

August 3, 2023



D.C. Update: CDC Releases FAQs on Xylazine, PTTC Webinar on Cannabidiol, LPPA Releases the Model Drug Take-Back and Disposal Program Act, and More.

Visit our Website



Meet the Member

Greg Bledsoe, CADC II, WSC for Oregon, Health Systems Division, Oregon Health Authority

Greg Bledsoe started his career in the field of substance use disorders (SUD) as a withdrawal management technician in 2001, while working for a nonprofit mental health and SUD care agency. During that time, he obtained his bachelor's degree in Health Care Administration, as well as becoming a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor-II (CADC II). He worked for a mental health and SUD health care agency for 16 years, working many positions, including a direct service provider, supervisor, manager, and director of residential services. In 2016, Greg began working at the Oregon Health Authority as the Women's Services Coordinator (WSC) in the Addictions, Treatment, Recovery, and Prevention unit. He believes in the mission of the Oregon Health Authority and works hard to help make Oregon a healthy place for all.



Greg was born and raised in Oregon and is a proud father of two happy and healthy children. When he is not working, he is golfing, swimming, camping, and spending time with family. He is a person in long term recovery, celebrating 25 years last May, and is enjoying his life one day at a time.

Farewell to Caroline Halsted

Please join us in sharing well wishes to Caroline Halsted, Research Analyst on her last week at NASADAD. Since joining the Research and Program Applications Department in February of 2020, she has supported the work of the Women's Services Network, State Opioid Treatment Authorities, and

Youth Coordinators. Caroline has also worked on multiple other projects, including TA provided under the SSA-TA Contract, data collection and analysis for the OTP census, the development of documents to support collaboration between the AOD and child welfare systems, and the development of case studies, among others.



Caroline will be joining AcademyHealth as a Senior Research Associate in State Health Policy. In her new role, she will support the work of AcademyHealth's Evidence-Informed State Health Policy Institute (ESHPI), including a project on improving access to prenatal and postpartum care for pregnant and postpartum individuals insured by Medicaid. She is excited to take what she has learned from NASADAD and the WSN into her new role and has thoroughly enjoyed working with the states and NASADAD staff throughout her time with the Association. Feel free to connect with her on LinkedIn [here](#).

Capitol Hill Happenings

Bicameral Health Committee Leaders Announce Bipartisan RFI Regarding FDA-Regulation of CBD

On July 27th, bicameral health committee leaders from the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) announced a [bipartisan request for information \(RFI\) regarding the Food and Drug Administration's \(FDA\) regulation of Cannabidiol \(CBD\)](#). The RFI is led by House E&C Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) and Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), along with HELP Committee Chair Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Ranking Member Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA). The RFI asks for written responses to a series of questions related to the regulation of CBD.

Notably, question 9 and 10 seek input on Federal-State Interaction, “9. *In the absence of federal regulation or enforcement over CBD products, many states have established state regulatory programs to safeguard public health and create market certainty for industry participants. a. Which product standards relating to warning labels, minimum age of sale, manufacturing and testing, ingredient prohibitions, adverse event reporting, and others, have states adopted to protect consumer safety? b. Which such standards, if any, should Congress look to as models? 10. How should Congress consider federal preemption as it works towards a regulatory pathway? Should states be able to continue to build upon federal regulation of CBD products?”*

Responses to this RFI are requested to CBD@mail.house.gov and CBD@help.senate.gov by **August 18, 2023**. House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers' press release announcing the RFI can be read [here](#).

Around the Agencies

CMS Releases Medicaid and CHIP Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Action Plan



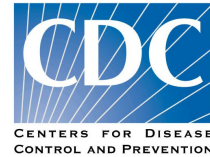
Last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the [Medicaid and CHIP Mental Health \(MH\) and Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Action Plan](#). The Action Plan outlines CMS' strategies for improving treatment and support services for enrollees with mental health and SUD across three main priorities: 1. Increasing access to prevention and treatment, 2. Improving engagement in care, and 3. Enhancing quality of care. Specific “...areas of focus include improving coverage and integration to increase access to prevention and treatment services, encouraging engagement in care through increased availability of home and community based services and coverage of non-traditional services and settings, and improving quality of care for MH conditions and SUDs.”

CMS also released a two-page overview of the Action Plan, which can be found [here](#).

Additional information on CMS' cross cutting initiatives for mental health and SUD can be found [here](#).

CDC Releases FAQs on Xylazine

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) on [What You Should Know About Xylazine](#). The topics covered include: the symptoms and health risks of xylazine, how people are exposed to xylazine, and what to do for someone with signs of a possible opioid overdose involving xylazine, amongst others. For more information on drug overdose, visit the CDC's drug overdose webpage, [here](#).



LAPPA Releases the Model Drug Take-Back and Disposal Program Act

The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) recently released [The Model Drug Take-Back and Disposal Program Act](#). "The primary purpose of this Act is to establish a comprehensive and uniform statewide system for the safe and convenient collection and disposal of unused, expired, and unwanted drugs." The Act would require states to:



1. "Designate an agency or department to oversee the statewide system of drug take-back programs;
2. Require that manufacturers that sell their product into the state pay an annual fee to help cover the costs related to implementing the provision of this Act;
3. Promote public outreach that educates residents on the inherent risks of unused, expired, and unwanted drugs; the potential harm to the environment posed by improper drug disposal; and the options for collection and disposal of drugs available within the state; and
4. Ensure that state drug take-back and disposal programs operate in an efficient manner that prioritizes the safe and secure disposal of drugs."

The Model Drug Take-Back and Disposal Program Act can be downloaded on LAPPA's website, [here](#).

NIH Selects Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo as Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently announced that Jeanne M. Marrazzo, M.D., will serve as the next director of [NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases \(NIAID\)](#), starting this fall. Dr. Marrazzo currently serves as director of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Alabama and has continuously been a principal investigator on NIH grants since 1997. She's also served as a peer reviewer and advisory committee member, as well as a mentor to trainees, including on NIH-funded training grants. Dr. Marrazzo is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and has been board certified in infectious disease. In her new role as NIAID director, "...Dr. Marrazzo will oversee NIAID's budget of \$6.3 billion, which supports research to advance the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of infectious, immunologic and allergic diseases. NIAID supports research at universities and research organizations around the United States and across NIAID's 21 laboratories..." Dr. Anthony Fauci previously served as the NIAID Director from 1984-2022.



NIH's press release announcing Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo's selection can be found [here](#).

CDC Study Finds Two out of Three Adults Have Experienced at Least one ACE

A [study](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in a recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) found that from 2011 to 2020 “...nearly 2 in 3 U.S. adults reported at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE), and 1 in 6 reported four or more ACEs.” The study reports variation in individual and total ACEs by key sociodemographic characteristics, including household income, education level, and race and ethnicity, as well as by State. Of note, the CDC found that “ACEs were more common among certain groups, including 25-34-year-olds, American Indian or Alaska Native adults, adults who are multiracial non-Hispanic, adults with less than a high school education, and adults who were unemployed or unable to work.” The study can be read in full on the CDC’s website, [here](#).

Research Round-Up

OJJDP Webinar: Making Changes Work in the Criminal Justice System: Best Practices for Quality Improvement

The Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s (OJJDP) [Opioid Affected Youth Initiative \(OAYI\)](#) is hosting a webinar on [Harm Reduction: A Pathway to Wellness](#). This no-cost webinar is offered on August 8, at 1:00 pm (ET). The webinar aims to “...address the pragmatic aspects of harm reduction and provide guidance on this framework focusing on the impact of substance use disorders in the workplace including the creation of recovery-ready work environments.” Specifically, the webinar’s objectives are to:

- “Identify and analyze the impact of substance use disorder in the workplace and the importance of understanding how to support those most vulnerable through distinct levels of organizational transformation
- Explore how to utilize strategies for hiring and recruiting individuals experienced in the implementation of harm reduction strategies in the workplace in order to create and nurture a recovery-friendly culture that will lend itself to a recovery-friendly workplace
- Advance understanding of the importance of equitable access to services that will support, empower, and engage families and youth in meaningful community transformation efforts.”

Registration is required.

PTTC Webinar: Cannabidiol (CBD) – Potential Harms, Side Effects, and Unknowns

The Prevention Technology Treatment Center (PTTC) is hosting a webinar on [Cannabidiol \(CBD\) – Potential Harms, Side Effects, and Unknowns](#). This no-cost webinar is offered on August 8, at 2:30 pm (ET). The webinar features mental health and substance use policy experts and highlight the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) [new advisory on Cannabidiol \(CBD\) - Potential Harms, Side Effects, and Unknowns](#). The webinar covers how CBD is derived, its biological and physiological effects, the risks and harms of its use, and how it differs from other cannabis products. Registration is required.

LAPPA Webinar: Overdose Fatality Review Model Law Knowledge Lab

Sponsored by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) is hosting a webinar as part of the Model Law Virtual Knowledge Lab series on [Overdose Fatality Review](#). This no-cost webinar is being held on August 17, at 2:00 pm (ET). The Overdose Fatality Review Model Knowledge Lab webinar will examine State policy and legislative activities regarding the [Model Overdose Fatality Review \(OFR\) Teams Act](#), including key components of the model laws and balancing the needs of those in public safety with the needs of those in public health in tackling drug overdose. Registration is required.

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

[Unsubscribe ladams@nasadad.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by ladams@nasadad.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!