) grants and Medication Assisted Treatment-Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction program (MAT-PDOA). Lisa was the lead, writing and coordinating the submission of Illinois' State Pilot Grant Program for Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women (2020) and served as the Acting Project Director until the role was filled.

Capitol Hill Happenings

President Biden to Nominate New NIH Director

On May 16, President Biden [announced](#) he will nominate the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Director Monica Bertagnolli to lead the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Bertagnolli is an oncologist, cancer researcher, educator, physician, and was confirmed as director of NCI on October 3, 2022. If confirmed, she would be only the second

woman to permanently lead the NIH.

NIH houses research institutes such as the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) that supports medical research on drug use and addiction, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) that researches the impact of alcohol use on human health and well-being. Longtime NIH Director Francis Collins retired in December 2021.

Capitol Hill Happenings

Senate HELP Subcommittee Hearing on Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Health, Education
Labor & Pensions

On May 17th, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions held a Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security hearing on *A Crisis in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Care: Closing Gaps in Access by Bringing Care and Prevention to Communities*. The hearing included testimony from Dr. Maria Celli, Deputy CEO, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center; Mr. Steven Denny, Deputy Director, Four County Mental Health Center; Dr. Warren Ng, President, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; and Dr. Stephen Taylor, President-Elect, American Society of Addiction Medicine.

The hearing video and witness testimony can be found [here](#).

What's This Talk About the Debt Ceiling?

Congress created the debt limit (or debt ceiling) in 1917 as the maximum amount of federal debt the U.S. Government can incur. Raising or suspending the debt ceiling is done by both the House of Representatives and Senate approving to borrow money for the U.S. Government to pay their debts. Both chambers must adopt a concurrent resolution before they can begin to consider revenue, spending, and debt-limit legislation. Congress has raised the debt ceiling 78 times since 1960.

This week, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen [wrote a letter](#) to Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy noting that the government could run out of money as early as June 1 if the debt ceiling is not raised or suspended.

Additional resources:

- Congressional Research Service: [Legislative Procedures for Adjusting the Public Debt Limit: A Brief Overview](#)
- Congressional Research Service: [Votes on Measures to Adjust the Statutory Debt Limit, 1978 to Present](#)

Around the Agencies

New SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Cooperative Agreements for States and Territories to Improve Local 988 Capacity

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently announced a \$177 million funding opportunity for the [Cooperative Agreements for States and Territories to Improve Local 988 Capacity](#). The program intends to “improve states and territories’ response to 988 contacts (including calls, chats, and texts) originating in the state/territory” by:

- “enhancing recruitment, hiring, and training of the 988 workforce to meet at minimum 90% state or territory calls, chats, and texts demand;
- implementing additional technology and security measures to fully support 988 infrastructure and effective coordination across the crisis continuum;

- improving 988 support and service for high-risk and underserved populations;
- developing and implementing comprehensive quality assurance plans, to include identification and review of critical incidents;
- and developing and implementing comprehensive 988 communication plans to align with SAMHSA’s 988 partner toolkit.”

SAMHSA will offer up to 56 awards. According to the notice of funding, “State and territorial government agencies, including the District of Columbia; Guam; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; the Northern Mariana Islands; the Virgin Islands; and American Samoa. SAMHSA will only make one award per state and territory. If SAMHSA receives more than one application from a state or territory, SAMHSA will fund the application with the highest priority score.”

Applications are due June 26th, 2023.

New SAMHSA Resource: Expanding Access to and Use of Substance Use and Mental Health Services for People at Risk for or Experiencing Homelessness

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released a new [guide](#) on expanding access to and use of mental health and substance use services for people at risk for or experiencing homelessness.

This guide “highlights strategies for behavioral health and housing providers to conduct outreach and engage with individuals experiencing homelessness, initiate use of behavioral health treatment as they wait to receive stable housing and retain them in their recovery efforts once housed.” It offers five evidence-based interventions and their associated behavioral health outcomes: medication for opioid use disorder, motivational interviewing, intensive case management, Community Reinforcement Approach, and peer support. To access this guide, visit SAMHSA’s website [here](#).

Research Round-Up

NIH Study Finds Young Men At Highest Risk Of Schizophrenia Linked With Cannabis Use Disorder



A [study](#) led by Mental Health Services in the Capital Region of Denmark and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) found an association between cannabis use disorder and schizophrenia among men and women. This association was found to be significantly stronger in young males than in females. Researchers conducted a nationwide Danish cohort study examining individuals who are 16-49 years old from 1971-2021. The study found that “young males might be particularly susceptible to the effects of cannabis on schizophrenia. At a population level, assuming causality, one-fifth of cases of schizophrenia among young males might be prevented by averting CUD. Results highlight the importance of early detection and treatment of cannabis use disorder (CUD) and policy decisions regarding cannabis use and access, particularly for 16-25-year-olds.” To read more about this study and its findings, visit the NIH website [here](#).

NIH Study Finds High Levels of Chronic Pain Among Adults

A new [study](#) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) found by analyzing data from the [National Health Interview Survey \(NHIS\)](#) that “new cases of chronic pain occur more often among U.S. adults than new cases of several other common conditions, including diabetes, depression, and high blood pressure.” Among these individuals suffering from chronic pain, nearly two-thirds still struggle with the condition a year later. To read more about this study and its findings, visit the NIH website [here](#).

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