

July 20, 2023



D.C. Update: Vice President Harris Convenes State Attorneys General for Discussion on Fentanyl, New SAMHSA Resource, NIDA Study Finds Disparities in Medicaid Access to Opioid Treatments, and More.

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Meet the Member

Daniela White, MA, LADC, LPC, WSC for Minnesota, Women Services Lead, Behavioral Health Division, Minnesota Department of Human Services



Daniela White, MA, LADC, LPC is a dually licensed mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) counselor from Minnesota. She manages the Women SUD recovery services for the Minnesota Department of Human Services-Behavioral Health Division. Daniela has been the Women's Services Coordinator (WSC) since 2022 and has dedicated the past 4 years to improving SUD services for women. She is passionate about culturally responsive services and multigenerational approaches and strives to implement these approaches into her work. Daniela has worked in the mental health and substance use disorder field for over 10 years in various capacities and is currently pursuing a doctorate in counseling psychology.

NASADAD News

Carole Johnson, HRSA, Presents On HRSA's Federal Policy Priorities and Programs Related to Substance Use Disorder at NASADAD Annual Meeting

On June 28, NASADAD hosted Carole Johnson, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), for a federal policy session on HRSA's priorities and programs related to the substance use disorder (SUD) field as part of the NASADAD Annual Meeting. Administrator Johnson highlighted HRSA's programs that support the SUD workforce and

discussed how they relate to the work of State alcohol and drug agency directors - chiefly around recruiting, training, and retaining the SUD workforce. The NASADAD Board, led by Sara Goldsby (S.C.), President, has identified workforce issues as a top priority. As a result, NASADAD continues to collaborate with HRSA to promote awareness for their SUD workforce programs, including the Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program (STAR LRP), the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program, and the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Program.



To promote HRSA's efforts around SUD workforce, NASADAD recently wrote a letter of support for S.862, the Restoring America's Health Care Workforce and Readiness Act, sponsored by Senators Richard (Dick) Durbin (D-IL) and Marco Rubio (R-FL).

If signed into law, this bill would reauthorize and increase funding for the NHSC through Fiscal Year 2026. The letter of support can be found on the NASADAD website, [here](#), and the proposed bill S.862 can be found [here](#).

A special thank you to Administrator Johnson for her presentation and dialogue. NASADAD looks forward to our continued partnership with HRSA.

Kristen Beronio, CMS, Presents On Improving Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment at NASADAD Annual Meeting

On June 28th, at NASADAD's Annual Meeting, Kirsten Beronio who serves as the Senior Policy Advisor at the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS), presented on Improving Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment. Her presentation focused on navigating the Public Health Emergency Unwinding; Medicaid 1115 waivers; contingency management; crisis services funding under CMS; school-based services; provider capacity; and extending and expanding certified community behavioral health clinics.



NASADAD is greatly appreciative of Ms. Beronio sharing her time and expertise with attendees. We look forward to a continued partnership with CMS.

White House Happenings

988 Anniversary Stakeholder Webinar

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Becerra, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Assistant Secretary Delphin-Rittmon will be joined by other Administration officials in hosting a [988 Anniversary Stakeholder Webinar](#). This no-cost webinar is being held tomorrow, Friday, July 21, at 1:00 pm ET. Register in advance for this webinar [here](#).



For more information on 988, visit the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline webpage, [here](#).

Vice President Harris Convenes State Attorneys General for Discussion on Fentanyl

Earlier this week, Vice President Kamala Harris convened several State Attorneys General for a discussion, moderated by White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director Dr. Rahul Gupta, around federal and State efforts to disrupt the illicit fentanyl supply and expand access to care for individuals at risk of overdose. The

roundtable discussed actions taken by the Biden-Harris Administration to help States tackle the opioid and overdose epidemic, including a [National Response Plan to Fentanyl Combined with Xylazine](#), the [High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas \(HIDTA\) Program](#), State model laws to address substance use disorder (SUD)/overdose, [a non-fatal opioid overdose tracker](#), and expanded access to SUD treatment for incarcerated individuals. Vice President Harris also announced nearly \$50 million in grants to be awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to address the nation's overdose epidemic. The Vice President thanked the State Attorneys General for their leadership in expanding SUD prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery services in their states. State Attorneys General at the discussion included:

- Aaron Ford, Attorney General of Nevada
- Kathy Jennings, Attorney General of Delaware
- Michelle Henry, Attorney General of Pennsylvania
- Letitia James, Attorney General of New York
- Kris Mayes, Attorney General of Arizona
- Ellen Rosenblum, Attorney General of Oregon
- Brian Schwab, Attorney General of District of Columbia
- Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina

The White House press release about the discussion can be found [here](#).

A recording of the opening remarks can be viewed [here](#).

Capitol Hill Happenings

HELP Committee Markup Next Week

On July 26, at 10:30 a.m., the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) will hold a markup on a [bill](#) (not yet assigned an official number) to address the workforce crisis. Among the measures included in the bill are reinstating the Women's Addiction Services Leadership Institute (WASLI), funding for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), and more.

The HELP Committee press release announcing the bill is available [here](#).

The summary of the bill can be found [here](#).

Around the Agencies

HHS Awards \$47.8 Million in Grant Funding for Programs Designed to Address OUD, SUD, and Overdose



The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), [announced awards in five grant programs](#) designed to combat "...multiple facets of substance misuse and the nation's overdose epidemic," totaling up to \$47.8 million. The five grant programs, their awards, and funding totals can be found below:

- [Medication-Assisted Treatment-Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction \(MAT-PDOA\)](#) Grant Program: 21 awards totaling up to \$18.4 million to help expand or enhance access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD).
- [Emergency Department Alternatives to Opioids Demonstration Program](#): 15 awards totaling up to \$7.4 million to develop and implement alternatives to opioids for pain management in hospitals and emergency department (ED) settings.
- [Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act \(STOP Act\)](#) program: 50 awards totaling up to \$3 million to prevent and reduce alcohol use among youth and young adults ages 12-20 in communities throughout the United States.
- [Adult Reentry Program](#): 34 awards totaling up to \$13.6 million to expand substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and related recovery and reentry services to sentenced adults in the criminal justice system who have SUDs or co-occurring

substance use and mental disorders.

- [State Pilot Grant Program for Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women](#): six awards totaling up to \$5.4 million: to support family-based services for pregnant and postpartum women with a primary diagnosis of an SUD, including OUDs.

SAMHSA's press release announcing the grant funding can be found [here](#).

SAMHSA Now Accepting Applications for Open TTAC Committee Positions

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is accepting applications for open Primary or Alternate Delegate positions on the SAMHSA Tribal and Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC). Each TTAC delegate must be an elected or traditionally appointed Tribal government official or designated representative. Open positions include:

- **Albuquerque Area:** Primary Delegate
- **Bemidji Area:** Alternate Delegate
- **Billings Area:** Primary and Alternate Delegate
- **California Area:** Alternate Delegate
- **Nashville Area:** Alternate Delegate
- **Oklahoma Area:** Alternate Delegate
- **Phoenix Area:** Primary and Alternate Delegate
- **Tucson Area:** Primary and Alternate Delegate

To read more about the positions and to apply, visit the SAMHSA website [here](#).

SAMHSA Seeking Comments on Harm Reduction Framework



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is seeking comments on a draft document that proposes a Harm Reduction Framework. The purpose of the document would be to inform SAMHSA's harm reduction activities, as well as related policies, programs, and practices. Comments are due by 5:00 PM (ET) on August 14, 2023.

To see the document, visit SAMHSA's website [here](#).

Research Round-Up

NIDA Study Finds Disparities in Medicaid Access to Opioid Treatments

A recent study supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) published on the JAMA Health Forum concluded that, in the "...rates of OUD medication treatment and opioid-related overdose varied substantially across and within states." The study found that "...cross-state OUD prevalence ranged from 0.6% to 9.7%, rates of OUD medication treatment from 17.7% to 82.8%, and rates of OUD-related overdoses from 0.3% to 10.5% across states." Findings from this study highlight how expanding access "...to all types of medication for OUD should remain an important goal for state Medicaid programs." These findings also suggest that further research is required to "...identify factors influencing claims-based OUD prevalence and rates of OUD medication treatment and overdose."

To read more about this study and its findings, visit JAMA [here](#).

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