

May 25, 2023



D.C. Update: NASADAD Letter to Support S.862, FDA Approves New Buprenorphine Treatment, New SAMHSA Resource, and More.

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Meet the Member

Kelly Welker, WSN for Indiana, Executive Director Of Addiction, Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction



Kelly Welker is the Executive Director of Addiction with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) and the Women's Service Coordinator for the State of Indiana since 2017. She started as Bureau Chief of Addiction Services in May 2017, was promoted to Assistant Deputy Director in October 2017, and was recently promoted to Executive Director of Addiction in November 2022. As part of her role, she provides oversight of grants that fall under the addiction treatment team, including the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant, State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant, and Opioid Settlement funds. Prior to her time at DMHA, she spent fourteen years in three different Problem-Solving Courts, Adult Drug Treatment Diversion, Community Court, and Family Recovery Court. Her roles included Case Manager, Resource Coordinator, and Court Coordinator. Kelly received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Ball State University.

NASADAD News

NASADAD Participates in Meeting Regarding CDC's Opioid Rapid Response Program

On May 16 and 17, Robert Morrison participated in a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, led by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASHTO), to discuss the Opioid Rapid Response Program (ORRP), a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initiative. The meeting began with remarks by Dr. Chris Jones, Director of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC). The program, as described by CDC, is "... an interagency, coordinated federal effort to help mitigate overdose risks among patients who lose access to a prescriber of opioids, medications for opioid use disorder, or other controlled substances, such as benzodiazepines. Disrupted access

could be due to law enforcement actions or other events, such as the retirement, death, or voluntary closure by a clinician who prescribes controlled substances.” The meeting included presentations from different States describing their experiences with disrupted access issues. The ORRP initiative supports States through technical assistance with planning and training exercises. In addition to staff from ASTHO, organizations such as the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) and others were represented. To learn more, visit the CDC website [here](#).

NASADAD Letter to Support S.862 - Restoring America’s Healthcare Workforce and Readiness Act

On Monday, May 22, NASADAD sent a letter to Senators Richard (Dick) Durbin (D-IL) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) in support of their proposed bill [S.862, the Restoring America’s Healthcare Workforce and Readiness Act](#). The bill would strengthen and expand the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) National Health Service Corps (NHSC)- a workforce program that provides numerous scholarships and loan repayment to healthcare professionals, including substance use disorder (SUD) providers, primarily SUD counselors, in exchange for working in HRSA-designated health professional shortage areas (HPSA). S.862 consists of two provisions designed to address the national healthcare workforce shortage by:

1. Reauthorizing and increasing funding for the NHSC, and
2. Establishing a National Health Service Corps Emergency Service demonstration project

The letter can be found on the NASADAD site, [here](#).

Please reach out to Daniel Diana (ddiana@nasadad.org) with any questions.

Around the Agencies

FDA Approves Prescription Nasal Spray to Reverse Opioid Overdose for Patients 12 Years and Older

Earlier this week, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Opvee, the first nalmeferene hydrochloride nasal spray for the treatment of opioid overdose in adults and pediatric patients 12 years and older. This newly approved product to reverse opioid overdoses “...delivers 2.7 milligrams (mg) of nalmeferene into the nasal cavity, is available by prescription and is intended for use in health care and community settings.”

The FDA’s press release announcing the approval of Opvee can be found [here](#).

FDA Approves New Buprenorphine Treatment Option for Opioid Use Disorder



Earlier this week, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Brixadi, buprenorphine extended-release injection for subcutaneous use to treat opioid use disorder (OUD). Brixadi is being made available in two formulations: “...a weekly injection that can be used in patients who have started treatment with a single dose of a transmucosal buprenorphine product or who are already being treated with buprenorphine, and a monthly version for patients already being treated with buprenorphine.” Doses will vary by formulation and the individual’s tolerance for buprenorphine. The FDA is making Brixadi available through a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) program and is to be administered only by health care providers in health care settings.

The FDA’s press release announcing the approval of Brixadi can be found [here](#).

New SAMHSA Funding Opportunity: Cooperative Agreements for 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Center Follow-Up Programs

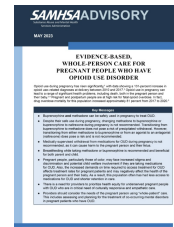
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently

announced a \$5 million funding opportunity for the [Cooperative Agreements for 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Crisis Center Follow-Up Programs](#). The program intends to “... expand efforts among Lifeline crisis centers to support individuals post-contact to provide continued support and linkages to decrease suicide risk” by:

- “...ensuring the systematic follow-up of suicidal persons who contact the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline;
- providing enhanced coordination of crisis stabilization, crisis respite, mobile crisis outreach (MCO) response services, and other services on the crisis continuum of care;
- reducing unnecessary police engagement, in line with Executive Order 14704 Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety;
- and improving connections for high-risk populations.”

SAMHSA will offer up to 10 awards of \$500,000 per year per award, for up to 3 years. Applications are due June 26th, 2023.

New SAMHSA Resource: Evidence-Based, Whole Person Care of Pregnant People Who Have Opioid Use Disorder



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a new resource [Advisory: Evidence-based, Whole Person Care of Pregnant People Who Have Opioid Use Disorder \(OUD\)](#).

This guide “...outlines how healthcare providers (i.e., obstetrician-gynecologists [OB-GYNs], primary care physicians, and other professionals who treat pregnant people) can take an active role in supporting the health of pregnant individuals who have OUD and their babies.” This guide can be downloaded [here](#).

New ACF Funding Opportunity: Prevention Services Evaluation Partnerships: Building Evidence for Mental Health, Substance Use, In-home Parent Skill-based, and Kinship Navigator Programs and Services

The Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced an \$8.9 million funding opportunity for [Prevention Services Evaluation Partnerships: Building Evidence for Mental Health, Substance Use, In-home Parent Skill-based, and Kinship Navigator Programs and Services](#). The program aims to “...support summative (i.e., impact) randomized control trial or quasi-experimental evaluations of a mental health, substance abuse prevention and/or treatment, in-home parent skill-based, or kinship navigator program or service.” HHS will offer up to 12 awards of up to \$1.5 million per award. Applications are due July 11, 2023.

Webinars to Watch

COSSUP Webinar Series: Understanding the Changing Illicit Drug Landscape

The Bureau of Justice Assistance’s (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) is hosting a two-part webinar series on Understanding the Changing Illicit Drug Landscape. The two webinars’ topics and times can be found below:

- [Emerging Substances in the Illicit Drug Landscape: Xylazine](#): This webinar will “... serve as an introduction to two decades of trends in the illicit drug landscape using fatal overdose data.” It will feature experts in this area to “...discuss the association between...trends and drug use behaviors, especially as it pertains to the use of synthetic opioids like fentanyl, and the emerging co-use trends with stimulants and the introduction of xylazine.” The event will also detail efforts to address emerging harms associated with xylazine. This no-cost webinar will be offered on May 30, 2023, at 2:00 PM (ET). Registration is required.
- [Community-based Drug Checking](#): This webinar will “...highlight innovative drug-

checking technologies that are used in response to the highly variable drug market.” Experts will “...discuss efforts to expand drug checking through syringe service and other harm reduction agencies” as well as efforts to introduce and expand the distribution of fentanyl test strips. This no-cost webinar will be offered on June 8, 2023, at 2:00 PM (ET). Registration is required.

NASADAD | 1919 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite M 250, Washington, DC 20006

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