

**ADVOCACY OVERVIEW**

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## **THE ASAM ADVOCATE**



### **ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **National**

##### **ASAM Calls for Caution Regarding HIPAA Proposed Rule**

On April 30, ASAM sent a comment letter to the US Department of Health and Human Services on recently proposed modifications to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy Rule.

[Read More](#)

##### **ASAM Applauds the Biden-Harris Administration for its Commitment to Ban Menthol Cigarettes and Flavored Cigars**

On April 29, ASAM applauded the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to ban menthol cigarettes

and flavored cigars and urged the FDA to propose and finalize regulations expeditiously to implement this bold proposal.

[Read More](#)

### **Statement from ASAM on HHS Practice Guidelines Exemption from Enumerated X-Waiver Certifications For Eligible DEA-Registered Practitioners**

On April 27, ASAM applauded a new policy that exempts eligible, DEA-registered practitioners from federal certification requirements related to training, counseling, and other ancillary services that are part of the process for obtaining a waiver to treat up to 30 patients with buprenorphine for opioid use disorder.

[Read More](#)

### **ASAM Applauds Reintroduction of the Opioid Workforce Act**

On April 27, ASAM commended the reintroduction of the Opioid Workforce Act, which would support 1,000 new graduate medical education training positions over five years in hospitals that have—or are in the process of establishing—accredited residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, or pain medicine.

[Read More](#)

### **ASAM Supports Legislation to Empower US Department of Labor Parity Compliance Enforcement**

On April 14, the Mental Health Liaison Group, of which ASAM is a member, sent a letter in support of the Parity Enforcement Act, which would give the U.S. Department of Labor a critical tool to ensure health plan compliance with federal parity law.

[Read More](#)

State

## **MWSAM Supports Legislation to Improve Access to Addiction Treatment for Individuals Who are Incarcerated**

On April 28, the Midwest Society of Addiction Medicine (MWSAM) submitted a letter of support for SB521, which would require state entities in Missouri responsible for individuals who are incarcerated to provide screening and assessment for addiction, as well as access to medications for addiction treatment.

[Read More](#)



## **NNESAM Supports Legislation to Improve Access to Addiction Treatment and Harm Reduction Measures**

On April 20, the Northern New England Society of Addiction Medicine (NNESAM) submitted a letter in support of both LD 663 and LD 994. These bills would provide access to medications for addiction treatment in correctional facilities and decriminalize hypodermic apparatuses, respectively.

[Read More](#)

## ISAM Endorses Legislation to Improve Coverage of Addiction Treatment

On April 19, the Illinois Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM) submitted a letter in support of HB2595, which would, among other things, ensure that insurers cover medically necessary addiction treatment.

[Read More](#)

## OKSAM Supports Legislation to Improve Access to Telehealth

On April 16, the Oklahoma Society of Addiction Medicine (OKSAM) submitted a letter in support of SB674, which would dramatically expand access to addiction treatment by mandating that certain insurers cover telehealth.

[Read More](#)

## HAPPENINGS ON THE GROUND

### Health Resources and Services Administration's National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Programs – DEADLINE EXTENDED



HRSA's National Health Service Corps (NHSC) is accepting applications for [three loan repayment programs](#). The application deadline is extended and now closes on Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 7:30 pm ET.

Get help with your application and attend the [NHSC Loan](#)

[Repayment Program Q&A Session](#) on Thursday, May 20 from 9 am-5 pm ET.

### **Webinar: Mental Health Poll: Assessing the Crisis During COVID-19 and Beyond**

On May 24, the Bipartisan Policy Center will host an event to release findings from their national poll assessing the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and substance use crisis in America. The findings address the significant barriers that people face in accessing treatment and their experiences using telehealth during the pandemic.

[Register Here](#)

### **Webinar: 2021 Evaluation and Management (E/M) Office Visit Technical Corrections**

On May 25, the American Medical Association will host a webinar reviewing technical corrections to the landmark Evaluation and Management (E/M) Office Visit reforms which went into effect this year.

[Register Here](#)

## **ADVOCACY MEMBER VOICES**



### **COVID-19 Brought Easier Access to Methadone but Ohio's Ending it. Expert is Asking 'Why?'**

ASAM legislative advocacy committee chair, Dr. Yngvild Olsen, discusses the possibility of reforming methadone delivery based on the changes made to the system during the COVID-19 pandemic.



**[Following Spike in Overdose deaths, Rep. Trone Introduces Bipartisan Legislation to Expand Access to Recovery Housing](#)**

ASAM's past president, Dr. Paul Earley, is quoted on the need for high-quality recovery housing in the United States.

**ADDICTION POLICY IN THE NEWS**

**[Addiction Should Be Treated, Not Penalized](#)**

NIDA Director Dr. Nora Volkow, Health Affairs

**[More Flexible Methadone Access Should Continue Post-Pandemic](#)**

Beth Connolly, Alaina McBournie, and Sheri Doyle, Pew

**[Biden Extends Ban on Fentanyl-Like Substances](#)**

Rebecca Shabad, NBC News

**[Medicaid Is Key to Building a System of Comprehensive Substance Use Care for Low-Income People](#)**

Anna Bailey, Kyle Hayes, Hannah Katch, and Judith Solomon, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

# TIME FOR ACTION!



## Take Action with ASAM

ASAM has three “live” action alerts which ASAM members and the public can use to contact their members of Congress about ways they can strengthen the nation’s addiction treatment workforce, standardize the delivery of addiction medicine education, and ensure Medicaid coverage for eligible individuals with substance use disorder who are incarcerated. Each action alert comes with a letter ready to send; all you do is select an action, insert your information, and press “send message.”

[TAKE ACTION TODAY](#)



### The ASAM Advocate eNewsletter

Kelly M. Corredor: Chief Advocacy Officer

Susan E. Awad: Director, Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs

Corey Barton, Associate Director, Advocacy and Government Relations

Zachary Semple: Manager, Advocacy and Government Relations

Mitchell Nuland: Specialist, Advocacy and Government Relations

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