

November 7, 2024



DC Update: NASADAD Meets with ONDCP Office of Public Health, CMS Announces Final Rules to Expand Access to Mental Health and SUD Care, CFRI Webinar: Financing Peer Crisis Respite in the US, and More.

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Meet the Member

Dr. Pamela Mund, State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) for New York

Dr. Pamela Mund, MD, FASAM, AABIVMS, serves as Chief of Addiction Medicine for the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS). Dr. Mund also serves as the State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) for New York.

In her current role as Chief of Addiction Medicine, she provides substance use disorder (SUD)-related medical guidance for New York State-operated and licensed SUD and recovery treatment programs, including twelve OASAS State-operated Addiction Treatment Centers. Dr.

Mund first joined OASAS in 2022 as the Associate Chief of Addiction Medicine.



Prior to joining OASAS, Dr. Mund worked for 23 years as an internal medicine physician with specialties in addiction and HIV medicine providing direct patient care to people with SUD, including all forms of medications for addiction treatment in a variety of treatment settings. Dr. Mund's most recent direct patient care experience was in an opioid treatment

NASADAD News

NASADAD Meets with ONDCP Office of Public Health

On Tuesday, November 5, NASADAD Executive Director Rob Morrison, Public Policy Associate Daniel Diana, and Public Policy Intern Maddie Hise had the pleasure of meeting with folks from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) Office of Public Health (OPH) at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. During the meeting, NASADAD learned about ONDCP's work on recovery, including the agency's collegiate recovery initiatives and work on recovery ready workplaces, among others.



Participants included: Cece Spitznas, Ph.D., Acting Staff Director; Peter Gaumond, Senior Policy Analyst; June Sivilli, Senior Policy Analyst; Jenna Bluestein, Policy Analyst; Mary Davis, Policy Analyst; and Sanaea Cowasjee, Policy Analyst & PMF Detailee, Office of Public Health, ONDCP.

Special thanks to Peter Gaumond and the rest of the Office of Public Health for hosting.

Pictured L to R: Maddie Hise, NASADAD; Peter Gaumond, ONDCP; Daniel Diana, NASADAD; and Rob Morrison, NASADAD.

Around the Agencies

CMS Announces New Final Rules Designed to Promote Access to Mental Health and SUD Services



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced new finalized policies designed to promote access to mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) care for beneficiaries under Medicaid. These new policies are part of the [Calendar Year 2024 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule](#), the [Calendar Year 2024 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems Final Rule with Comment Period](#), and the [Contract Year 2025 Proposed Medicare Advantage and Part D rules](#). Key changes include:

- Finalized procedures to "... allow Marriage and Family Therapists and Mental Health Counselors, including addiction counselors or alcohol and drug counselors who meet all the requirements to be a Mental Health Counselor, to enroll as Medicare providers."
- Finalized procedures to "... change the required level of supervision for behavioral health services performed at federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics to allow for "general" supervision rather than "direct" supervision."
- Finalized payment for "... Community Health Integration and Principal Illness Navigation services that can be provided by community health workers and peer support specialists when unmet social needs, such as food, housing, or transportation problems, interfere with health care."
- Finalized payment for "... intensive outpatient programs (IOP), which can be performed by hospital outpatient departments, Community Mental Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, or Rural Health Centers. CMS is also finalizing payments for intensive outpatient services provided by Opioid Treatment Programs

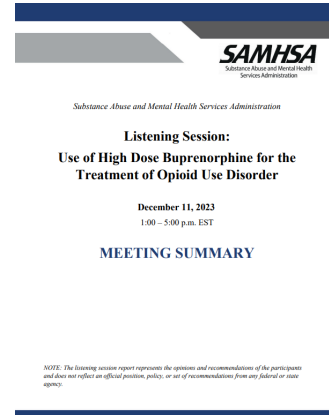
- (OTP).”
- Proposed requirement that “... Medicare Advantage plans include an adequate number of Outpatient Behavioral Health facilities, which can include Marriage and Family Therapists, Mental Health Counselors, Opioid Treatment Providers, and other practitioners providing therapy and SUD treatment in their provider networks.”

The final rules also increase payment for certain timed mental health and SUD services, including psychotherapy, and increase the payment rate for SUD treatment provided in office settings.

CMS’ press release announcing the final rules can be found [here](#).

SAMHSA Report: Listening Session: Use of High Dose Buprenorphine for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently released a report on the [Listening Session: Use of High Dose Buprenorphine for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder](#). The report offers insights from the listening session, hosted by SAMHSA, in partnership with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in December of 2023, about the use of higher doses of buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder (OUD). Specifically, the report highlights data on the effectiveness of high-dose buprenorphine for treating OUD, the accessibility of high-dose buprenorphine, as well as barriers to accessing higher doses of buprenorphine.



The report can be downloaded in full [here](#).

SAMHSA Publishes Series of Fact Sheets on Rights, Recovery-Oriented Treatment, and LGBTQI+ Recovery

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) published a series of new fact sheets regarding recovery services for LGBTQI+ populations, including on the rights for people receiving mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) care, details on recovery-oriented treatment, and context on the history of LGBTQI+ recovery. Specifically, the fact sheets are designed to assist LGBTQI+ individuals with mental health and SUD navigate recovery support services through trauma-informed approaches. The new publications include:

- Fact Sheet: [Know Your Rights](#)
- Fact Sheet: [Recovery-Oriented, Person-Centered Behavioral Treatment](#)
- Fact Sheet: [LGBTQIA+ and Recovery](#)
- Issue Brief: [Supporting Recovery within the LGBTQI+ Community](#)

Additional SAMHSA resources on recovery can be found [here](#).

Research Roundup

HRSA-supported Study Examines Buprenorphine Prescribing and Challenges Faced Among National Health Service Corps Clinicians



A Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-supported study by researchers at the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, published in *JAMA Network Open*, examined [Buprenorphine Prescribing and Challenges Faced Among National Health Services Corps Clinicians](#). The study analyzed Medicaid claims of over 7,000 National Health Service Corps (NHSC) clinicians to determine the associations between NHSC Loan Repayment Program (LRP) expansion and access to medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD). The study found that the overall percentage of Medicaid

beneficiaries with opioid use disorder (OUD) who filled a buprenorphine prescription during the first 2.5 years post expansion increased significantly from 18.9% to 43.7%, equating to an increase of 123,000 beneficiaries. Other key findings include:

- For Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 through 2021, 7828 NHSC clinicians reported prescribing buprenorphine.
- The percentage of Medicaid beneficiaries with OUD who filled a prescription for buprenorphine more than doubled among beneficiaries living in areas with a high Social Vulnerability Index score (from 17.0% to 36.7%); and among beneficiaries living in rural areas (from 20.8% to 55.7%).
- However, 36.1% of clinicians reported a lack of necessary mental health services to complement MOUD, and 28.1% reported that they did not prescribe buprenorphine due to a lack of supervision, mentorship, or peer consultation.

The authors note that while these findings suggest eligible clinicians are encouraged to screen and offer patients with OUD buprenorphine, they indicate a need for additional clinicians and training to increase access to comprehensive treatment with MOUD.

Webinars to Watch

HRSA Webinar: Integrated Primary and Behavioral Health Care Technical Assistance

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is hosting a webinar on [*Integrated Primary and Behavioral Health Care Technical Assistance*](#). This no-cost webinar is on November 14, at 11:00 am ET. The webinar will outline mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) technical assistance opportunities at HRSA available to health centers to support mental health and SUD care integration into primary care. Participants will have the opportunity to speak directly with the Bizzell US technical assistance team regarding the technical assistance available and how to request technical assistance support.

Registration is required.

SAMHSA CFRI Webinar: Financing Peer Crisis Respite in the United States



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Financing Reform & Innovation (CFRI) is hosting a webinar on [*Financing Peer Crisis Respite in the United States*](#). This no-cost webinar is on November 21, at 2:00 pm ET. The webinar will present findings from a yet-to-be-released SAMHSA report on characteristics, services offered, and funding streams used by 26 peer crisis respites across the nation. The webinar will feature a panel discussion with national leaders of peer crisis respites who will discuss the report's findings and other opportunities to expand the availability of those programs.

Registration is required.

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