

SAMHSA'S **20th** **PREVENTION DAY**

LEADING WITH SCIENCE. IMPROVING LIVES.

January 29, 2024 | National Harbor, MD



SAMHSA

Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

OPENING PLENARY

8:30 am - 9:45 am | Potomac A and B Ballroom

Master of Ceremonies David Wilson

Public Health Analyst, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA

Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, PhD

Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

CAPT Christopher Jones, PharmD, DrPH, MPH

Director, CSAP, SAMHSA

Q&A with former CSAP Directors, moderated by CAPT Jones

FORMER CSAP DIRECTORS:

Dona Dmitrovic

Johnnetta Davis-Joyce

Frances M. Harding

Beverly Watts Davis

9:45 AM–
10:00 AM

BREAK

10:00 AM–
11:15 AM

INSTITUTES

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INSTITUTE #1:

SPD161 - Federal Agencies Partner in Reducing and Preventing Youth Alcohol Use: Research and Resources from SAMHSA, NIAAA, and CDC to Inform Prevention

LOCATION - POTOMAC C

MODERATOR: Robert Vincent, MEd, Associate Administrator for Alcohol Prevention and Treatment Policy, CSAP, SAMHSA

SPEAKERS:

- **Dr. Aaron White**, Leader, Epidemiology and Biometry Branch, and Senior Scientific Advisor to the Director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
- **Dr. Marissa Esser**, Lead, Alcohol Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- **Robert Vincent**

DESCRIPTION: In this presentation, you will hear from federal leaders at SAMHSA, NIAAA, and CDC about research on youth alcohol use and resources to inform prevention of youth drinking and related harm.

This session will describe how, under SAMHSA's leadership, the Sober Truth on Preventing Drinking Act (STOP Act) represents a multi-faceted, coordinated approach to prevention, intervention, treatment, enforcement, and research. From the long-standing interagency workgroup to the national media campaign to the community-based coalition enhancement grants, each pillar of the STOP Act serves to sustain the nation's progress in reducing the prevalence of adolescent alcohol use. A key focus of the STOP Act work has been to align public health messaging with early interventions. Starting its 11th year, the "Talk. They Hear You."® public education campaign is part of the federally coordinated approach to address the prevention of underage drinking and other substance use by helping parents and caregivers, schools and educators, and community members. Implementation of STOP Act resources for parents and other caregivers, educators, and communities will be highlighted.

This presentation will also explore both successes and emerging concerns about underage drinking and the need for ongoing engagement of policymakers, citizen coalitions, health professionals, educators, law enforcement, and others to implement effective prevention strategies. The NIAAA research aims to advance understanding of the factors that contribute to underage drinking and to improve the prevention and treatment of alcohol-related problems among youth.

In this session, you will learn the latest research from CDC on excessive alcohol use and alcohol-related disease and deaths. The presentation will also discuss the association between adult and youth alcohol use. Resources will be shared that can be used by prevention specialists, coalitions, and others working in states and communities to inform prevention efforts, including CDC resources that can support adults in drinking less alcohol and about strategies to create healthier and safer communities that can reduce excessive alcohol use, including youth drinking.

INSTITUTE #2

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SPD019 - Exploring the Intersections and Dispelling the Misconceptions Between Prevention, Harm Reduction, and Recovery

LOCATION - POTOMAC D

MODERATOR: David Awadalla, MSW, BSHP, Public Health Advisor, Office of Recovery, SAMHSA

SPEAKERS:

- **CAPT Christopher Jones**, Director, CSAP, SAMHSA
- **Chase Holleman**, Public Health Analyst and Harm Reduction Lead, CSAP, SAMHSA
- **Hannah Meissner**, Program Coordinator, Youth Prevention, Detroit Recovery Project
- **Mark Jenkins**, Founder and Executive Director, Connecticut Harm Reduction Alliance
- **Christina Love**, Advocacy Initiative Senior Specialist, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (ANDVSA)

DESCRIPTION: During this session, panelists will engage in a moderated discussion surrounding collaboration and integration between primary prevention, harm reduction, and recovery. Each panelist will bring unique perspectives and expertise surrounding each of these topics. The moderator will pose pre-approved questions that explore the similarities and differences between each of these valuable response strategies; identify some of the misconceptions that exist surrounding each; discuss how prevention, harm reduction, and recovery-centric organizations might be able to work more effectively together to prevent substance use and overdose and promote recovery; and explore ways that these organizations are actively incorporating these other strategies across the continuum.

INSTITUTE #3

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SPD132 - The Power of Youth Voice

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 12-13

MODERATOR: Courtney Esparza, MS, MBA, LPC, Public Health Advisor, Youth Engagement, CSAP, SAMHSA

SPEAKERS:

- **Courtney Esparza**
- **Hailey Karas**, SAMHSA CSAP Youth Engagement Intern, American University
- **Asli McCullers**, MPH, UMD Doctoral Student, Department of Behavioral and Community Health
- **Middle School Youth Representatives**, Hartford Community Youth Coalition, Vermont

- **Mason Watters**, High School Senior, Drug Free Cecil Youth Coalition
- **Rebecca Taylor**, High School Senior, Drug Free Cecil Youth Coalition
- **Lilly Lidy**, High School Sophomore, Drug Free Cecil Youth Coalition

DESCRIPTION: In this session you will experience the power of youth voice as they share their perspectives on the importance of youth-led prevention efforts. The session starts with a basic overview of how youth engagement initiatives fit into an overall prevention plan that includes evidence-based/evidence-informed initiatives, in addition to youth innovation. You will also learn about how you can help support and strengthen youth innovation. Next, we will hear directly from youth who have been involved with youth coalitions, youth perspective panels, youth prize challenges, and youth grassroots initiatives. These young leaders will share their stories and the prevention projects that they are passionate about implementing in their communities. SAMHSA and the young leaders will also share innovative ideas and resources that you can take back and use to spark action toward beneficial change in your own communities.



INSTITUTE #4

State Prevention Approaches

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 4-5

MODERATOR: **Nelia Nadal**, Senior Public Health Analyst, CSAP, SAMHSA

DESCRIPTION: Join us for a dynamic, insightful workshop that highlights state substance use prevention systems in two regions, showing effective comprehensive approaches, and engaging overarching prevention principles. As the challenges of substance use, shortages in workforce, and need for comprehensive prevention approaches continue to rise, so does the need for us to hear what is working in different regions. Each state will demonstrate how they are using a multi-level approach to work across silos, across the continuum, and include diversity, equity, and inclusion at every stage. What's the secret ingredient that unifies all these approaches? Come join us to find out!

» SPD105 - Supporting an Integrated System of Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Mental Health Promotion in Washington State

SPEAKER:

- **Sarah Mariani**, CPP, Section Manager, Washington State Health Care Authority

DESCRIPTION: The Washington State Prevention Enhancement (SPE) Policy Consortium has released its five-year strategic plan outlining statewide efforts to prevent substance use disorder (SUD) and promote mental health, following the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model. This session will walk through Washington state's process of implementing the SPF through a statewide coalition of agencies, organizations, and Tribal partners.

The SPE Policy Consortium works in collaboration with the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) and state agency partners and organizations to review relevant data, examine state-level resources, develop new and continued priorities, and develop a strategic plan. We will discuss how the practice of doing this work is done with a health equity and sustainability lens at all stages of the framework.

» SPD213 - All SPF'd Up and Ready to Cross the Continuum: One State's Approach and Lessons Learned about Prevention in West Virginia

SPEAKER:

- **Rebecca Roth**, MA, Director, Office of Policy, Planning, and Research, West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health

DESCRIPTION: Through SAMHSA Block Grants and a combination of other federal and state funding awarded to about 130 providers through 470 grants, the West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) supports comprehensive behavioral health prevention, promotion, early intervention, treatment, and recovery programs statewide. BBH is the Single State Authority and host agency for the Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW). BBH plays a central role in substance use prevention in the state of West Virginia, and how the agency adapts to change and provides leadership across the state is notable for West Virginians of all ages.

Attendees will hear about how West Virginia BBH has built a cascade of prevention programs across the continuum, utilizing State Opioid Response (SOR), as well as other discretionary and supplemental Block Grant funding for needed expansion.

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INSTITUTE #5

SPD162 - Preventing and Reducing Vaping Among Youth and Young Adults: Research and Resources from FDA, CDC, and SAMHSA

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 2

MODERATOR: Michelle Kim Leff, MD, MBA, Acting Deputy Director/Senior Medical Advisor, CSAP, SAMHSA

SPEAKERS:

- **Dr. Brian King**, Director, Center for Tobacco Products, Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- **Dr. Allison Hoffman**, Deputy Director for Research Translation, Office on Smoking and Health, CDC
- **Heather McDonnell-Stalnaker**, Public Health Advisor, CSAP, SAMHSA

DESCRIPTION: Youth e-cigarette use remains a critical public health concern affecting children, families, schools, and communities. The 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey shows that for the 10th year, e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product among both middle and high school students. Approximately half of students who ever tried e-cigarettes reported currently using them, indicating that many youth who try e-cigarettes remain e-cigarette users.

E-cigarettes (also called vapes, e-hookahs, vape pens, tank systems, mods, and electronic nicotine delivery systems) are not safe for youth, young adults, and pregnant women, as well as adults who do not currently use tobacco products. E-cigarette liquid can contain nicotine, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabinoid (CBD) oils, and other substances, flavorings, and additives.

Policymakers, community coalitions, businesses, school administrators and educators, parents, and community members are important players in the efforts to prevent and reduce vaping among youth. This Institute will highlight the comprehensive and coordinated efforts of the FDA, CDC, and SAMHSA to respond to the population health risks posed by the changing landscape of tobacco products. From the FDA's regulatory activity under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act to the CDC's leadership to reduce deaths and prevent chronic diseases that result from tobacco use to SAMHSA's work with the states to address youth tobacco use (including Tobacco 21 guidance), this session will explore the evolution of policy, education, and prevention programming that is needed.

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INSTITUTE #6

SPD231 - SAMHSA Framework on School-Based Prevention Interventions

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 3

MODERATOR: Torrance Brown, Director, Division of Primary Prevention, CSAP, SAMHSA

SPEAKERS:

- **Jennifer Treger**, Public Health Advisor, CMHS, SAMHSA
- **Alexandria Washington**, DrPH, MPH, Public Health Advisor, CSAP, SAMHSA
- **Sheryl Crawford**, LPC, Public Health Advisor, Center for Substance Use Treatment (CSAT), SAMHSA

DESCRIPTION: Over the past three decades, SAMHSA's footprint in school-based prevention work has expanded significantly. In the late 1990s, the SAFE Schools/Healthy Students Initiative first took on a substantial focus on mental health disorders and substance use prevention interventions specifically in school settings. This session will provide a comprehensive review of school-based mental health and substance use prevention and treatment work representing efforts from all three Centers at SAMHSA – the Center for Mental Health Services, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, and Center for Substance Use Treatment.

Children and youth spend a large portion of their days in schools which makes it an important place to engage and deploy effective, evidence-based behavioral health prevention efforts. Given that adolescence is a particularly sensitive developmental period, with a greater propensity for risk-taking behaviors, there exists a need to comprehensively implement prevention interventions that address risk factors for particularly concerning issues that contribute to behavioral health disorders such as depression, anxiety, and substance use.

First, the session will provide an important historical arc on the evolution of school-based public health prevention efforts, particularly as supported by the federal government. Second, the session will provide an overview of evidence-based primary, secondary, and tertiary behavioral health prevention interventions in schools. Specifically, there will be an overview of SAMHSA signature prevention initiatives such as the Project AWARE program, and the “Talk. They Hear You.”® campaign. Third, the session will provide a general framework on the ways of systemically incorporating school-based interventions in schools, including financing mechanisms sustainability to inform and implement equity-driven interventions.

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INSTITUTE #7

Designing and Implementing Successful Naloxone Distribution Programs

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 10

MODERATOR: Cara Alexander, PhD, LCSW, BCD, Director, Division of Targeted Prevention, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA

» SPD110 - Fostering Collaboration to Support Naloxone Distribution and Saturation in Virginia

SPEAKERS:

- **Stephanie Wheawill**, Director, Division of Pharmacy Services, Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- **Carolyn Lamere**, Strategic Program Manager – Naloxone Distribution, Division of Pharmacy Services, Office of Epidemiology, VDH

DESCRIPTION: Representatives from the VDH will outline Virginia's process of developing a naloxone distribution and saturation plan. Key to this process was input from stakeholders, including state agencies, local health districts, and comprehensive harm reduction sites. VDH, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and the Department of Corrections sought input from a variety of stakeholders through formal work groups, focus groups, and key informant interviews. Greater connection and collaboration allowed VDH to better support partners, make connections between partners trying to develop similar programs, and ensure that programs conform to funding and Board of Pharmacy requirements.

» SPD149 - Bringing Together Appalachia: Connecting Communities to Prevention

SPEAKER:

- **Nikki Lyttle**, MS, Office Director, Office of Adult Substance Use Disorder, West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

DESCRIPTION: This session will discuss West Virginia's success in distributing naloxone to the community. Between 2019 and 2022, the number of naloxone kits that were distributed increased by over 2,000 percent. The impact and success of West Virginia's Save a Life Day will also be highlighted. The event that started with just two counties only three years ago, is now Appalachian Save a Life Day. This year's event spanned all 13 states in the Appalachian region and more than 180 counties. This one-day event distributed over 54,000 naloxone kits in one day, more than the entire number of overdose deaths in Appalachia last year. The presenters will also look to see how these events have impacted overdose deaths.

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INSTITUTE #8

Federal Strategies, Local Implementation: Educating Youth, Parents, and Communities to Prevent Overdose and Promote Recovery

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 11

MODERATOR: **May Yamate**, Public Health Advisor, Office of Prevention Innovation, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA

» SPD113 - The Dangers of Fake Pills and Fentanyl: What Everyone Should Know

MODERATOR: **Sean Fearn**, Chief, Community Outreach and Prevention Support Section, DEA Office of Public Affairs

SPEAKERS:

- **Marc Kuzmicki**, DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Special Operations Division
- **Joe Bozenko**, Senior Research Chemist, DEA Special Testing and Research Laboratory
- **Celeste Clark**, Executive Director of the Raymond Coalition for Youth

DESCRIPTION: A significant drug threat right now are fake pills, which are pills that appear to be prescription pills but actually contain fentanyl or meth. Drug traffickers are using fake pills to exploit the opioid crisis and prescription drug misuse in the United States. As part of the One Pill Can Kill initiative, DEA and its law enforcement partners seized more than 10.2 million fentanyl pills and approximately 980 pounds of fentanyl powder during the period of May 23 through September 8, 2022. The amount of fentanyl taken off the streets during this surge is equivalent to more than 36 million lethal doses removed from the illegal drug supply. DEA laboratory testing reveals that six out of every ten pills with fentanyl

contain a potentially lethal amount. Due to the broad nature of this topic, the session's target population includes, but is not limited to, prevention coalition members, state and local government officials, parents, youth and young adults, professionals in higher education, and educators. This session will explore the One Pill Can Kill campaign and resources available from the DEA.

» **SPD021 - CIRCLES AND SILENCE: An Opioid Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Presentation**

SPEAKERS:

- **David Neill**, Crime Prevention and Community Outreach Coordinator, United States Attorney's Office, District of Rhode Island
- **Meko Lincoln**, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist & Men's Transition Coordinator, Amos House, Providence, Rhode Island

DESCRIPTION: Nationwide, we are experiencing an increase in youth overdose deaths caused by counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl. In Rhode Island, law enforcement officials recently seized several hundred thousand counterfeit Adderall pills tainted with fentanyl or methamphetamine. High school and college students need to be educated about the dangers of the tainted drug supply. They need to be provided with up-to-date information, resources, and support from trusted sources, and to hear from their peers in recovery that *recovery is possible*.

Circles and Silence is an Emmy-nominated short film featuring a diverse group of young people and their stories of hope and recovery. Attendees will have a chance to view the film, meet cast members and hear their personal stories, and learn about how *Circles and Silence* has been used in Rhode Island high schools, colleges, and communities as an opioid intervention and prevention tool.

11:15 AM– 11:30 AM	BREAK
11:30 AM– 12:30 PM	WORKSHOPS: MORNING SESSION

TRACK I – YOUTH-LED PREVENTION EFFORTS

SPD075 - Learning from Tribal Youth: A Holistic Approach to Suicide, Substance Misuse, and Overdose Prevention

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE A

SPEAKERS:

- **Maggie McGinnis**, Public Health Advisor, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA
- **Riley Lynch**, Public Health Advisor, CSAP, SAMHSA

- **Abe Broncheau**, Director of Student Success, Nez Perce Tribe Education Program
- **Kiara Zunie**, Youth Development Coordinator, Zuni Youth Enrichment Project
- **Joshua Langi**, Project Director, Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas

DESCRIPTION: This panel presentation features dedicated project directors actively engaged in addressing critical issues within tribal communities, with a focus on youth-led initiatives to prevent suicide, substance misuse, and overdose. The discussion will emphasize the multifaceted nature of these challenges and the unique opportunities they present for empowering tribal youth, while also preparing them for a potential future behavioral health workforce.

SPD081 - “My Future Is EPIC,” A Program to Support Adolescents Across the Continuum of Care

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE C

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SPEAKERS:

- **Jessica Elgin**, VP Programs, Young People in Recovery
- **David Whitesock**, Founder & CEO, Commonly Well

DESCRIPTION: This workshop will feature “*My Future is EPIC*,” a life-skills curriculum designed by Young People in Recovery (YPR) for adolescents ages 14–18 who are using substances or who are at high risk of developing substance use disorder due to adverse childhood events, such as trauma, co-occurring mental health disorders, or family history. The program, which is in English and Spanish, focuses on engaging participants in goal setting in such areas as education and employment, while equipping them with effective techniques to improve their skills in leadership, communications, healthy relationships, and self-advocacy.

Commonly Well created the Resiliency Capital Index and the Recovery Capital Index, a validated, evidence-based, and person-reported assessment that YPR uses to measure outcomes and resiliency among program participants. Presenters from YPR and Commonly Well will discuss how the program and the RCI are helping teens create a roadmap for their upward mobility, health, and wellness.

SPD150 - Connect2Prevent: Youth Substance Use Prevention Program

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 7

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SPEAKER:

- **Dru O’Rourke**, Program Manager, National Safety Council

DESCRIPTION: This session will discuss the Connect2Prevent program, an innovative approach to addressing and preventing youth substance misuse. The program aims to educate adults and other family members about opioids and equip them with the skills to begin safe, informative conversations about substance use. Program lessons include harm reduction, refusal skills, talking to providers, and more.

SPD220 - Amplify Youth Leader Voices in Substance Use Prevention

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE H

SPEAKERS:

- **Alejandra Cortez**, LCSW, Program Manager, Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- **Joed Garbo**, BS, Health Educator, Children's Hospital Los Angeles

DESCRIPTION: Youth prevention sometimes misses the expert lens – the voice of the youth. This session shares how to engage youth and elevate youth voices in prevention efforts in their school and community. Speakers will present best-shared practices of recruiting and developing youth leaders as well as collecting data and creating a youth lead positive social norms prevention campaign to change the perception of substance use. They collected data from the schools to assess students' substance use and the perception of substance use of their peers. The data showed that most students were not engaged in substance use but overestimated how many substances were being used by their peers. By acknowledging this, students become aware that the norm is not using substances and to reduce the risk of use. As a result, a leadership group was developed on the school campus called *Youth In Power*, to become the prevention advocates in their community by providing the tools and knowledge needed. This multilayer intervention sets the foundation for creating sustainable change in the school and community culture regarding substance use and the perception of substance use. Youth leaders distributed resources with their classmates and hosted events on their school campus. The whole project demonstrated a variety of things: prevent substance use, change the perception of substance use in the community, and for others to see how youth are best suited in leading prevention efforts for youth, school, and their communities.

SPD069 - Developing a Youth Coalition: Recruitment, Engagement, and Sustainability

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE F

SPEAKERS:

- **Beth Creek**, Executive Director, Youth Empowerment Source/Drug Free Cecil Youth Coalition
- **Ed Motton**, Youth Advisor, Drug Free Cecil Youth Coalition
- **Jayden Ponzo**, Sophomore, Elkton High School, Youth Coalition Student Leader
- **Lilly Lidy**, Sophomore, Perryville High School, Youth Coalition Student Leader
- **Emma Lidy**, Sophomore, Perryville High School, Youth Coalition Student Leader

DESCRIPTION: In this session the team from Youth Empowerment Source/Drug Free Cecil Youth Coalition will share how to recruit, engage and sustain a Youth Led/Adult Guided Prevention Program. Presenters will include program architect Beth Creek, Youth Advisor Ed Motton and three student leaders. The Drug Free Cecil Youth Coalition engaged over 3,000 high school youth last year in prevention activities and have 6 "chapters," one in each public high school and one comprised of student leaders. Student leaders then lead their school chapters, with adult guidance. This session is designed to provide a "how to manual" on recruitment, engagement and sustainability from the perspectives of those in the trenches and the students who are leading this movement!

TRACK II – PREVENTION ACROSS THE LIFESPAN AND THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

SPD207 - Pregnant and Postpartum Women with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD): CSAT Efforts for Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 6

SPEAKERS:

- **LCDR Staci McNair**, Public Health Advisor, PMHNP-BC, Center for Substance Use Treatment (CSAT), SAMHSA
- **Tracy Ambos**, LCSW, Public Health Advisor, CSAT, SAMHSA
- **Sarah Musante**, LMSW, Public Health Advisor, CSAT, SAMHSA

DESCRIPTION: The increased attention and awareness towards substance use and misuse prevention, treatment, and recovery services for maternal and infant health has led to a surge in endeavors and resources to enhance health outcomes while reducing disparities. These initiatives encompass various measures, such as expanding care accessibility, augmenting the range of services offered with evidence-based treatment, and diversifying the health care workforce. Presenters will review current trends, highlight misconceptions, discuss evidence-based recommendations, and share promising care practices.

Federal Strategies, Local Implementation: Working with Primary Care and Other Health Care Providers to Increase Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Early Intervention

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 11

» SPD028 - Working with Health Care Providers: Substance Use Prevention and Intervention

SPEAKERS:

- **Marion Pierce**, Public Health Analyst, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA
- **Christopher J. Hammond**, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

DESCRIPTION: Data from the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health show that in 2021, those ages 18–25 reported the highest percentage of past-year substance disorders among all people ages 12 and older. Among youth ages 12 to 17, 2.2 million reported a substance use disorder in 2021. Primary care providers (PCPs) are often an underutilized resource for substance use prevention and intervention among youth and young adults, and visits to PCPs can present opportunities to reach diverse populations. Building partnerships with PCPs can increase their knowledge about the efficacy of screening and help to overcome barriers to screening. This panel discussion will provide tips to support PCPs in their prevention efforts. Barriers PCPs experience in addressing substance use and misuse and substance use disorders among youth will be discussed, as well as will potential solutions to those barriers.

» SPD059 - Increasing Prevention, Early Intervention, and SUD Treatment Through Annual and Universal Screening of Primary Care Patients

SPEAKERS:

- **Lauren Abrams**, MSW, MPH, Program Manager and Vice President for Administration Assistance, Health Quality Partners
- **Laura Stanley**, PhD, Program Evaluation Manager, Health Quality Partners

DESCRIPTION: Early identification of patients who are at risk for substance use disorders (SUDs) is an essential component of prevention. Unfortunately, opportunities for early identification are missed when SUD screenings are not systematically administered to all patients or only through behavioral health care teams. Routinized, annualized, and universal screening protocols initiated in primary care can increase opportunities for identifying, preventing, and treating SUDs among a larger and more diverse patient population, while helping to normalize and destigmatize SUD screening practices.

The presenters will describe the successes, challenges and lessons learned following implementation of the Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) model for preventing substance use at five HRSA-funded Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in San Diego and Imperial counties. In 2019, Health Quality Partners launched a five-year initiative funded by the SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Treatment for systematically integrating annualized and universal SUD screening services for both alcohol and other substances into primary care at five participating FQHCs. Since then, more than 65,000 primary care patients at participating FQHCs have been screened for SUDs, and nearly 1,000 full-screened patients have received recommendations for additional SBIRT treatment services in alignment with their screening results.

SPD147 - Creating a Career Path for Justice Involved Individuals in Delaware

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 9

SPEAKER:

- **Emily Vera**, LCSW, Executive Director, Mental Health Association in Delaware

DESCRIPTION: Research shows that we develop resilience through storytelling. In the mental health field, we share our stories in order to provide hope and healing to ourselves, and to others. MHA Delaware is doing this on a community level scale through several innovative programs, that we believe are changing lives by taking painful and difficult circumstances, and creating powerful, change-making, positive work. The session will describe two such programs developed in the last 5 years, along with lessons learned and successes so far.

SPD198 - From Primary Prevention Targeting Adolescents to Harm Reduction with Thirty-Year-Olds. The Easy, Complicated Answer to Prevention Across the Lifespan and Across the Continuum

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 5

SPEAKERS:

- **Craig L. PoVey**, MSW, Technical Expert, SUD Continuum Consultant
- **Rob Timmerman**, Director, SUD Prevention Services, State of Utah Office of Substance Use and Mental Health

DESCRIPTION: Twenty-five years ago, the prevention system throughout the nation was lacking in evidence of what worked and how to effectively manage a prevention system. Twenty years ago, CSAP's State Incentive Cooperative Agreement (SICA) wrapped up a robust effort to transform our prevention system into an organized effort using evidence-based prevention programs. Today, the term evidence-based is not only used, it is expected. Using the research on what works in primary prevention, efforts have been made to transform the system into one with a broader scope, better access, inclusion, and meeting the needs across the lifespan.

In this session, we will celebrate this CSAP-driven transformation by sharing success stories. We will describe our early efforts focused solely on SUD prevention services targeting adolescents to a system where we promote community-based mobilization and organization for prevention and other services including harm reduction. Participants will see examples of how using coalitions can address local issues and utilize local strengths to expand the work they do to save lives and prevent the dozens of negative outcomes associated with substance use.

This presentation will include data charts, tools, and presentation slides used to increase the readiness of coalitions to accept the additional workload of prevention across the continuum and expand their capacity to better meet the prevention needs of individuals, schools, families, and communities.

TRACK III – INNOVATIONS IN PREVENTION

Leveraging Virtual Reality (VR) to Prevent SUD: *Plan My Ride* and Transcending Self Therapy VR Platforms

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 10

» SPD234 - Healthy Lives, Safer Roads: Innovations in Preventing Substance Use and Impaired Driving Among Youth

SPEAKER:

- **Rebecca Stelter**, PhD, Research Scientist II, IRT Inc.

DESCRIPTION: Traffic fatalities, often caused by substance use, have increased recently to record high levels. Now, more than ever, strategies to successfully engage youth in substance use and impaired driving prevention are critical.

Using the Strategic Prevention Framework to guide the process of identifying and planning a successful prevention initiative to prevent youth impaired driving, this session will share an innovative, successful, research-based program called *Plan My Ride* for engaging youth and changing knowledge, attitudes, and behavior. *Plan My Ride* is structured into seven interactive lessons and three virtual reality scenarios to practice the skills learned in the program, and four brief follow-up or “booster” lessons to reinforce learned skills.

Results of evaluation research on this program and tips for the successful implementation of this program with teens and young adults will be shared. The workshop will also describe how the program was developed to be accessible, and to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

» SPD178 - Pioneering Relapse Prevention through Virtual Reality

SPEAKER:

- **Jarrod Reisweber**, PsyD, EdS, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University

DESCRIPTION: “TST-VR at The Retreat” is a transformative convergence of CBT-based transcending self-therapy (TST) and cutting edge virtual reality (VR). The program, which is in use at four Veterans Health Administration locations and is expanding to more locations, aims to amplify the effectiveness of substance use disorder treatment, enhance engagement and therapeutic outcomes, and present enduring pathways for recovery and prevention of recurrence for veterans.

This presentation will illuminate VR’s transformative potential in optimizing strategies for preventing recurrence of substance use and contributing insights towards evolving early intervention approaches in substance use disorder prevention. The presenters will discuss promising results and learnings from the TST-VR program, as well as challenges, such as clinician acceptance and logistical considerations, and how those challenges have been navigated with adaptive strategies.

SPD041 - Communications During an Evolving Crisis: Designing Evergreen and Urgent (or Real Time) Messaging to Reduce Overdoses in Your Community

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE G

SPEAKER:

- **Laura Gover**, MPH, Group Managing Director, Substance Use Programs, Rescue

DESCRIPTION: The opioid and synthetic drug crisis is evolving. Yesterday’s messaging may no longer be relevant, new and timely threats emerge, additional support resources become available, and policies are amended in communities. Developing communication efforts can be expensive and require a long development period, therefore not being as effective as they should be to deliver timely messaging.

The presenters will discuss findings from research studies designed to inform harm reduction messaging across Vermont; Illinois; Prince William County, Virginia; and Washington State. Using interviews and focus groups with both teens and adults, the studies identified knowledge gaps and a pervasive perception that pills obtained from friends or familiar dealers were safe and unlikely to be laced with fentanyl. This allowed at-risk individuals to believe they were not at risk for overdose. Messaging approaches must personalize the risk of overdose, empathize rather than judge, and provide clear, explicit harm reduction steps that individuals can take. Examples of effective messaging strategies will be shared.

SPD111 - West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health Evidence-Based Clearinghouse

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 4

SPEAKER:

- **Jo Anne McNemar**, CPS II, PFS Project Director, Bureau for Behavioral Health, Office of Children, Youth and Families, WV Dept. of Human Services

DESCRIPTION: The SAMHSA-funded BBH Clearinghouse is an online database of programs to help individuals, families, providers, schools, communities, and other partners make informed decisions about selecting effective prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services. The clearinghouse was created through extensive research by subject matter experts, graduate assistants, and Marshall University and West Virginia University faculty; feedback from a collaborative advisory workgroup; and coordination by consultants. The clearinghouse aims to provide agencies and practitioners with valuable information regarding the level of effectiveness for various interventions. The ultimate purpose of the clearinghouse is to enhance the health and well-being of families and communities in West Virginia by ensuring the provision of high-quality mental health services.

TRACK IV – PREVENTION WORKFORCE

SPD117- Peer-to-Peer Education Among First Responders

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 3

SPEAKERS:

- **Christine Smith**, Director, Prevention and Crisis Services, Missouri Department of Mental Health
- **Liz Connors**, Director, First Responder and Public Health Programming, Missouri Institute of Mental Health, University of Missouri – St. Louis
- **Devin Sweat**, Public Health Advisor, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA

DESCRIPTION: This presentation explores the innovative approach of peer-to-peer education among first responders to tackle the pervasive challenges of stigma and bias associated with substance use and mental health conditions. Drawing from their experiences with SAMHSA's First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act grant, the presenters will share valuable insights gained and lessons learned while implementing this initiative.

The presenters will discuss successes and challenges with recruiting law enforcement officers, fire personnel, and EMS personnel to receive the training and provide the training to their peers. They will also discuss how this approach has made participants more likely to receive information on overdose prevention, highlighting the importance of peer connections in conveying critical knowledge. This workshop will also address how diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are integral aspects of the peer-to-peer training approach, ensuring that all first responders and community members, regardless of their background, have equitable access to resources and support and that their unique perspectives and needs are valued and accommodated.

SPD186 - Applying Continuous Quality Improvement Strategies

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 2

SPEAKERS:

- **Erin Ficker**, Regional Director, Strategic Prevention Technical Assistance Center
- **Michelle Frye-Spray**, Co-Director Strategic Prevention Technical Assistance Center Region 9 & 10
- **Rachael Kenter**, T/TA Specialist Strategic Prevention Technical Assistance Center Region 5 & 6

DESCRIPTION: Continuous quality improvement (CQI) provides opportunities and tools to optimize the delivery of prevention services. While CQI approaches are widely used across many behavioral health disciplines, the prevention field has yet to widely adopt the models and tools of CQI in their programs. This workshop will focus on how prevention professionals can use CQI strategies to optimize their prevention work and the delivery of prevention strategies, while adhering to the fidelity of the program. The presenters will review best practices, models, and key strategies of CQI with a lens toward prevention programs. Presenters will also review such tools as the Plan, Do, Study, Act cycle, accompanied by prevention program examples to illustrate how these tools can be applied.

SPD153 - The Clay County Community Paramedicine Program's Field Initiated Peer Support

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE K-L

SPEAKER:

- **Stephen Teal**, Program Manager, Clay County Fire Rescue Community Paramedicine Program

DESCRIPTION: Clay County (Florida) Fire Rescue's Community Paramedicine Program (CPP) provides harm reduction and medication-assisted therapy (MAT) services. CPP offers no-cost Naloxone training and distribution to all residents, businesses, faith-based and community organizations, and peer support services for current and future clients of the MAT program and their families. Since 2020, overdose-related deaths have decreased by 27 percent and the MAT program maintains an average of 50 percent participant retention. Since January 2023, the CPP has provided MAT services to 104 individuals and introduced two full-time Community Paramedics to the program to provide 24-hour overdose response and MAT services. This workshop will present a brief overview of CPP, as well as insights into the innovation, successes, and challenges of MAT, Naloxone education and distribution, and peer support.

SPD031 - Our Responsibilities as Prevention Professionals: Fundamental Knowledge, Skills, and Resources to Address the Complex Issues of Today

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE J

SPEAKER:

- **Lora Peppard**, PhD, DNP, PMHNP-BC, Director of ADAPT

DESCRIPTION: This presentation will present a fundamental way of thinking about prevention, including essential knowledge and skills, to inform our approach to the work we do as prevention professionals. The best available evidence on youth substance use prevention will be reviewed, and tools to support integration of evidence into practice will be described.

SPD184 - Building a Resilient Prevention Workforce**LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 8****SPEAKERS:**

- **Nicole M. Augustine**, SPTAC Regional Director, Regions 3 & 4
- **Debra Morris**, Deputy T/TA Director for Coaching for Success

DESCRIPTION: In the ever-evolving landscape of substance misuse prevention, the strength of the workforce is paramount. A resilient prevention workforce contributes to the well-being and productivity of individuals and the communities they serve. This interactive session will build on a Strategic Prevention Technical Assistance Center webinar focused on how prevention practitioners can further develop practical skills that enable them to complete the key tasks of the Strategic Prevention Framework and support a healthy and effective prevention workforce. This session will also place a significant emphasis on cultivating a healthy work environment, recognizing that prevention practitioners thrive in settings that support their professional growth and personal well-being. A cornerstone of this session will be a comprehensive review of the ethical responsibilities as outlined in Domain 6 of the IC&RC Prevention Specialist Guide.

TRACK V – PREVENTION SCIENCE, PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION

Key Takeaways from Implementation of SAMHSA's Grants to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 4-5

» SPD227 - Grants to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths: Key Takeaways from Program Implementation and FY2022 Data

SPEAKERS:

- **Tanya Geiger**, Social Science Analyst, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, SAMHSA
- **Shweta Palakkode**, Social Science Analyst, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, SAMHSA

DESCRIPTION: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 100,000 people died from drug overdoses from April 2020 to 2021, a staggering increase of 28.5 percent from the prior year. SAMHSA funds a diverse portfolio of grant programs to address the opioid crisis. One such program is the Grants to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths (PDO), which trains first responders and members of other key community sectors on the prevention of prescription drug/opioid overdose-related deaths. The program also implements secondary prevention strategies, including the purchase and distribution of naloxone to first responders to reduce the number of prescription drug/opioid overdose-related deaths and adverse events among individuals 18 years of age and older.

This presentation will highlight profile data for the program and PDO grantee Alabama Department of Mental Health's successes and challenges of implementing an overdose prevention program in high-need communities.

» **SPD229 - From Innovation to Inclusion with PDO: Critical Lessons Learned from Mississippi's Active Response Implementation and Evaluation System (ARIES)**

SPEAKER:

- **John P. Bartkowski**, PhD, President, Bartkowski & Associates Research Team; Project Evaluator, Mississippi Public Health Institute

DESCRIPTION: Mississippi ARIES (Active Response Implementation and Evaluation System) is a critical project among a suite of opioid response grants, including SAMHSA's Grants to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths (PDO), that the state has received. The project has been essential in the establishment of robust naloxone distribution and resupply networks, among its other achievements. The strategies implemented through Mississippi ARIES are likely to be effective in other parts of the country, particularly those with an abundance of remote rural communities that are commonly underserved by mental health and primary care professionals.

This presentation will: 1) describe the goals and objectives of Mississippi ARIES, as well as its place in Mississippi's Holistic and Effective Response against Opioids (HERO) initiative; 2) discuss the program's innovative prevention and evaluation activities; and 3) review Mississippi ARIES' strategic pursuit of health equity and the empirical results of these efforts.

Evidence-Based Technical Assistance Approaches

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 12-13

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» **SPD177 - Capturing and Presenting Evidence for Community-driven and Culturally Based Prevention Programs: New Developments in SAMHSA's Evidence-based Practice Resource Center**

SPEAKER:

- **Carter A. Roeber**, Social Science Analyst, National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Laboratory, SAMHSA

DESCRIPTION: SAMHSA's Evidence-based Practice Resource Center (EBPRC), established in 2018, continues to evolve to improve the breadth and depth of its resources and best serve SAMHSA's strategic interests and stakeholders. In the next year, the National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Lab EBPRC team has been charged with developing a new feature on the EBPRC website which provides short reviews and ratings of individual programs. Similar to other federal evidence-based registries, this feature will provide a scientific assessment of a program based on available evidence. In this workshop, presenters will discuss challenges encountered and the proposed solution to convene two expert panels, one that focuses on the best methods of evaluating and rating programs, including a discussion of how to present evidence from mixed methods research, and a second expert panel that will devise a method for recommending programs for inclusion in the EBPRC. The goal is for participants to become more knowledgeable consumers of evidence-based practices.

» SPD232 - A Tiered Approach to Technical Assistance for Pennsylvania Communities

SPEAKER:

- **Janet A. Welsh**, PhD, Principal Investigator, EPIS, Edna Bennett-Pierce Prevention Research Center, Pennsylvania State University

DESCRIPTION: Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support (EPIS) is a partnership between the Bennett-Pierce Prevention Research Center at Pennsylvania State University and state-level agencies in Pennsylvania, including the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Department of Drug and Alcohol programs, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Juvenile Court Judges Commission. Since 2008, EPIS has provided technical assistance, including help with coalition formation, program implementation, and local evaluation, for communities attempting to reduce risk and enhance resilience in youth, families, and communities.

To meet the state's goal of broad reach to all communities, EPIS has recently developed a tiered model for technical assistance (TA), and embarked on a collaboration with a variety of external stakeholder groups around the Tiered TA model. Discussion will include the potential relevance of the Tiered TA model for both state- and national-level prevention and intervention initiatives, including the Family First Prevention Act and the Opioid Settlement. Possible strategies for evaluating both the reach and the impact of this approach will be discussed.

SPD256 - Research Learnings and Opportunities for Prevention of Cigarillo Use among Black Youth and Young Adults

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE E

SPEAKERS:

- **Brittney Lee**, MPH, Health Communications Specialist, Center for Tobacco Products, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- **Megan Vigorita**, MPH, Social Scientist, Center for Tobacco Products, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

DESCRIPTION: Cigar products, which include large cigars, little cigars, and cigarillos, are commonly used combustible tobacco products among youth in the United States. Cigarillos are the most popular type of cigar product sold and used in the U.S., according to both sales data and research conducted among youth and young adults, and rates of modified and unmodified cigarillo use are even more elevated among non-Hispanic Black youth and young adults, compared to other races and ethnicities.

Since 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products has conducted several research studies exploring terminology, use patterns, harm perceptions, and beliefs of cigarillos to identify potential education opportunities. This presentation will share key insights from the FDA's focus group and survey research with youth and young adults who use or are susceptible to the use of cigar products as well as sharing challenges and opportunities related to cigar product terminology, measurement, and education efforts. Presenters will discuss the public health and health equity significance of addressing cigar product use among Black youth and young adults, findings from our research, and potential opportunities for education and prevention.

SPD235 - From Research to Practice: Oregon's OR HOPE Study to PRIME+ Program

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE I

SPEAKERS:

- **Judith Leahy**, Harm Reduction Strategist, Oregon Health Authority
- **Gillian Leichtling**, Comagine

DESCRIPTION: The Oregon HOPE Study found that peer harm reduction services were feasible and acceptable to people using drugs in rural communities, particularly for people who injected drugs and people living more than an hour from a syringe service program.

The PRIME+ program pilot evaluation of sites in predominantly rural areas in Oregon found significant changes from intake to 6 months that included: decrease of illegal drug use in the past 30 days, decreases in arrests in past 30 days, decreases in emergency room visits for mental health or substance use in past 30 days, increase in currently housed, increases in currently employed (full or part time), and increases in ever having had an HIV test.

Both OR-HOPE and PRIME+ programs demonstrate that harm reduction peer training and implementation support can potentially improve access to harm reduction services for rural people who use drugs.

Diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility: The OR-HOPE study and the PRIME+ program partner with community members with lived experiences of substance use and all recovery paths to develop, implement, study, and evaluate the harm reduction peer service model. The peers providing services in both the study and the interventions were peers living in the communities they work in. While the OR-HOPE intervention was implemented in 7 rural counties, the PRIME+ intervention expanded to include 24 of Oregon's 36 counties. The PRIME+ intervention includes community-based organizations led by and serving African American/Black, Native American, LGBTQI+ and Latinx communities.

TRACK VI – PREVENTION EFFORTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY

SPD114 - Transformative Approaches: Advancing Harm Reduction Efforts at the US/Mexico Border

LOCATION - POTOMAC D

SPEAKERS:

- **Cara Alexander**, PhD, BCD, LCSW, Director, Division of Targeted Prevention, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA
- **Alexa Huerta**, Project Director, Project PAW (PILLAR)
- **Manny Sanchez**
- **Johanna Kuehnel**, Project Director, Proyecto Sanáremos (El Paso Alliance)
- **Marisela Tavares**, Outreach Lead, Proyecto Sanáremos (El Paso Alliance)

DESCRIPTION: Join us for an engaging panel presentation. Our panelists, SAMHSA Harm Reduction grantees El Paso Alliance and PILLAR, are at the forefront of harm reduction efforts in the border region. This panel presentation will shed light on the unique and impactful initiatives undertaken by these organizations.

El Paso Alliance’s drop-in center, situated in El Paso, Texas, is a vital hub for harm reduction services. Beyond supplying essential harm reduction materials, the center offers nourishing meals and facilitates connections to medical care, housing, and drug treatment. Additionally, it serves as a cooling center to provide relief from the scorching Texas heat. A remarkable aspect of the center is the holistic case management services provided by a dedicated team of certified peer support specialists. El Paso Alliance also takes an innovative approach to outreach by employing a mapping tool to guide staff in locating migrant encampments, ensuring that harm reduction services reach those who need them most. This comprehensive approach underscores the organization’s commitment to diversity, equity, and accessibility.

PILLAR, located in Laredo, Texas, excels in community engagement. The organization has fostered strong and strategic partnerships with local police, fire/EMS departments, and city council members, garnering widespread support from city officials enabling their harm reduction program to have a greater community impact. PILLAR’s dedication to overdose prevention extends to providing education to US Border Patrol agents. An inspiring milestone for PILLAR was their presentation on harm reduction at the Webb County Commissioners Court in February 2023 resulting in the declaration of March 20-24 as Harm Reduction Week and March 22 as Harm Reduction Day in Webb County, Texas. This recognition exemplifies the positive impact of their work in the community.

Highlighting the commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, both El Paso Alliance and PILLAR have integrated these principles into their harm reduction efforts. Their work demonstrates the power of inclusivity and cultural sensitivity in serving diverse populations along the border.

During this panel discussion, attendees will discover the approaches that support harm reduction efforts on the US/Mexico border and gain valuable insights into innovative strategies for prevention and community empowerment, all while emphasizing the importance of these approaches in shaping effective harm reduction initiatives.

SPD096 - You Can Take Action for Adolescents! Join the Call to Action for Adolescent Health and Well-Being

LOCATION - POTOMAC C

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SPEAKERS:

- **Emily Novick**, Senior Public Health Advisor, HHS Office of Population Affairs
- **Ciara Davis**, Supervisory Public Health Advisor, Director of the Division of Policy & External Affairs, HHS Office of Population Affairs

DESCRIPTION: This one-hour workshop will review the Call to Action, the Take Action Toolkit, the current status of dissemination/implementation/technical assistance efforts, and OPA’s work to develop an adolescent health research agenda, and share with participants how they can engage in collaboration inspired by the Call to Action.

SPD094 - Implementing the *One Choice* Prevention Message in Your Community: Lessons from the Field

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE D

SPEAKERS:

- **Caroline DuPont**, MD, Vice President, Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc. / One Choice Prevention
- **Nancy Pasquale**, Director, RyeACT Coalition; Prevention Consultant, One Choice Prevention
- **Debbie Berndt**, Director, Substance-Free Athletics; Host of SAMHSA's "Talk. They Hear You."® campaign podcast, "What Parents Are Saying – Prevention Wisdom, Authenticity, and Empowerment"

DESCRIPTION: Nearly all adults with substance use disorders (SUDs) began using substances as teens, most commonly alcohol, nicotine, and cannabis. Employing a public health approach to reducing SUDs requires removing traditionally siloed thinking about the separation of prevention and treatment. Rooted in the biological vulnerability of the developing brain, the health standard for youth substance use is "*One Choice*: no use of any alcohol, nicotine, cannabis, or other drugs by youth under age 21 for reasons of health." "*One Choice*" flips the narrative about substance use to normalize non-use and specifically amplifies the voices of youth who make "*One Choice*" for their health.

This presentation offers concrete examples of how diverse communities have integrated the "*One Choice*" prevention message and supporting data into existing prevention efforts, including a statewide public health campaign in Missouri; a workshop for parents and children transitioning from elementary to middle school in Connecticut; youth leadership programs in Kentucky, Illinois, and South Dakota; a discussion with a selected population of high-risk teens near New York City; and a prevention framework for caregivers with a suite of resources.

SPD095 - Ensuring the Protection of Youth in the Era of Legal Drug Reform

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE B

SPEAKERS:

- **Linda Richter**, Senior Vice President, Prevention Research and Analysis
- **Lindsey Vuolo**, Vice President, Health Law and Policy
- **Robyn Oster**, Senior Research Associate, Health Law and Policy

DESCRIPTION: This session will focus on how communities and states considering or engaging in marijuana reform for adult, nonmedical ("recreational") use can design a research-based legal and regulatory framework that best protects youth and prevents substance use. While opinions on marijuana legalization vary, nearly everyone agrees that it is important to prevent youth use and its associated harms. Research into the effects of marijuana legalization on youth generally indicates that legalization is associated with increased rates of adolescent marijuana use, lower perceptions of risks related to marijuana use, and significant increases in adverse, marijuana-related consequences among young people.

The presenters will discuss (1) a comprehensive review of the nicotine, alcohol, and existing marijuana research literature to document policies and provisions to protect youth from legalized/commercialized addictive substances; (2) a landscape review of existing provisions within state laws and regulations that may be protective for youth exposure, access, and use of marijuana; and (3) detailed recommended provisions for states to include in their marijuana laws and regulations to better protect youth.

12:30 PM–
1:30 PM

BREAK

1:30 PM–
2:30 PM

WORKSHOPS: AFTERNOON SESSION I

TRACK I – YOUTH-LED PREVENTION EFFORTS

SPD243 - Building Youth LEADers: Leadership Development for Disconnected Youth

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE A

SPEAKERS:

- **Kiricka Yarbough Smith**, MSW, Director of Youth Engagement
- **Kendra Underwood**, Student Engagement Coordinator

DESCRIPTION: Children and youth are some of the most marginalized, vulnerable, and inadequately served individuals targeted by abuse and exploitation. Youth who receive the appropriate guidance, support and encouragement have the capacity to positively impact their peers, families and communities. The Leading, Empowering, Advising, and Developing (LEAD) Program works with youth ages 13-17 in rural communities, who are at risk of experiencing human trafficking, substance use, or other intersecting issues. LEAD connects youth to their communities by providing mentorship, career development, counseling, educational support, and leadership opportunities as protective factors against violence and abuse. This presentation will explore the importance of reaching disconnected youth, share the LEAD model, and discuss ways to build community involvement. Participants will gain the knowledge and tools to engage youth, their families, and the larger community by building the next generation of LEADers.

SPD204 - Utilizing the OJJDP Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI) to Build a Foundation for PEP's Youth Empowerment Program Model

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 11

SPEAKERS:

- **Angela D. Saunders**, Director, PEP, Marshall University
- **Brooklyn Johnson**, Student Trainee, PEP Workforce Development, Marshall University
- **Carol P. Gordon**, Project Lead, Opioid Affected Youth Initiative, Institute for Intergovernmental Research, OJJDP TTA Provider, Project Lead, OAYI
- **Darian Appleton**, **OAYI TTA Group**, Opioid Affected Youth Initiative, Institute for Intergovernmental Research, OJJDP TTA Provider, Coordinator

DESCRIPTION: Addressing the issues associated with the impact of opioids and other substance use disorders through youth-led prevention efforts has become one of the cornerstones of the programs and services of local, state, and tribal communities supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Opioid Affected Youth Initiative. With an investment of more than \$30 million targeted to develop and implement effective, data-driven, and coordinated responses that mitigate the adverse effects of opioid-related challenges and other substance misuse, OJJDP continues to focus on incorporating the youth voice in the assessment and identification of specific prevention strategies and leveraging the perspectives of youth with lived experience.

This workshop will provide an overview of one of OJJDP's approaches to addressing the opioid epidemic and other emerging substance misuse, while highlighting how one local community coalition used OJJDP funding to build the foundation for the PEP Youth Empowerment Model. The session will further showcase targeted activities that led to the creation of a strategic plan for comprehensive prevention, while targeting youth who had been affected by the opioid crises in West Virginia, as well as what that program looks like today.

Strategies for Improving Health Outcomes for People At Risk for or Living with HIV and Substance Use Disorder

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE B

» SPD100 - Community and Youth Centered Prevention Strategies in an Urban Setting

SPEAKERS:

- **Michelle Nees**, LMSW, MPH, Associate Director, Adolescent Services, Family Health Centers at NYU Langone
- **Miriam Bonano**, Program Supervisor, Family Health Centers at NYU Langone
- **Mitchell Caponi**, MPH, Network HIV Director, Family Health Centers at NYU Langone

DESCRIPTION: The Family Health Centers at NYU Langone (FHC) is a large federally qualified health center network that serves a largely immigrant, people of color, and low-income patient population in Brooklyn, New York. The presenters will review innovative strategies in HIV prevention efforts utilized by SAMHSA's Prevention Navigator Program. The purpose of the project is to reduce barriers to care and improve health access for youth of color between the ages 14 and 24 in the community. Through the placement of health educators in FHC's school-based health centers, the initiative has improved access for students in high-risk communities. This strategy has enabled trained health educators to provide evidence-based HIV prevention workshops to high school students and connect them to testing services within their schools.

» SPD179 - AIDS Center of Queens County (ACQC) SAMHSA Implementation of HIV Testing Grant

SPEAKERS:

- **Gladys Jennerjahn**, MSA, Director of Prevention and Education Department, AIDS Center of Queens County
- **Yolene Gousse**, DrPH, MPH, Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Department of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health Sciences, St. John's University

DESCRIPTION: The mortality rate among people living with HIV indicates the need for better access to HIV testing and HIV-related medical care. In the program's service area, African Americans and Latinos have been disproportionately negatively affected by HIV/AIDS, with concurrent HIV/AIDS diagnoses often also being higher in immigrant communities. Further, LGBTQ persons are at increased risks for HIV due to substance use (primarily alcohol, crystal meth, opioids, and cocaine); risky sexual behaviors; and injecting hormones. To address these health needs in Queens, New York, the AIDS Center of Queens County and St. John's University formed a partnership aimed to achieve three overarching goals over five years: (1) improve local service providers' understanding of the needs and issues in the community related to substance use and HIV; (2) increase knowledge and awareness among the population of focus regarding the risks of substance use and HIV; and (3) increase the number of at-risk individuals who are identified, tested for HIV, and linked to HIV care and other support services.

SPD091 - The "X-Factor" in Prevention: An Upstream, Protective Approach to Ending America's Substance Use Crisis

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE J

SPEAKER:

- **Martine Helou-Allen**, Founder and Executive Director of RIZE Prevention

DESCRIPTION: This session will focus on the importance of empowering teens to resist drug use and make healthy lifestyle choices. School-based prevention programs, bolstered by community coalitions, that focus on addressing risk and protective factors of youth are more necessary than ever before. This session will teach participants about the way innovative and comprehensive drug prevention can be approached by promoting individual protective factors that foster the intrinsic motivation of an individual to resist drug use. Furthermore, this session will discuss why school-based community coalitions are critical for reducing and de-normalizing youth substance use. By creating school-based coalitions, communities will see a decrease in youth and adult substance use over time. By strengthening the collaboration between schools, the community, nonprofit and public agencies, and state government agencies, the increased promotion of protective factors reduces the likelihood of teen substance use.

TRACK II – PREVENTION ACROSS THE LIFESPAN AND THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

SPD201 - Game-Changing Research in Youth and Early Adulthood Opioid Misuse Prevention: Examples of Innovation from the HEAL Prevention Cooperative

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 10

SPEAKERS:

- **Dr. Jessica Cance**, HEAL Prevention Coordinating Center, RTI International
- **Dr. Phillip Graham**, HEAL Prevention Coordinating Center, RTI International
- **Dr. Lynn Fiellin**, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth; play2PREVENT Lab Founder
- **Dr. Margaret Kuklinski**, Social Development Research Group, University of Washington School of Social Work

DESCRIPTION: A videogame that rewards positive choices and promotes youth resilience. An opportunity for a young person to reconnect to their tribal heritage through sacred rituals. Substance use screening as part of a visit to the emergency room or an appointment to see a behavioral therapist. These are a few examples of avenues that researchers are testing and developing as innovative strategies for preventing opioid misuse and opioid use disorder in youth and young adult populations.

The National Institutes of Health's Helping to End Addiction Long-term Prevention Cooperative (HPC) consists of 10 research projects testing and developing evidence-based strategies to deliver preventive interventions to youth across the United States. This session will highlight advancements in research and practical lessons for designing and conducting substance use prevention programs for youth and young adult populations with distinct risk profiles. Each panelist's talk will align with a manuscript recently published in a *Prevention Science Supplemental Issue* dedicated to the HPC's work advancing the field of substance use prevention.

Federal Strategies, Local Implementation: Designing and Implementing Programs for Reducing Overdose Deaths

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 3

» SPD163 - You Can Save a Life: Recognizing and Responding to Overdose

SPEAKERS:

- **Cara Alexander**, PhD, BCD, LCSW; CDR, U.S. Public Health Service; Director, Division of Targeted Prevention, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA
- **Devin Sweat**, Public Health Advisor, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA

DESCRIPTION: Opioid overdose affects individuals from all walks of life, transcending socioeconomic, racial, and demographic boundaries. While many view people who experience overdose solely through the lens of their substance use, every person lost to opioid overdose is a person loved by others—they are parents, siblings, neighbors, friends, and employees. Understanding this broader context is fundamental to developing compassionate responses that see the individual behind the crisis.

This presentation will delve into the following key components:

- **Understanding the U.S. overdose landscape:** Speakers will review overdose data, including who is being disproportionately impacted by overdose, and risk factors for overdose.
- **Recognizing symptoms of overdose:** Participants will learn how to identify symptoms of an opioid overdose, fostering a deeper understanding of the crisis at hand.
- **Effective response strategies:** Speakers will discuss and demonstrate evidence-based response strategies, including the administration of naloxone, enabling attendees to act swiftly and confidently in critical situations.
- **Cultivating empathy and reducing stigma:** Central to this presentation is the promotion of empathy and the reduction of stigma surrounding substance use.

» SPD074 - Low-barrier Naloxone Saturation to Decrease Overdose Death

SPEAKER:

- **Pamela Lynch**, LMSW, CAADC, Executive Director, Harm Reduction Michigan

DESCRIPTION: Harm Reduction Michigan introduced low-cost, low-barrier naloxone vending boxes (repurposed newspaper boxes) for the purposes of making nasal naloxone available in diverse urban and rural communities across the state of Michigan. We have now placed 126 of these boxes in 35 counties across Michigan in rural, urban, suburban and tribal communities. Naloxone is a safe, and relatively inexpensive tool that, when made available in a low-threshold, non-stigmatizing manner can change the toll of the poly-drug overdose epidemic in your communities and states.

SPD226 - Life in RESET

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 9

SPEAKERS:

- **Michelle Toman**, Survivor, Advocate, Founder
- **Barri Faucett**, MA, Director, Co-Founder

DESCRIPTION: Trauma has the power to change everything, often turning our lives upside down, inside out and sideways. Families and children (of all ages) who are experiencing mental health and/or substance use challenges have typically experienced traumatic life-altering events that forever change us. Much science and research exist behind the physical and emotional impact on the body and the need to be able to heal from the inside out. Trauma is stored as pain in our body; it manifests physically and emotionally. There are things we can do to reset our mind, body and spirit. Unlocking tissue memory promotes the natural healing and recovery process. Understanding trauma is vital to serving individuals with mental health and substance use challenges. Life in Reset provides a greater level of understanding on Post-Traumatic Stress Growth and what we can do to help ourselves and each other. Based on personal lived experiences of loss and abandonment at early ages, presenters utilize their stories of complex traumas to help explain how trauma may manifest and affect us. The manner and conditions in which an individual copes, can also include the possibility of growth and recovery changing the trajectory of life in a meaningful way. We are much more than our ACEs score; our traumatic experiences - though difficult - don't necessarily have to pre-determine our destiny. We have the power to reset our mind, body and spirit when we know what to do and can receive the help needed outside of ourselves.

TRACK III – INNOVATIONS IN PREVENTION

Federal Strategies, Local Implementation: School- and Community-based Programs to Empower Youth

LOCATION - POTOMAC D

» SPD188 - Empowering Youth Coast to Coast: Innovations in Substance Misuse Prevention and Education

SPEAKERS:

- **Shannon Hastings, MPH**, Public Health Advisor, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA
- **Domenica Personti**, Founder and CEO, Impact Life
- **Siddarth Puri, MD**, Associate Medical Director of Prevention, Harm Reduction Unit Lead, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
- **Siobhan O'Neil**, LMSW, Project Director, Safe Horizon Streetwork Project, New York City

DESCRIPTION: Empowering and engaging youth in substance use prevention efforts is crucial for a healthier and safer future. This panel presentation places a strong emphasis on the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. The presenters will delve into four pioneering initiatives that embody these values, address emerging challenges in the prevention field, and explore the role of social media and parental substance use in the context of youth substance misuse. This presentation will shed light on the exciting developments in youth-led substance misuse prevention efforts, from the inclusion of youth with lived or living substance use experience to policy changes that promote equity and save lives, and innovative educational approaches accessible to all.

» SPD215 - Mobilizing Our School Personnel for Overdose Prevention: The Role of Community-led, School-based Overdose Prevention Programs in Addressing the Opioid Health Crisis

SPEAKERS:

- **Kournaye Sturgeon**, Director of Education, Overdose Lifeline, Inc.
- **Cameron McNeely**, MSW, Director of Youth Education, Overdose Lifeline, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: Overdose Lifeline, Inc. (ODL) is an Indiana nonprofit with partners across 48 states dedicated to helping individuals, families, and communities affected by substance use disorder through advocacy, education, and support. In this workshop, ODL will discuss its evidence-based youth prevention programs, student naloxone training, caregiver training, and online education programs for laypeople and health care providers.

SPD102 - How the Strategic Prevention Framework – Partnerships for Success Program Can Support STOP Act and Drug-Free Communities Grants

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 12-13

SPEAKERS:

- **Alexandria Washington**, DrPH, MPH, Public Health Advisor, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA
- **Laura Lamotte**
- **Heather McDonnell-Stalnaker**, Public Health Advisor, CSAP, SAMHSA
- **Celia Heath, Project Director**, United Way of Addison County
- **Sylvie Choiniere**, Project Coordinator, United Way of Addison County
- **Amy Bass**, Portable Practical Educational Preparation, Inc.

DESCRIPTION: The Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) is a community engagement model grounded in public health principles, including being data-driven and focused on providing evidence-based services to high-risk, underserved communities. This workshop will focus on lessons learned from SPF-Partnerships for Success grantees who have employed the SPF to successfully administer other substance use and misuse grants, including STOP Act and Drug Free Communities grants. Panelists will discuss the application process, budgeting for multiple grants, implementation of strategies, and reporting for multiple grants, as well as the benefits and challenges.

SPD055 - Helping Communities Address the Opioid Epidemic Through Systems Thinking: The Opioid Response Planning Checklist for Systems Thinking Readiness

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 8

SPEAKER:

- **Jennifer Loeffler-Cobia**, DrPH, MS, Director, Justice and Public Health Policy and Practice, WestEd's Justice and Prevention Research Center, and Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Southern California - Bovard College

DESCRIPTION: Prevention efforts often operate in silos and fall to organizations that have access to populations of interest, e.g., public health, justice, and education. Unconnected prevention efforts by organizations have failed to reduce rates of opioid misuse, morbidity, and death. Both research studies and practical expertise have emphasized the need for a more synergistic approach that includes the entire substance misuse ecosystem in developing common system-level mission, vision, resource sharing, and practices to achieve better outcomes and save lives. However, implementing a system thinking approach to prevention first requires understanding implementation readiness factors (e.g., motivation to change, access to resources, skillsets, buy-in, leadership).

This workshop will explore the prevention implementation readiness literature as it relates to effective outcomes, and present information about a new assessment tool, the Opioid Response Planning Checklist for Systems Thinking Readiness. This tool is designed to help leaders within an ecosystem gauge their readiness to implement a system thinking approach to prevention and a process to support and build capacity in high-risk and high-need communities in the adoption, implementation, and dissemination of effective strategies to prevent opioid overdose deaths. Communication, adaptability, responsiveness, system culture, power dynamics, community demographics, and data practices are some of the components that will be discussed in the workshop.

» SPD214 - Infusing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion into Prevention from the Get-Go

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE K-L

SPEAKERS:

- **Bobbie J. Boyer**, LISW-S, LICDC-CS, OCPC, Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- **Holly Raffle**, PhD, MCHES, Faculty Director at the Ohio Center Of Excellence for Behavioral Health Prevention and Promotion, Professor of Leadership and Public Service at the Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership & Public Service

DESCRIPTION: This presentation will provide an overview of strategies that a state can use to lead policy development, community planning, programming and practice toward a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for services across the lifespan. The concept of cultural competence or the ability of an individual or organization to understand and interact with people who have different values, lifestyles, and traditions based on their distinctive heritage and social relationships is central to the Strategic Prevention Framework. The public health model identifies social determinants of health as conditions in places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. Social determinants of health include economic stability, education, health and health care, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context. Risk factors, such as poverty and community violence, require approaches designed to impact those social determinants of health. Advancing equity and inclusion is at the core of Office of Prevention Services and the work of the prevention field. However, sometimes it is easier to talk about the need than to implement strategies that increase the diversity of the prevention field or address those social determinants. This presentation will provide real-life examples of how to bring these principles to life within prevention services.

SPD125 - Leveraging the Power of Games to Prevent Substance Use and Promote Mental Health among Adolescents: Insights from Federally Funded Coalitions

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE D

SPEAKERS:

- **Lynn E. Fiellin**, MD, Founder, Playbl Games; Founder, play2PREVENT Lab at Yale
- **Lorrie McFarland**, MS, MCHES, CPS-R, Program Manager, Alliance for Prevention & Wellness, BHcare

DESCRIPTION: The rise in adolescent vaping, smoking, and opioid use, with concomitant mental health issues, has become a significant public health concern, prompting the need for innovative and engaging prevention and health promotion strategies. Federally funded coalitions have stepped up to address these challenges, utilizing digital health interventions such as Playbl games. Playbl is the sister organization to the play2PREVENT (p2P) Lab at Yale. The p2P Lab has developed, tested, and demonstrated efficacy of five videogame interventions targeting substance use, mental health, and sexual health. Playbl was created at the height of the pandemic to focus on the widespread distribution of these highly accessible, evidence-based games.

This presentation will feature the founder of the p2P Lab and Playbl and a national coalition leader, who will explore the use of Playbl games in targeting vaping/smoking and opioid use prevention and mental health promotion in adolescents, highlighting the experiences of federally funded coalitions. The discussion will encompass the development process, successes, challenges, and lessons learned, emphasizing the crucial aspects of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

TRACK IV – PREVENTION WORKFORCE

SPD112 - Prevention with Purpose: The Importance of Strategic Planning and Considering Culture

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE E

SPEAKERS:

- **Richard Lucey, Jr.**, Senior Prevention Program Manager, Community Outreach and Prevention Support Section, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- **Allison Smith**, PhD, Assistant Commissioner for Student Health and Wellness, Louisiana Board of Regents

DESCRIPTION: This workshop will focus on the updated edition of *Prevention with Purpose: A Strategic Planning Guide for Preventing Drug Misuse Among College Students*, produced by the Drug Enforcement Administration. The presenters will discuss the importance of strategic planning; successes and challenges experienced by colleges and universities in applying the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) to their prevention efforts; and the importance of integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout all five steps of the SPF.

SPD066 - Professionalizing the Prevention Field Through Certification: What's Working and What's Getting in The Way

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE F

SPEAKERS:

- **Scott M. Gagnon**, MPP, PS-C, Associate Executive Director, AdCare Educational Institute of Maine, Inc.; Director New England Prevention Technology Transfer Center
- **Rori Douros**, Associate Director of Administration, Dept. of Educational Psychology, College of Education Project Coordinator - Mountain Plains Prevention Technology Transfer Center
- **Rachel R. Witmer**, Senior Program Manager, The Collaborative to Advance Health Services University of Missouri Kansas City, Coordinator Opioid Response Network & PTTC NCO

DESCRIPTION: Prevention certification continues to grow and evolve across the country. However, there are still many prevention professionals who aren't certified, and there are many reasons for this. A workgroup of the Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC) Network sought to gain an understanding of the advantages and barriers to prevention certification in states across the nation. The workgroup developed and deployed two surveys to the field to gauge the successes, challenges, and barriers related to prevention credentialing, to gain an understanding on some of the roadblocks to prevention credentialing, and to identify potential technical assistance action steps to address them.

This interactive session will begin by taking participants through the summaries of the response data for both surveys, describing the themes that emerged. The presenters will then engage the audience in discussion to elicit reactions to the response data and to have an opportunity to share their own experiences with credentialing in their state. Finally, presenters will engage the audience in a conversation to generate potential solutions to some of the identified barriers, while sharing recommendations from the workgroup who developed and deployed the survey.

SPD205 - Bridge to Success Workforce

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE H

SPEAKERS:

- **Dorenda Swanson**, Project Director, Northern Ohio Recovery Association
- **Melissa Manzone**, Evaluator, Northern Ohio Recovery Association

DESCRIPTION: Successes - Outcomes are still developing as the program is in its second grant year. Thus far, the most significant success is watching our clients go from individuals broken by substance use to confident, hopeful people who are filling out their own applications, organizing their own schedules, and reconnecting with their children and families. At the start of this second grant year, nine of our clients are working with employers in diverse positions such as culinary arts and health care, and two have completed credentialed training.

Challenges - In NORA's experience, food and shelter insecurity increases stress and anxiety, which intensifies someone's craving to self-medicate because they are forced to prioritize survival and the survival of their families over their recovery. NORA's BSW treatment and aftercare clients focus on "what they don't have" and their immediate needs rather than long-term goals like permanent employment. To address the above challenge, NORA's BSW life coaches conduct regular welfare checks and may contact clients daily. These constant touchpoints promote trusting relationships and let our clients know they are not alone. Regular contact has been necessary to motivate and influence clients to learn healthy coping skills, make better decisions, and stay with the program.

Lessons Learned - NORA developed a prevocational training workshop, It Starts With Me Soft Skills Training, to prepare clients for job training and career pathway services. The workshop was provided to treatment and aftercare clients. After the second workshop, NORA learned that individuals in treatment were still overwhelmed with the day-to-day challenges of adopting sober lifestyles and balancing work, childcare, and treatment. To create a more supportive and effective learning environment, NORA's BSW team considered the unique challenges treatment clients face, specifically their high risk for relapse, and made changes to the program. For example, NORA learned that individuals in treatment are even more susceptible to stress and anxiety. As individuals in treatment are at the beginning of their recovery journey, it was determined that workshop lessons should be modified to suit their needs, such as focusing more on goal setting and personal responsibility to increase confidence. The modifications aim to create a low-stress environment that fosters personal growth and confidence, helping participants to better manage their emotions and avoid triggers. Another example is that people undergoing treatment have unique needs, and the workshop has been adapted to provide specialized support and resources. This includes access to daily life coaching, which can help participants stay in treatment and prevent relapse. Finally, understanding that clients in aftercare and clients in treatment are in different recovery phases and require different resources to address their needs, NORA's BSW team split the workshop into 2 groups: 1 group for treatment clients and 1 group for aftercare clients. By separating the lessons into different groups, NORA can better tailor information to ensure relevancy and avoid causing undo stress in more vulnerable people.

Diversity - We celebrate and embrace the varied lived experiences, perspectives, and strengths each participant brings to our program. Our commitment to diversity is reflected in our outreach, recruitment, and retention practices, ensuring we reach out to and benefit our communities. **Equity:** Everyone deserves access to the resources, opportunities, and support needed to thrive, regardless of their ability to pay. **Recognizing poverty's historical and ongoing impacts,** we work tirelessly to level the playing field. This includes providing tailored workforce development services, addiction recovery support, and advocacy for fair treatment in employment. **Inclusion:** We create a welcoming and supportive space where voices are heard, contributions are valued, and everyone can engage fully in our program.

TRACK V – PREVENTION SCIENCE, PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION

Federal Strategies, Local Implementation: Exploring Media and Messaging in Innovative Campaigns to Reduce Underage Drinking

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 4-5

» SPD176 - The Importance of Addressing Adult Behavior Modeling as Part of SAMHSA's "Talk. They Hear You."® Campaign

SPEAKER:

- **Robert M. Vincent**, MEd, Associate Administrator for Alcohol Prevention and Treatment Policy, SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

DESCRIPTION: To prevent underage alcohol and other substance use, "Talk. They Hear You."® goes beyond a traditional media campaign by helping parents and caregivers, educators, and community members get informed, be prepared, and take action. This presentation will open with a description of adult behavior modeling, using research to show its effect on youth substance use choices and behaviors. Next, the presenter will explain how the "Talk. They Hear You."® campaign has already integrated, and plans to further integrate, adult behavior modeling information into its substance use prevention messaging, such as in two "What Parents Are Saying" podcasts: "Talking With the Kennedys" and "Parenting in Recovery." These podcasts feature frank discussions from adults on the opportunities, discomforts, and urgency around parenting while in recovery. The presentation will address the inherent challenge in developing materials that help adults discuss the risks and dangers of alcohol and other substance use with children when those adults are engaging in negative substance use behaviors or living with a substance use disorder themselves.

» SPD131 - The Pandemic Effect on Alcohol Compliance Checks, DUI Crashes, and Underage Drinking: The South Carolina Experience

SPEAKERS:

- **Michael D. George**, PhD, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation
- **Michelle M. Nienhuis**, MPH, NPN (SC), South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services

DESCRIPTION: This workshop will focus on the results of an evaluation of underage drinking enforcement and media efforts in South Carolina. As a follow-up to a study published in *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, presenters will discuss an overview of a statewide campaign that incorporated increased compliance checks as well as education to high school and middle school students through a number of media platforms. Early results showed a decline in alcohol-related crashes among drivers under 21 when compliance checks increased, and a decrease in high school and middle school students who reported 30-day alcohol use and binge drinking. Presenters will delve into data from 2017 to 2022 to explore how the state response to the COVID-19 pandemic affected the results.

SPD084 - Addressing the Latest Emerging Substance Use Trends: Xylazine, Nitazenes, Tianeptine, Hallucinogens and Others

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 4

SPEAKERS:

- **Josh Esrick**, Chief of Training and Technical Assistance, Prevention Technology Transfer Center
- **Emily Patton**, Senior Research Associate, Prevention Technology Transfer Center
- **Olivia Stuart**, Research Assistant, Prevention Technology Transfer Center

DESCRIPTION: The substance use landscape is ever-changing due to shifts in the demand and supply of substances, the increasing or decreasing importance of various risk and protective factors, and the improvement or deterioration of the social determinants of health. Prevention professionals need to be able to identify and understand these changes and know how to appropriately react to them. Relative changes in substance use patterns, or the causes behind use, can lead to a reprioritization of key prevention activities in a community or state. This presentation will provide an overview of emerging drug trends nationwide, explain what is known about the causes behind these trends, and discuss potential implications for the prevention field. It will also discuss how prevention professionals can find more information about the emerging trends in their communities or states. Lastly, it will summarize how prevention professionals can use emerging trend data to support their strategic planning efforts, leading to improved goals or objectives. By identifying and addressing emerging trends before they fully develop into larger issues, prevention professionals can better serve the populations most in need of services in their area and improve health equity and outcomes.

SPD047 - Mapping Inequities: Visualizing How Place Matters through GIS

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE I

SPEAKER:

- **Meredith Gibson**, Media/GIS Director, Institute for Public Strategies

DESCRIPTION: Alcohol overconcentration is a public health problem, particularly in low-income and historically marginalized communities, which tend to have more liquor stores and targeted alcohol marketing than high-income white neighborhoods. Increased alcohol availability is associated with higher rates of DUI crashes, sexual and domestic violence, and crime, thus adversely affecting the health of residents, visitors, and businesses. Through geographic information systems (GIS), we can identify relationships between location and health, and see areas most at risk of alcohol-related harms.

Data from the American Community Survey were used to account for the health factors in this tool. This interactive web map combines the datasets into the Alcohol Vulnerability Index. This visualization aids in identifying areas most in need of policy intervention. It enables community members to understand the conditions of their neighborhood and facilitate buy-in for advocacy and policy efforts, and promote equitable neighborhood conditions. The goal is to achieve continuous usage of the tool by policy makers and community members to advocate for alcohol harm prevention policies.

SPD104 - Substance Abuse/HIV/Hepatitis Prevention and Reduction through Knowledge (SPARK)

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 5

SPEAKERS:

- **Jury Candelario**, LCSW, Division Director
- **Johann Ortizo**, MSW
- **Morgan Clark**, MA, Research, Evaluation, and Development Manager

DESCRIPTION: This workshop will provide an overview of the SAMHSA-funded SPARK program, a 5-year substance use, HIV, and hepatitis prevention education program. SPARK provided substance use prevention and reduction education services through the PRIME for Life evidenced-based practice, and HIV/hepatitis prevention through education, access to reduction supplies (e.g., condoms, lubricant), and provision of HIV/hepatitis testing to at-risk racial/ethnic LGBTQ+ minority adults ages 18 to 24 in Orange County, California; with the goal of increasing awareness, engagement in protective factors, and responsible decision making.

SPD085 - Disparities in Health and Social Outcomes for LGBTQ+ Students in Rhode Island

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE C

SPEAKER:

- **Hailey Voyer**, MPH, Public Health Epidemiologist, Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare

DESCRIPTION: While adolescence is a difficult time for all youth, LGBTQ+ youth are additionally burdened by disproportionate amounts of violence, bullying, and other negative factors that increase their risk of experiencing adverse health and social outcomes. The Rhode Island Student Survey (RISS) is a survey of middle and high school students throughout Rhode Island that examines the risk and prevalence of youth substance use, mental health, bullying and violence, and school performance. In 2022, over 20,000 students participated in the RISS. Of those students, 5% identified as gay or lesbian, 14% identified as bisexual, and 4% of students identified as transgender. The results of this survey have been analyzed to compare LGBTQ+ students with their heterosexual and cisgender peers to determine the extent of the disparities experienced by LGBTQ+ youth in Rhode Island (RI). All results were statistically significant with a p-value <0.05

Adolescence is a critical period for the development of mental health conditions and LGBTQ+ youth often experience chronic stress and victimization due to their identity leading to increased rates of anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, and substance use and abuse. The results show that LGBTQ+ students in RI are more likely to report negative mental health indicators and past 30-day substance use compared to their peers. Fifty-four percent (54%) of gay/lesbian/bisexual students and 65% of transgender students reported "feeling very sad" in the last 30 days compared to 19% of heterosexual and 24% of cisgender students. Additionally, 35% of gay/lesbian/bisexual students and 52% of transgender students reported that they had seriously considered suicide in the last year compared to 10% of heterosexual and 13% of cisgender students. In 2022, 14% of transgender and gay/lesbian/bisexual students reported past 30-day use of alcohol compared to 8% of heterosexual and cisgender students. Seventeen percent (17%) of transgender and 15% of gay/lesbian/bisexual students reported past 30-day use of marijuana compared to 8% of heterosexual and cisgender students.

A strong social environment can serve as a protective factor for poor mental health and substance use. Unfortunately, many LGBTQ+ youth face bullying and discrimination due to their identity, often leading to fear and feelings of social isolation. In 2022, 51% of transgender and 38% of gay/lesbian/bisexual students

in RI reported being bullied in the last year compared to 19% of heterosexual and cisgender students. LGBTQ+ students were also more likely to report being threatened at school or having been in a physical fight in the last year compared to their heterosexual and cisgender peers. Although 83% of heterosexual and cisgender students reported feeling safe at school, only 68% of gay/lesbian/bisexual students and only 55% of transgender students reported feeling safe at school. Lastly, 82% of heterosexual and cisgender students reported having a parent that they could go to for help with anything if they needed it. Conversely, only 62% of gay/lesbian/bisexual students and only 49% of transgender students reported having this supportive parental figure.

Students who experience higher levels of victimization and discrimination from peers in relation to their sexual orientation and gender identity are more likely to report increased absenteeism from school and have lower grade point averages. Based on the 2022 RISS, 12% of transgender students and 10% of gay/lesbian/bisexual students reported missing at least 6 days of school in the last 30 days compared to 6% of heterosexual and cisgender students. Additionally, 20% of transgender students and 15% of gay/lesbian/bisexual students reported having grades that were mostly D's and F's compared to 8% of their heterosexual and cisgender peers.

Data from this analysis can be used to inform policies, procedures, and practices that support LGBTQ+ youth and promote a safe and prosperous learning environment.

TRACK VI – PREVENTION EFFORTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY

SPD119 - Promoting Well-being and Preventing Substance Use, Mental Illness and Suicide Risk for LGBTQI+ Youth

LOCATION - POTOMAC C

SPEAKERS:

- **Arlin Hatch**, CAPT, USPHS, PhD, Senior Psychologist, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, SAMHSA
- **John Palmieri**, MD, MHA, Senior Medical Advisor, Deputy Director, 988 & Behavioral Health Crisis Coordinating Office, SAMHSA

DESCRIPTION: Sexual and gender-diverse youth experience significant physical and behavioral health inequities, including higher rates of mental illness, substance use, and suicidality than their heterosexual and cisgender peers. Negative social attitudes, discrimination, rejection, and violence related to an individual's LGBTQI+ identity can contribute to these disparities and associated stress. This stress, and limited opportunities for support, are encountered by many sexual and gender minority youth within their families, communities, and schools.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is committed to eliminating health disparities facing vulnerable communities, including sexual and gender minority communities, and preventing adverse outcomes. To that end, SAMHSA sponsored a 2023 report, *Moving Beyond Change Efforts: Evidence and Action to Support and Affirm LGBTQI+ Youth*. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the scientific research and consensus that LGBTQI+ youth are resilient and can thrive when they are supported and affirmed, but that pervasive discrimination, rejection, and bullying of LGBTQI+ youth has fueled a nationwide mental health and substance use crisis. In this session, we will highlight consensus

statements developed by experts in the field after a careful review of existing research, professional health association reports, and expert clinical guidance; the consensus statements highlight areas of ethical and scientific foundations most relevant to harmful and discredited efforts to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of minors. The session will additionally underscore best practices for caregivers, educators, faith communities, and providers, to support and affirm LGBTQI+ youth, and collectively reduce risk for negative behavioral health outcomes, including suicide.

To help address the mental health and substance use crisis, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline began operating a federally funded program for LGBTQI+ youth, to expand access to affirming support for LGBTQI+ youth who are struggling with a crisis. The LGBTQI+ youth program provides the “press 3” option to connect with a counselor focused on meeting the needs of LGBTQI+ youth and young adults, in addition to being able to connect with specialized assistance by text and chat. Use of the LGBTQI+ “press 3” option, to include specialized connections by text and chat, has increased significantly since it began in September 2022, and associated work and lessons learned will be described during this session, as vital work to support the behavioral health and well-being of LGBTQI+ youth.

SPD248 - Promoting Well-being and Preventing Substance Use, Mental Illness and Suicide Risk for LGBTQI+ Youth

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 6

SPEAKERS:

- **Carter A. Roeber**, Social Science Analyst, National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Laboratory, SAMHSA
- **Humberto Carvalho**, Project Officer, SAMHSA

DESCRIPTION: This workshop will review two products of the HEALing Communities Study (HCS) informed by the Communities That HEAL (CTH) Intervention Manual and integral contributions from research and community partners across four research sites. The guide was developed in recognition of the need to center community engagement throughout the efforts to address the opioid overdose crisis. The guide exists to help communities decrease opioid overdose deaths; it includes tools and real-world examples that can be used to build and strengthen community coalitions that work to reduce opioid overdose deaths.

The Community Engagement guide was developed for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Technology Transfer Centers (TTC) program and other providers of technical assistance as a resource for individuals working to end the opioid crisis. These individuals include community coalition members, professional treatment providers, recovery support specialists, people with lived experience, policymakers, recovery program administrators, and many others working to prevent, treat, and support recovery from substance use disorders. This guide is particularly designed for individuals who can help create new coalitions, or support and encourage opportunities to potentially re-envision existing coalitions, to address the opioid crisis in their communities.

This ORCCA guide was developed to help the workforce, community members, and volunteers who provide opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment, harm reduction, and recovery services respond to the opioid crisis in their communities. Who is This Guide For? This guide was developed as a resource for individuals working to end the opioid crisis. These individuals include community coalition members, professional treatment providers, recovery support specialists, people with lived experience, policymakers, recovery program administrators, and many others working to prevent, treat, and support recovery from substance use disorders. This guide is particularly designed for individuals at the front lines of the opioid response.

SPD189 - Vaping Support Group for Parents & Caregivers of Youth Using Substances

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 7

SPEAKERS:

- **Alison Strotkamp**, FPSS, Life Coach, Recovery Coach
- **Kimberly Shoe**, FPSS, Life Coach, Recovery Coach

DESCRIPTION: This project supports, educates, and provides resources to families of adolescents using substances with knowledge from ACES, WRAP, Parent CRAFT, Strengthening Families, Life Coach and Recovery Coach certifications, and trainings. The team educates caregivers, parents, and youth about the effects of substance use on the adolescent brain. We provide a safe space to discuss the challenges today's youth face in current substance use trends. In collaboration with Calvert County local health department, and Calvert County public schools to advertise to the community as a whole.

Designing and Implementing Successful Naloxone Distribution Programs

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 2

» **SPD007 - Implementation of a Community-wide Screening and Brief Intervention Project**

SPEAKERS:

- **Jayvee Grapa**, BS, CPS, Systems Developer, Data Analysis Division of Behavioral Health, Ministry of Health and Human Services, Palau

DESCRIPTION: In the Republic of Palau, alcohol, prescription medication, and illicit drug use are significant public health problems facing our community. As part of our comprehensive approach to preventing substance use, the Ministry of Health and Human Services has integrated Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) across the health system. SBIRT is an evidence-based comprehensive, integrated, public health approach and prevention strategy. Through the use of simple, quick, validated screening tools, SBIRT classifies clients by level of risk and provides information to determine appropriate feedback and possible interventions.

Our goal is to provide comprehensive, annual, universal screening to every patient in our health system. Through this project, the Ministry of Health delivers SBIRT training for practitioners, offers technical assistance throughout SBIRT implementation, integrates an electronic screening tool, and evaluates the effectiveness of SBIRT across the system. The electronic screening tool that we provide is an online database and reporting tool designed to assist organizations in conducting screenings, tracking outcomes, and reporting on the implementation of the intervention. We screen youth using the CRAFFT and PHQ-A and adults using the ASSIST, BOOK, and PHQ 9.

Across the community, we have trained 13 practitioners in the SBIRT protocol. In the last twelve months, practitioners have screened over 300 patients (68% youth; 32% adults). Using the CRAFFT, we found that 93% of youth screened no risk, 7% screened low risk, and 2% screened moderate risk at baseline. 89% of youth screened negative for depression, 4% screened mild risk, 3% screened moderate risk, 3% screened moderate to severe risk, and 1% screened severe risk for depression. Among adults, we found the most commonly used substances were tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis and these substances presented the most risk to patients. We have referred 79 youth using SBIRT from the School Screening setting and gave substance use education to all that were screened.

Using WellScreen for SBIRT helped our providers identify their clients' risk levels and generate appropriate treatment plans for them. We are using the system in the school-based screening programs and the community health center setting. The tool is age-appropriate, easy to understand, and straightforward. It also offers the clients a visual when it comes to showing their risk levels and the treatments they need after the screening is completed. The tool also made referring patients to specific treatments and discussing readiness to change so much easier while making documentation convenient. The treatment suggestions are great and made our providers' jobs so much easier.

The challenge that we encountered is unique to our setting. Some parts of the island do not have a good internet connection. WellScreen is web-based, and we rely on a good internet connection to use it. In those instances, we use the paper form and enter the data in WellScreen as soon as we get back to the office. Another unique challenge is for the older population who are not familiar with the SBIRT screening process, which we can address by raising awareness of the effectiveness of this tool. We have 38% of referrals from the youth screened in the school setting.

» SPD008 - Banning Electronic Nicotine in Palau

SPEAKER:

- **Everlynn Temengil**, CPS, Chief of the Division of Behavioral Health at the Bureau of Public Health, Ministry of Health & Human Services

DESCRIPTION: In this comprehensive presentation, we will delve into the remarkable journey of Palau's unwavering commitment to safeguard the health and well-being of its people by implementing a comprehensive ban on electronic nicotine products. Join us as we explore the multifaceted prevention efforts and strategies employed to combat the pervasive issue of e-cigarette use within the nation.

The first step in Palau's journey to banning electronic nicotine was to understand the magnitude of the threat posed by e-cigarettes. Through a combination of research, data analysis, and the collection of real-life stories, it became clear that electronic nicotine products were wreaking havoc on public health and society. With a growing number of individuals, particularly among the youth, falling victim to the lure of e-cigarettes, the adverse consequences were far-reaching. Health concerns, social implications, and the financial burden on the healthcare system were all significant factors that underscored the urgency of action.

In response to the mounting evidence of harm, Palau embarked on a legislative and regulatory journey to address the issue of electronic nicotine use. The government, backed by public health experts, policymakers, and advocates, embarked on a meticulous process of formulating and enacting policies to protect its citizens. These initiatives aimed to regulate, restrict, and ultimately ban electronic nicotine products in the country. The rationale behind these efforts was to mitigate health risks, prevent addiction, and curb the proliferation of e-cigarette use among Palauan youth.

Palau recognized that policy alone would not suffice to tackle the issue effectively. Community engagement and awareness campaigns played a pivotal role in shaping public opinion and building support for the ban on electronic nicotine products. Grassroots organizations, concerned citizens, and educational institutions all joined hands to raise awareness about the dangers of e-cigarettes. These efforts not only served to educate the public but also mobilized the Palauan community to advocate for change. The power of collective action and the people's commitment played a significant role in building a consensus around the need for stricter regulations and, ultimately, the ban itself.

The road to banning electronic nicotine products was not without its challenges. Enforcement of the ban required a coordinated effort involving law enforcement, customs, and various government agencies. It meant facing resistance from those who were deeply entrenched in the e-cigarette industry and those who opposed government intervention. Additionally, there were concerns about the rise of illicit e-cigarette markets and the need for constant vigilance to prevent their resurgence. Despite these hurdles, Palau was determined to see the ban through and to protect its citizens from the harms of electronic nicotine products.

A testament to the effectiveness of Palau's prevention efforts is the inspiring success stories of individuals who successfully quit e-cigarette use. These stories highlight the positive outcomes that can be achieved through determination, support, and access to resources. The transformation of former e-cigarette users into advocates for healthier lifestyles is a powerful demonstration of the impact that well-designed prevention strategies can have on individual lives. These success stories not only give hope to those currently struggling with addiction but also serve as a source of motivation for the broader community.

2:30 PM–
2:45 PM

BREAK

2:45 PM–
3:45 PM

**WORKSHOPS:
AFTERNOON SESSION II**

TRACK I – YOUTH-LED PREVENTION EFFORTS

SPD098 - 2023 Ak Bacheeitchiilewioosh (Those who will become leaders) Youth Council Vision Quest

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE A

SPEAKER:

- **Noel Two Leggins**, Youth Advisor, Little Big Horn College's Ak Bacheeitchiilewioosh Youth Leadership Council

DESCRIPTION: This session will focus on recruiting students within Native American populations with low income and disabilities and how the program has identified the therapeutic tools needed to reach out to youth by physically engaging them with nature, culture, and respect. Within mainstream Native America, there is a psychological gap between the student and their connection to traditional practice ways and the universe. The presenters will discuss 1) providing cultural education, psychological mental health activities, and substance use awareness for students that validate their existence as descendants of the first nations of this continent and 2) mental health issues that native youth face within their environments and communities.

SPD141 - Implementing a Substance Use Prevention & Awareness Program in Inner City Detroit and Beyond: An Initiative by the Substance Use Prevention Committee at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE B

SPEAKERS:

- **Ananya Varre**, OMS-III, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **John Karns**, OMS-III, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

DESCRIPTION: Substance use epidemics related to e-cigarettes, marijuana, and opioids among teens have continued to grow, despite efforts to curb them. This is prevalent in vulnerable populations, who demonstrate limited access to such prevention efforts, due to their home environments and psychosocial factors. To create equity for these students, the Substance Use Prevention (SUP) Task Force was formed at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. The SUP Task Force aims for primary prevention strategies to establish a long-term educational program led by medical students, supervised by faculty, to communicate the concerns of substance use among middle school students. Educational materials were created, comprising dynamic interactions, including question banks, physical games (i.e., bingo, spinning wheel), and technological tools. Through this approach, our medical students effectively communicated and delivered educational material about e-cigarettes and opioids to teenagers, bridging the knowledge gap in underserved areas in and around Detroit. Middle schoolers showed their improved proficiency in topics by reporting a higher level of confidence after the presentations.

SPD233 - Reducing Risk for HIV and Substance Use and Promoting Academic Success Among College Students Experiencing Health Disparities Using an Embedded Prevention Navigator Model: Innovative Practices and Lessons Learned

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE C

SPEAKERS:

- **M. Dolores Cimini**, PhD, Director, Center for Behavioral Health Promotion and Applied Research, Senior Research Scientist, Division of Counseling Psychology, School of Education, University at Albany, State University of New York
- **Jessica L. Martin**, PhD, Senior Research Associate, The Research Foundation for SUNY, Associate Director, Center for Behavioral Health Promotion and Applied Research, School of Education, University at Albany, State University of New York

DESCRIPTION: During these turbulent times, addressing substance use and HIV risk among college students experiencing health disparities has never been more critical. Colleges and universities have been described as a potential “epicenter of the HIV/AIDS and substance use epidemic,” since young adults below age 24 comprise more than one-fifth of all new HIV diagnoses and are at highest risk of engaging in substance use during their lifetimes. Therefore, it is critical to develop, implement, and evaluate innovative strategies and enhance campus and community collaborations to help mitigate the devastating impact of HIV and substance use on our college students, particularly those experiencing health disparities. This session will focus on an innovative campus program in which Prevention Navigators and Peer Support Specialists with lived experience are embedded in spaces on campus where minoritized students facing health disparities naturally congregate to deliver timely and culturally responsive evidence-based population-level and individual substance use and HIV screening, prevention, treatment, referral strategies in collaboration with campus and community partners.

SPD018 - Social Media Influencers and Prevention Campaigns

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE D

SPEAKERS:

- **Kelley Edwards**, MS, MFT, CPS, Behavioral Health Program Manager, CT State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Prevention and Health Promotion Division
- **Aisha S. Hamid**, MPH, CHES, CPS, Program Manager, Wheeler Clinic/Connecticut Clearinghouse

DESCRIPTION: The content of this workshop will ignite creative juices in prevention message development and dissemination. Representatives from Connecticut's team that planned and implemented the 2023 *Know Ur Vape* project will challenge the participants to consider breaking free from infographics and static social media posting. This type of campaign creation engages an online audience, entertaining them with raw human energy, personalities, and individual flair, all while communicating the same prevention message. With over 170,000 views of a singular anti-vaping message, Connecticut will demonstrate successes, failures, steps taken and outcomes of their educational, resource-sharing campaign rolled out in June 2023. This workshop is appropriate for all attendees, regardless of experience level.

SPD086 - Suicide and Opioid Prevention Among Georgia's Youth

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 7

SPEAKERS:

- **Rachael Holloman**, Interim Director of Suicide Prevention and Federal Grants, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- **Taylor Peyton**, MA, Prescription Drug Special Projects Coordinator, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

DESCRIPTION: Georgia has been working hard to be out of the box and innovative with our suicide and opioid prevention efforts. We developed several events and partnerships that have had success in the prevention world regarding reaching teens, one of our most popular events being our annual teen summits and our partnership with iHeart media. Learn about the why behind the events, the challenges/barriers to the events since conception in 2021, and the progress/growth that has been made in just 3 years. Also, learn how to organize and host such events in your state.

TRACK II – PREVENTION ACROSS THE LIFESPAN AND THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

SPD017 - Models from the Field: Relationship and Trust Dynamics in Engaging Individuals Through Harm Reduction Programs

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE E

SPEAKERS:

- **Sal Corbin**, PhD, Training Coordinator, Maryland Harm Reduction Institute with the Behavioral Health System of Baltimore
- **Steve Diggs**, Coordinator, BMore Power

DESCRIPTION: To effectively engage with people who use drugs, it is important to understand the reasons behind the social context of drug use. This means we as practitioners must be able to have a healthy dialog with people who use drugs and provide feedback. We also need to build a trusting relationship with participants because of the stigma attached to using drugs. This workshop will present creative and sometimes unorthodox ways to reach individuals in the field and help build relationships that encourage safe and sustainable living.

Harm reduction support work is based on the ability to build and maintain healthy relationships. Our close relationships are challenged by societal stress, trauma, and mental health, and the concept and connection of family was radically affected by COVID-19. This calls us to deepen our listening and caregiving. In this workshop, the presenters will answer the question: How can we navigate effective communication to best repair broken relationships and/or reconnect with our loved ones? Ideas and experiences will be shared to position our hearts and minds to show up with a reframed best self and avoid repeating negative patterns, such as codependency, abuse, and neglect. Attachment, boundaries, codependency, and intergenerational communication will be explored in the context of substance use.

SPD076 - Aging and Substance Use Disorders: Peer Delivered Self-Care as a Prevention Pathway

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE F

SPEAKERS:

- **Jim Ball**, Director of Peer Services, Mental Health America of Dutchess County
- **Lawrence T. Force**, PhD, LCSW-R, Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center on Aging and DIS-Ability Policy at Mount Saint Mary College, Founder of AgePlan, Founder and Chief Clinical Officer, National Organization of Adult Addictions and Recovery (NOAAR)

DESCRIPTION: This workshop is an introduction to *INTERSECTIONS: A Prevention Program Without Boundaries* and an overview of aging and misuse. It is estimated that the number of older adults with a substance use disorder (SUD) will double by 2025. *INTERSECTIONS* was created as a modular, peer-delivered self-care program to empower individuals experiencing SUD, misuse of prescription medication, eating disorders and gambling. The program was developed by the National Organization of Adult Addictions and Recovery (NOAAR) and Mental Health America of Dutchess County. *INTERSECTIONS* promotes prevention, the reduction of recurrence, improved maintenance of recovery plans, and success within family systems and the community.

SPD138 - Primary Prevention for the Adult Workforce: Using Adaptive, Evidence-Based Strategies to Impact Workplace Culture and Reduce Substance Misuse

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 4

SPEAKERS:

- **Julie Dostal**, Executive Director, LEAF Council on Alcoholism and Addictions
- **Jennifer Faringer**, MEd, CPP-G, Director, National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence Rochester Area

DESCRIPTION: Adults in the workforce have historically been a critically underserved population within the prevention continuum. There is currently a greater recognition and value given to the importance of working across the lifespan, engaging adults and families, expanding the scope of our work beyond a youth focus. Through the pandemic and its continuing impacts, it has become even more clear that working adults are at significant risk for increased substance misuse and harm related to substance use. For two regions in upstate New York, evidence-based prevention through adaptive, locally focused strategies has become a doorway through which that target population can be reached. Through careful capacity building and targeted needs assessment, prevention specialists have begun to be welcomed into the business community, thus allowing us to truly make a difference for adult workers.

This workshop will walk participants through building the infrastructure for a multi-agency approach to workplace well-being. Participants will learn how to utilize both familiar and new capacity-building and needs assessment tools for the purpose of establishing relationships and credibility with businesses. The presenters will explain how adaptive programming can elevate the uptake of a strategy, as well as build trust with business leaders.

TRACK III – INNOVATIONS IN PREVENTION

SPD118 - Slay Queen! Innovative Approaches to Support LGBTQ+ Communities

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 11

SPEAKERS:

- **Zack Jenio**, Mile High Behavioral Healthcare
- **Richard Baker**, Deputy Director, Victory Programs
- **Meg Von Lossnitzer**, Director, Prevention Division, Victory Programs
- **Shannon Hastings**, MPH, Public Health Advisor, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA
- **Devin Sweat**, Public Health Advisor, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA

DESCRIPTION: In today's rapidly evolving world, it's crucial to explore innovative approaches to support LGBTQ+ communities. This panel discussion will showcase three unique and impactful initiatives that are redefining the way we connect, educate, and empower LGBTQ+ individuals while prioritizing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how these nontraditional prevention efforts effectively expand education, testing, harm reduction, and psychosocial services while fostering a sense of safety, inclusion, and community.

The discussions in this panel will provide valuable insights into the intersection of nightlife, drag culture, and drop-in centers as innovative vehicles to prevention for LGBTQ+ community support. First, we will cover nightlife outreach and public health education. This creative blend of entertainment and education is breaking down barriers and shifting the paradigm, making prevention resources more accessible to the community. Drag culture has long been a symbol of resilience and self-expression within the LGBTQ+ community. Next, panelists will discuss the integration of drag shows into public health education. By combining the glamour and charisma of drag queens with essential prevention information, these

performances offer a unique platform to raise awareness and destigmatize critical issues. Last, panel members will highlight the benefits of a safe and inclusive drop-in center catering to women, transgender, and non-binary folks. This welcoming space provides support, resources, and a sense of belonging for these individuals, who are often unable to receive support services otherwise. Beyond harm reduction and testing services, this center connects folks with psychosocial services, counseling, and support networks, fostering resilience and community-building in the process.

SPD221 - Racial Equity as A Substance Use Prevention Methodology

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 10

SPEAKERS:

- **Linda Abington**, PhD, CEO and Board President
- **E. Madeline Morgan**, Customer Consultant for health and wellness industry

DESCRIPTION: Substance use has long plagued communities across the globe, disproportionately affecting individuals from marginalized racial and ethnic backgrounds. Recognizing the complex interplay between race, substance use, and health disparities has prompted researchers and policy makers to explore innovative methodologies for prevention and intervention. The role of systemic racism is embedded within institutions and societal norms and significantly contributes to racial disparities in substance use rates and consequences. Historical inequities in access to education, health care, socioeconomic opportunities, and housing have perpetuated social determinants of substance use in racial minority communities. By acknowledging the role of systemic racism in shaping substance use patterns, interventions can target the underlying roots of the problem and provide equitable solutions through policy changes, social programs, and culturally sensitive prevention efforts.

SPD206 - Prevention on the Crisis of Opioid and Fentanyl in Mexico and Texas

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 9

SPEAKER:

- **Eddie Mendoza**, TDCJ-CJAD, Program Specialist V, Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Community Justice Assistance Division

DESCRIPTION: The opioid use epidemic is not just in the USA; it is increasingly becoming a problem in Mexico as well. The presenter of this workshop has been going to Mexico since 2002 training and implementing restorative justice programs in prisons, substance use treatment centers, and in their communities. The projects in Mexico included prevention in schools, reducing violence in prisons, implementing restorative justice practices in substance abuse centers, and working with victims of violent crimes. All these social issues have a correlation with substance use and misuse. Since the implementation of the restorative justice program, Bridges to Life, we have graduated over 77,000 inmates in the Texas prisons.

SPD142 - Non-Traditional Approaches to Community Naloxone Distribution (“The Narcan Man”)

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 5

SPEAKERS:

- **Carmen Combs Marks**, MPH, Substance Use Disorder Intervention Coordinator, LFUCG Department of Social Services, Kentucky
- **Scott Luallen**, Overdose Prevention Coordinator, Substance Use Intervention Program, Kentucky

DESCRIPTION: Stigmatization and resistance to universal naloxone access continue to limit the drug’s full potential to reduce opioid-related mortality. Lexington-Fayette County, KY, has witnessed such community pushback when working to offer harm reduction services at the local health department. Residents are often reluctant to go to the health department because of stigmas and concerns about what others think. For others, the health department is avoided because of triggers to use substances. Despite fears of visiting traditional naloxone distribution locations (such as the health department), public health practitioners and community activists continue to push for naloxone distribution to reverse opioid overdoses. The approach taken by the Expanded First Responders and Community Partners Overdose Prevention Project (EFRCPOPP) and our approach to naloxone distribution is changing the narrative.

As part of the EFRCPOPP, staff of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) Department of Social Services partnered with the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department’s harm reduction program for naloxone distribution. Although practical barriers to growth like those faced by harm reduction programs continue to surface, grant opportunities like the First Responders-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA) make our program possible. Not only has the FR-CARA funding allowed for increased availability at the syringe exchange program, overcoming previous limits due to funding challenges, but it has also allowed LFUCG staff to be trained to complete naloxone administration training with community members and distribute naloxone. These partnerships have allowed us to assess the need as well as build relationships with those underrepresented hard-to-reach populations and to meet people where they are. In addition to the partnership with the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, LFUCG has partnered with the University of Kentucky Center on Drug and Alcohol Research to compile and analyze program data to identify successes and potential gaps in outreach. The first FRCPOPP grant concluded with identified gaps in reaching individuals of color.

SPD040 - Fairfield Prevention Coalition: Achieving Positive Outcomes Through Peer-Led Prevention

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE G

SPEAKER:

- **Joe Markiewicz**, Senior Consultant, Building Stronger Communities; Coalition Director, Fairfield Prevention Coalition

DESCRIPTION: Many local community prevention coalitions struggle to find an active, meaningful role for young people in their membership. Many state and federal funding agencies stress the importance of engaging young people as part of the strategic planning process. In fact, there has been a good amount of research to support the peer-led prevention model where youth use best practices to plan and implement prevention activities, campaigns and other events in their schools and communities. This interactive session

will highlight the success of the Fairfield Prevention Coalition and some of the best practices for recruiting and retaining students in grades 6-12 to be positive change agents for their local coalitions. Some of the prevention frameworks discussed in this session include the 40 Developmental Assets (protective factors), Communities That Care (CTC), Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) and more. Information will be provided on a variety of prevention tools.

TRACK IV – PREVENTION WORKFORCE

Cultivating and Educating the Prevention Workforce

LOCATION - POTOMAC C

» SPD202 - Taking the Next Step: Creating a Statewide Higher Education Prevention Services Network

SPEAKER:

- **Emily Morrow-Mueller**, Prevention Program Manager, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

DESCRIPTION: The state of Oklahoma has a long history of funding community-oriented agencies and coalitions to address community-specific issues utilizing local-level prevention services. Through the years, community prevention sub-grantees have shifted from primarily information dissemination to meaningful and substantive environmental strategies, including adopting and enhancing ordinances, public policies, and organizational policies. Based on these experiences and lessons learned from building a comprehensive community prevention network, Oklahoma is now applying these lessons to build a network of higher education prevention providers.

Over the last three years, Oklahoma has increased the Higher Education Prevention Services (HEPS) network from two universities to thirteen institutions. This network of 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities are crafting and implementing sustainable prevention services for faculty, staff, and students by utilizing the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) while maintaining cultural competency and sustainability at the core. Additionally, Oklahoma formed a statewide collaborative group that provides higher education prevention leaders a space to network, brainstorm ideas for growing prevention programs on campuses, and identify innovative ways to create and share resources and address challenges.

This session will detail each step Oklahoma took to build and cultivate the HEPS network while also highlighting successes and challenges overcome, starting with the infrastructure of the HEPS network on the state level. This will include discussing the state's overall project goals, and the long-term, intermediate, and short-term goals for each institution. These goals include reducing early departure from school, increasing students' perception of harm from opioid/stimulant misuse, and decreasing student prescription-sharing behaviors, among other goals. This session will also detail how higher education institutions were recruited and onboarded, including building the capacity of institutions new to environmental substance use prevention.

Next, this session will feature steps taken by the institutions to recruit stakeholders, establish an active campus coalition, complete an in-depth needs assessment to establish baseline measures for evaluation, identify risk and protective factors, and identify a high-risk population specific to their institution. Furthermore, evidence-based prevention programs, policies, and practices implemented at the campus level and a breakdown of the campus work plan, key tasks, and the incorporation of five of the six CSAP strategies and four intervening variables will be shared.

Lastly, this session will detail the role the HEPS State Collaborative plays in empowering campus leaders to effectively address substance misuse among students, faculty, and staff. The collaboration efforts reach campuses beyond those funded by the grant, leading to a larger, more sustainable prevention network across the state. Research shows substance misuse among students is associated with worsened mental health outcomes, poor academic performance, decreased retention rates, increased student injuries, and other health problems. Providing a place for campuses to collaborate and share with peers effective ways to raise awareness of risks involved with substance use, discuss policy change, and address challenges is a critical factor in ensuring all higher education institutions have robust campus prevention programs.

These steps have led Oklahoma and its sub-grantees to see successes like the enhancement and/or adoption of departmental policies like campus food pantries providing prevention resources and serving as a hub for the distribution of lockboxes and disposal bags, annual campus take-back events correlating with student move-out, installing lockboxes in dorm rooms, setting up resident halls as Narcan hubs for students, and setting up permanent disposal location on campus.

» **SPD200 - Leading with Prevention Science: Preparing the Pre-professional Workforce through Curriculum Infusion Packages**

SPEAKERS:

- **Kathryn Bruzios**, MS, Northwest PTTC Graduate Research Assistant, Washington State University
- **Brittany Cooper**, PhD, Associate Professor, Human Development/Graduate Faculty, Prevention Science Graduate Program, Washington State University
- **Michelle Frye-Spray**, MS, CPS, Senior Manager, CASAT/University of Nevada, Reno
- **Alyssa O'Hair**, MPH, MA, CPS, Senior Manager, CASAT/University of Nevada, Reno
- **Britany Wiele**, BA, CPS, Project Coordinator, CASAT/University of Nevada, Reno

DESCRIPTION: In 2018, SAMHSA funded 10 regional Prevention Technology Transfer Centers (PTTCs) to provide training and technical assistance to improve the prevention workforce's ability to apply prevention science and implement evidence-based and promising interventions. The PTTCs' charge also includes resources and training to build pre-professional workforce capacity. Substance misuse prevention is naturally interdisciplinary, crossing many fields including public health, social work, and human development. However, most college courses in these areas do not explicitly include content directly relevant to substance misuse prevention.

To address this gap, Pacific Southwest and Northwest PTTCs developed curriculum infusion packages as an innovative and simple way to assist instructors in incorporating key concepts in substance misuse prevention into existing courses. Both PTTCs formed advisory groups comprised of academic course instructors with substance misuse prevention expertise and community prevention experts. The presentation will describe how these materials are relevant and useful for everyone, regardless of educational background or status.

SPD148 - Fostering Resilience: Youth and Young Adults Experiencing or At-Risk of Homelessness

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 2

SPEAKERS:

- **Lauren Behsudi**, Senior Advisor, Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- **Linda Reese-Smith**, PhD, Senior Advisor, Office of the Associate Commissioner, Administration for Children and Families
- **Chase Holleman**, LCSW, LCAS, Public Health Analyst, Office of Prevention Innovation, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), SAMHSA
- **Courtney Esparza**, MS, MBA, LPC, Public Health Advisor and Youth Engagement Lead, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, SAMHSA
- **Annette Waters**, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

DESCRIPTION: Youth and young adults experiencing homelessness or housing instability are at a particularly high risk for having a substance use disorder (SUD). Recent studies have documented that youth who experience homelessness bear a disproportionate burden of physical and mental health problems compared with their housed counterparts, and this is an emerging issue challenging programs serving youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

This presentation will share information about collaborative federal efforts to advance data-driven harm reduction strategies to prevent overdose and substance use disorder among homeless youth and young adults. In 2023, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration embarked upon a plan to further build knowledge and capacity as well as communicate information and research about harm reduction practices, resources, programs, and tools for those working with youth and young adults. Using training mechanisms, such as the Family and Youth Services Bureau's Learning Initiative, ACF staff and grantees are discussing, implementing, and using flexible formats to meet the critical needs of youth and young adults "where they are" and developing key access points to offer additional prevention resources, health care, education, and treatment.

SPD223 - Empowering Prevention Professionals: Bridging Knowledge and Certification for Impactful Substance Use Prevention

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 6

SPEAKERS:

- **Marissa Carlson** MS, CPS, Executive Director, NH Teen Institute
- **Rachel Witmer**, Senior Program Manager, Prevention Technology Transfer Center National Coordinating Office

DESCRIPTION: The Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC) Network, a SAMHSA-funded training and technical assistance center, comprises 10 regional PTTC centers and a national coordinating office. Its primary objective is to enhance the implementation and delivery of evidence-based, culturally and linguistically appropriate substance use prevention interventions. In parallel, the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) plays a pivotal role in fostering public protection. It accomplishes this mission by establishing internationally recognized professional standards, credentials, and examinations for professionals in the fields of prevention, substance use disorder treatment, and recovery.

This session serves as an introductory exploration into the PTTCs' three primary curricula: SAPST (SPF: Application for Prevention Success Training), Ethics in Prevention Foundations, and An Introduction to the Prevention Core Competencies for Prevention Professionals. It will delve into the content and learning objectives of these curricula and demonstrate how they cater to and align with the educational needs of prevention professionals who are either seeking or maintaining IC&RC certification. The overarching objective of this training session is to fortify the substance use prevention field by contributing to its professionalization and facilitating greater access to professional development opportunities.

Models from the Field: Reducing Adolescent Alcohol and Substance Use in Pennsylvania

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 3

» SPD170 - Engaging Adolescents in Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention Research

SPEAKERS:

- **Laura Felix**, Project Manager, Penn State College of Medicine
- **Jessica Beiler**, Project Manager, Penn State College of Medicine
- **Sarah Cichy**, Sustainability Manager, Penn State College of Medicine

DESCRIPTION: In Pennsylvania, one in three eighth graders has used alcohol, significantly higher than the national average (23%). By 12th grade, nearly 7 out of 10 Pennsylvania youths have used alcohol, compared to 6 out of 10 nationally. Alcohol use by rural youths is higher than use by their urban counterparts (37.8% vs. 34.3%). Rural youth alcohol use is of particular concern in Pennsylvania as the state has the third largest rural population, 3 million, in the country. Penn State College of Medicine, through a SAMHSA strategic planning framework grant, is administering a comprehensive prevention approach to address underage drinking and opioid use in persons aged 9-20 in rural PA. A primary activity in the approach is training primary care and school personnel in Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral, and Treatment (SBIRT) using telementoring. This presentation will provide an overview of strategies the team utilized to ensure safe, compliant, and fun engagement in qualitative research by adolescents in the rural catchment area. Data analysis and plans for incorporating adolescent feedback will also be discussed.

» SPD143 - Training Providers and Schools to Screen, Briefly Intervene, and Refer Adolescents to Treatment for Alcohol and Substance Use

SPEAKERS:

- **Danielle Rei**, MS, Department of Medicine, Penn State College of Medicine
- **Jessica Beiler**, MPH, Department of Medicine, Penn State College of Medicine
- **Melissa Huffman Bittinger**, Department of Medicine, Penn State College of Medicine

DESCRIPTION: Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is a collaborative hub-and-spoke, knowledge-sharing network, led by a multidisciplinary team. Penn State launched an ECHO series for school personnel and health care workers on Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) to address alcohol and substance use (ASU) in adolescents. The Adolescent ASU ECHO addresses the lack of and need to care for adolescents with ASU. The overarching goal of this series is to prevent underage alcohol and opioid use in youth ages 9–20 by increasing the capacity to provide comprehensive screening, brief interventions, and referrals to treatment in underserved counties in Pennsylvania. This SBIRT training has the potential to yield positive and widespread impact on both health care workers and school personnel, enhancing their knowledge, skills, and professional satisfaction, while also potentially benefiting many adolescents within Pennsylvania.

SPD154 - Enhancing Adolescent SUD Care: Innovative Approaches and Progress

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE 8

SPEAKERS:

- **Lyd Paull-Flores**, Sr Director FAACT Project
- **Leslie Egen**, DCJS grants coordinator, FAACT Project
- **Mehret Girmay**, Epidemiologist, FAACT Project
- **Zoe Dean**, Developer, FAACT Project

DESCRIPTION: Amid the ongoing substance use crisis, states have grappled with a multifaceted challenge: the need to access and analyze data scattered across numerous agencies, secretariats, and external organizations to gain a comprehensive understanding of the crisis. Virginia responded to this challenge by creating the Framework for Addiction Analysis and Community Transformation (FAACT), a secure data-sharing platform that transcends data silos, integrates isolated datasets, and ignites data-driven decision-making. FAACT not only monitors real-time impacts on public health and public safety but also evaluates the most effective approaches for communities to make actionable, informed decisions in addressing the increasing substance use epidemic.

Today, FAACT boasts a wealth of data spanning various disciplines, including health care, social services, public safety, corrections, treatment, and community coalitions. This versatile system has become an indispensable tool for the Commonwealth of Virginia. It enables dynamic responses to an evolving challenge, one that manifests differently across communities.

Community involvement is a cornerstone of effective prevention initiatives, drawing insights from community members facing substance use challenges and understanding the societal factors influencing behavioral health. This participatory approach, as indicated by SAMHSA, brings together diverse perspectives and expertise to formulate solutions that benefit the entire community. FAACT's community-oriented model aligns harmoniously with these findings. It shines a light on a promising avenue for translating data into actionable decisions at the local level, fostering inclusivity and unity within the community.

TRACK V – PREVENTION SCIENCE, PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION

Federal Strategies, Local Implementation: Using Data and Trends to Inform Effective Youth Alcohol Prevention Initiatives

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 4-5

» SPD023 - Trends and Interventions that Work to Prevent Underage and College-Age Drinking

SPEAKER:

- **Ralph Hingson**, Director, Division of Epidemiology and Prevention Research, NIAAA

DESCRIPTION: This workshop will explore recent trends in injury deaths linked to underage drinking, binge drinking, and driving under the influence, as well as the effects of underage drinking on the developing brain, including blackouts, overdoses, and poor academic performance. It will also examine research on individually oriented; policy/environmental; and family, school, web, and community-based interventions to prevent alcohol use by youth and young adults.

» SPD152 - How Coalitions Can Use STOP Act Resources to Implement Evidence-Based Prevention Strategies

SPEAKER:

- **Dana Vasers**, JD, Deputy Director, Secretary's STOP Act Report to Congress

DESCRIPTION: This presentation will highlight the need for multilevel and multifaceted prevention efforts to successfully address underage drinking; the challenges associated with community and state selection of appropriate policies, practices, or programs; and considerations for community needs and cultural appropriateness in implementation. Attendees will learn about resources available through the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act (STOP Act), including the State Performance and Best Practices for the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking Report and individual State Reports. There is increasing focus on equity in the STOP Act reports including those being discussed in this presentation.

SPD192 - Addressing Prescription Drug Misuse: Lessons Learned from Grantees of SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs Program

LOCATION - POTOMAC D

SPEAKERS:

- **Maggie McGinnis**, Public Health Advisor, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, SAMHSA
- **Elvira Elek**, Senior Research Public Health Analyst and Program Manager for Substance Use Prevention, Evaluation, and Research, RTI International
- **Shirley Liu**, Public Health Analyst, RTI International
- **Sarah Mariani**, CPP, Section Manager, Washington State Health Care Authority

DESCRIPTION: Misuse of prescription opioids remains a substantial contributor to the opioid overdose crisis in the United States. The Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF Rx) grant program provides resources for states, tribal entities, and their subrecipient communities to address prescription drug misuse. In fiscal year 2021, SAMHSA funded a cohort of 21 SPF Rx grantees, including 18 state agencies and 3 tribal organizations. This presentation will describe the activities implemented, and barriers, and facilitators experienced by the SPF Rx 2021 cohort of grantees and subrecipients to help guide others interested in addressing prescription drug misuse.

Grantees moved towards full SPF Rx implementation quickly, as 18 of the 21 grantees implemented activities under all five SPF steps within the first year of their grant. In addition to aggregate findings from across SPF Rx grantees, state grantees will provide examples of their SPF Rx interventions and experiences. This presentation will conclude with recommendations for funders and substance use prevention implementers about potential interventions to implement, facilitators that may help implementation, and barriers that they may need to address when looking to reduce prescription drug misuse in their communities.

SPD208 - Saving AR's Future: Overcoming Barriers of Program Implementation During COVID

LOCATION - NATIONAL HARBOR 12-13

SPEAKERS:

- **LaTunja Sockwell**, PI, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Dept. of Family and Preventive Medicine
- **Dong Zhang**, PhD, Evaluator, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Dept. of Family and Preventive Medicine

- **Maya Williams**, Data Analyst, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Dept. of Family and Preventive Medicine
- **Jamie Stacker**, Female Healthy Love Trainer, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Dept. of Family and Preventive Medicine
- **Courtney Hampton**, MA, SARF Project Manager, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Dept. of Family and Preventive Medicine

DESCRIPTION: This workshop will feature the Save AR Future (SARF) project, under the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). SARF was originally proposed to collaborate with ten primarily African American colleges, and others in Arkansas to prevent and reduce substance use and transmission of HIV among African Americans ages 18-24. Due to COVID, SARF shifted to online recruitment focusing on African American populations, lowered the age group to include those 16-24, recruited in high school settings and youth-serving organizations, and worked with colleges to recruit through flyers and peer navigators.

TRACK VI – PREVENTION EFFORTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY

SPD057 - Localized Efforts to Combat Vaping Among Youth

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE I

SPEAKERS:

- **Michelle Geiser**, EdD, Program Director, Elements of Hope
- **Shannon Auten**, Director of Student Services

DESCRIPTION: This session on local ordinances and state legislation surrounding e-cigarette policy and its impact on youth use aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the regulatory landscape, the risks associated with e-cigarette use, and the importance of implementing effective policies to safeguard public health, especially that of youth.

SPD139 - Prevention and Monitoring of Opioid Overdoses in Puerto Rico: Law 35 and Other Public Policy Efforts

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE H

SPEAKERS:

- **Victor M. Serrano-Roman**, MEd, LCP, Project Director
- **Noel D. Hernandez Otero**, MS, Lead Evaluator

DESCRIPTION: In Puerto Rico, from 2015 to 2021, a total of 1,286 fatal cases of opioid overdose were reported, according to Demographic Registry Office data. In the face of this alarming public health crisis, the Mental Health and Addiction Services Administration developed, implemented, and maintained monitoring of opioid overdoses and closer surveillance of related deaths. This session will review the Mental Health and Addiction Services Administration's efforts and experiences with the program.

SPD197 - A Collaborative Initiative to Employ County-Level Opioid Settlement Funds to Adapt a Successful Co-Occurring Disorders Awareness Program to an Evidence-Based Prevention Program for a Diverse Population of Students and Their Families

LOCATION - CHESAPEAKE K-L

SPEAKERS:

- **Linda Richter**, PhD, Senior Vice President, Prevention Research and Analysis, Partnership to End Addiction
- **Rebecca Tekula**, PhD, Associate Professor, Department Chairperson, Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, Public Administration, Pace University
- **Gina Scutelnicu-Todoran**, PhD, Associate Professor, Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, Public Administration, Pace University
- **Stephanie Marquesano**, JD, Founder & President, The Harris Project

DESCRIPTION: This workshop will provide an overview of a newly initiated project, funded through county-level opioid settlement funds, which seeks to bring together researchers, community organizations, schools, and local service providers to develop, implement, and evaluate a co-occurring disorders awareness and prevention program serving a racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically diverse population in Westchester County, New York.

Building upon the foundation laid by The Harris Project, this program will extend the reach of existing programming while refining and evaluating efficacy through a partnership with prevention specialists from Partnership to End Addiction, a national nonprofit, and program evaluation experts from Pace University, who will ensure that the program's procedures and outcomes are rigorously assessed, providing a data-driven blueprint for replication and long-term sustainability.

The presenters will discuss several research-specific challenges learned from this pilot project, including the complexities around obtaining parental consent for participation by underage special populations, including LGBTQIA+ youth, and ensuring that program materials are sensitive to the needs of student and family populations of widely varying socioeconomic statuses and cultural backgrounds.

**3:45 PM–
4:00 PM**

BREAK

CLOSING PLENARY

4:00 pm - 4:45 pm | Potomac A and B Ballroom

REMARKS

Tom Coderre

Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, SAMHSA

CAPT Christopher Jones

Director, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, SAMHSA

MUSICAL SELECTION

DC United Drumline

PLENARY SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, PHD
Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)



Dr. Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon is currently Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). She previously served as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and served in this role for six years. Prior positions held at DMHAS include Deputy Commissioner, Senior Policy Advisor and Director of the department's Office of Multicultural Healthcare Equity. In her role as Commissioner, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon was committed to promoting recovery oriented, integrated, and culturally responsive services and systems that foster dignity, respect, and meaningful community inclusion.

In addition, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon served on faculty in Yale Department of Psychiatry for 20 years, most recently as Adjunct Associate Professor and previously as Assistant Professor, Assistant Clinical Professor, and Instructor. While at Yale Dr. Delphin-Rittmon also served as the Director of Cultural Competence and Health Disparities Research and Consultation with the Yale University Program for Recovery and Community Health.

In May 2014, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon completed a two-year White House appointment working as a Senior Advisor to the Administrator of SAMHSA with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. While at SAMHSA, she worked on a range of policy initiatives addressing behavioral health equity, workforce development, and healthcare reform.

Through her 23-year career in the behavioral health field, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon has extensive experience in the design, evaluation, and administration of mental health, substance use, and prevention services and systems and has received several awards for advancing policy in these areas. Most recently, she received the 2023 Human Values Award from the Art of Living Foundation, the 2023 American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Children's Mental Health Champion Award, the 2022 Distinguished Public Service in Psychology Award, from the National Register of Health Service Psychology and The Trust, Washington, D.C., and the 2019 State Service Award from the National Association of State Drug and Alcohol Directors.

Dr. Delphin-Rittmon received her B.A. in Social Science from Hofstra University in 1989, her M.S. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Purdue University 1992 and 2001, respectively, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical community psychology at Yale University in 2002.

TOM CODERRE

Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, SAMHSA



With decades of public, private, and non-profit service, Mr. Coderre is the first person in recovery to lead SAMHSA. Mr. Coderre's career has been significantly influenced by his personal journey and a philosophy that acknowledges the essential role peer recovery support services play in helping people with mental and substance use disorders rebuild their lives.

In his role as SAMHSA's Region 1 Administrator, Mr. Coderre led the prioritization of prevention, treatment and recovery services under the strain of COVID-19. He reconvened the Federal Interagency Workgroup on Opioids and as overdoses spiked throughout 2020, he brought the region together to identify programmatic and policy solutions to respond. He also formed a collaborative to unite federal agencies on serious mental illness and serious emotional disturbance to leverage partnerships to increase services and provide hope for people suffering. In an effort to address

structural racism, Mr. Coderre launched the Diversity Inclusion Project Showcase to ensure equity in the distribution of resources across New England by introducing organizations who work in BIPOC communities to funders. He has supported federally recognized tribes and has been working with tribal leaders to open the first indigenous wellness center east of the Mississippi River.

While Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and Senior Advisor to the Administrator, Mr. Coderre led the team that produced Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health. He built strong relationships with Capitol Hill and the behavioral health stakeholder community and worked on the 21st Century Cures Act, which reauthorized SAMHSA, contained important mental health reform provisions, and included a \$1 billion expansion for treatment to stem the opioid crisis and overdose epidemic. As a senior political appointee, he represented SAMHSA at the White House and other HHS offices and operating divisions. He took part in many cross-agency partnerships such as the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council and the Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Underage Drinking. Mr. Coderre was also the Senior Advisor to the Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment and the Federal Liaison to Unite to Face Addiction, the first rally for addiction treatment, recovery, and policy change, which attracted tens of thousands to the National Mall and joined together 650 partner organizations, a star-studded lineup of music performances and speeches from celebrities, policymakers, and healthcare experts.

As Senior Advisor to Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, Mr. Coderre co-chaired a task force that coordinated a multi-layered strategy to address the opioid crisis. Under his guidance, the state built more treatment capacity, reduced prescribing, scaled prevention efforts, expanded resources for recovery support services as well as harm reduction programs, and broadened access to medication-assisted treatment and naloxone. He helped increase street-based outreach, community support, and linkages between critical services. Mr. Coderre worked on mental health policy and helped draft an Executive Order to improve access to treatment by enforcing parity laws. He served as acting Director of the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals. Mr. Coderre's legacy includes establishing the Governor's Recovery-Friendly Workplace Initiative to change workplace culture and encourage a healthy and safe

environment where employers, employees, and communities can collaborate to create positive change and eliminate barriers for those impacted by addiction. He also worked with the State Police to establish the Hope Initiative, the first statewide program that engages law enforcement personnel in a proactive outreach strategy to combat the opioid overdose epidemic.

Mr. Coderre is the former National Field Director of Faces & Voices of Recovery and appeared in the documentary film *The Anonymous People*. He managed Recovery Voices Count, a non-partisan civic engagement campaign to mobilize the recovery community in 12 targeted states, and managed HBO's Addiction education and outreach campaign, which included premieres in 30 major media markets, 500 house parties, 70 town hall meetings, and other public events. Mr. Coderre partnered with A&E Television on The Recovery Project where 5,000 people from the recovery community rallied and crossed the Brooklyn Bridge together in September 2008. He served as a member of the Rhode Island Senate from 1995 to 2003 and as Chief of Staff to the Senate President from 2009 to 2014. He has been recognized on numerous occasions for his dedication and advocacy efforts. Mr. Coderre is a graduate of both the Community College of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College.

CAPT CHRISTOPHER JONES, PHARM.D, DRPH, MPH Director, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, SAMHSA



Christopher M. Jones, Pharm.D., Dr.P.H., M.P.H. (CAPT U.S. Public Health Service) is the Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP). CAPT Jones brings a wealth of experience to SAMHSA having led substance use, mental health, and injury and violence prevention policy, program, and research activities for more than a decade. Prior to becoming Director of CSAP, CAPT Jones served as the director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In this role, he provided scientific leadership and overall management of the Center, including driving the Center's strategic direction and advancing the Center's priorities of preventing drug overdose, suicide, and adverse childhood experiences. At CDC, CAPT Jones previously served as Deputy Director of the Injury Center and as Associate Director for Strategy and Innovation.

During his career, CAPT Jones has served in a variety of leadership roles in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Among these roles, he served as the first director of the National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Laboratory at SAMHSA, as the acting Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science and Data Policy and director of the Division of Science Policy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) at HHS, and senior advisor in the Office of the Commissioner at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

CAPT Jones received a Bachelor of Science degree from Reinhardt College, a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Mercer University, a Master of Public Health degree from New York Medical College, and a Doctor of Public Health in Health Policy from The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. Dr. Jones is a captain in the U.S. Public Health Service and has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications on the topics of substance use, drug overdose, adverse childhood experiences, and mental health.

DONA DMITROVIC, MHS

Senior Advisor for Recovery, SAMHSA



Currently serving as the Senior Advisor for Recovery at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Dona Dmitrovic supports recovery initiatives across the agency. In her previous role, she served as the Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention where Dona provided executive leadership for federal efforts to improve the nation's behavioral health through evidence-based prevention approaches. Ms. Dmitrovic is an experienced executive addiction and recovery specialist with over 34 years in the substance use field. She has experience in raising public awareness and supporting program development for individuals with substance use disorder through advocacy, policy and program development.

Prior to her arrival at SAMHSA, she served as the Executive Director for Foundation for Recovery in Las Vegas, NV, where she developed and implemented peer recovery support programs, education and training on peer support services and led the organization's growth to a statewide agency. Ms. Dmitrovic also held the position of Director of the National Office of Consumer Affairs for Optum Behavioral Health, UnitedHealthcare. There she used her vast experience to develop peer products and tools to support individuals with mental and substance use disorders. As the Chief Operating Officer for the RASE Project in Pennsylvania, Ms. Dmitrovic assisted the CEO launching the Buprenorphine Coordinator program serving opioid dependent individuals with recovery support services in medication assisted treatment (MAT), one of the first in the country which received two national awards for innovation.

JOHNNETTA DAVIS-JOYCE

Vice President of Training Operations and Research and Evaluation and the Director of the National Coalition Institute, CADCA



Johnnetta Davis-Joyce is the Vice President of Training Operations and Research and Evaluation and the Director of the National Coalition Institute. She has over 30 years of experience in the public health field guiding, directing, and leading teams to implement national public health initiatives. She previously served as the Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention at SAMHSA. Through this position, she provided national leadership in the development of policies, programs, and services to prevent the onset of illegal drug use, prescription drug/opioids misuse and abuse, alcohol misuse and abuse, and underage alcohol, workplace public health issues and tobacco use; and promoted effective substance abuse prevention practices that enable states, communities, and other organizations to apply prevention knowledge effectively.

Before joining federal service, Ms. Davis-Joyce was the Senior Director for Research and Evaluation at the National Association of County and City Health Officials. In this role, she created and implemented a strategy to increase capacity to support evaluation and research for health departments across the nation by establishing partnerships with colleges and universities. Before that position, Ms. Davis-Joyce served as the Director of Health Programs at Econometrica. Ms. Davis-Joyce also served as Center Director of Public Health Improvement and Innovation at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation. In that capacity, she provided strategic leadership for the Center by overseeing a diverse staff of over 200 employees, consultants, and volunteers to implement policies, practices, and training to prevent underage drinking. Ms. Davis-Joyce was also the Deputy Director, Office of Alcohol, and other Drug Abuse at the American Medical Association.

An accomplished director, professor, public speaker, and conference facilitator, Ms. Davis-Joyce has worked with youth, policy makers, law enforcement, parents, universities, medical staff, judicial communities, public health organizations, government entities, private agencies, non-profit organizations, and business owners on substance use prevention efforts. She specializes in program development, implementation and sustainability, evaluation, global policy development, strategic planning, training, coalition building, translating research to practice, quality assurance, developing quality measures and inter-agency coordination.

Ms. Davis-Joyce has served as a Board Member for the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation and has held various leadership positions with the American Public Health Association.

FRANCES M. HARDING

FMH Prevention Consulting LLC



Frances M. Harding served as Director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) for 10 years (2008-2018). She is recognized as one of the nation's leading experts on prevention policy and programming for alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, including marijuana, opioids, and heroin. Ms. Harding also is recognized for her expertise in overall behavioral health issues related to treatment and recovery.

While working for the federal government, Ms. Harding was responsible for coordinating the alcohol and other drug use and abuse prevention policies and programs among federal agencies, state governments, and community coalitions across the nation.

During a six-month Executive Leadership Exchange when she left CSAP to run the SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), Ms. Harding had the opportunity to manage the mental health treatment programming efforts, and lead the field to increase their knowledge and inclusion of science-based drug abuse prevention programming within the mental health field.

Ms. Harding was a member of the Senior Executive Service (SES) for the U.S. Government., SES is a corps of federal executives selected for their leadership qualifications, serving in key positions just below top presidential appointees as a link between them and the rest of the federal (civil service) workforce.

Prior to federal service, Ms. Harding worked for the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services for 26 years in several positions, completing her tenure as Associate Commissioner for the agency's Division of Prevention and Recovery.

Ms. Harding has held numerous state and national positions, including serving as President of the National Prevention Network, an organization of State government drug abuse prevention representatives that work with their respective agency directors to ensure effective alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse prevention services in each state. Ms. Harding also served as New York State's representative to the Board of Directors for the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors.

Ms. Harding was a recipient of the International Society for Prevention Research's Science to Practice Award, and was the first and only non-researcher to receive this prestigious award. She received several recognitions from all levels of government, including the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and awards from two Secretaries of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Harding believes her greatest professional achievement is the honor of working for both Federal and State Governments, leading and inspiring prevention professionals across the nation to recognize the importance of learning and implementing evidence-informed prevention programming across the country.

BEVERLY WATTS DAVIS, MA
Chief Officer for Program Support and Senior Vice President for
Texas WestCare Foundation/Westcare Texas



Beverly Watts Davis has spent her career working in disadvantaged communities to ensure access to health and human services, safe neighborhoods, and opportunities for economic stability. Her work has been recognized with three Secretariat Awards for Outstanding work by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and she was selected by the Attorney General of the United States as the first Texan to receive the Volunteer of the Year Award for the prevention of juvenile delinquency. She was also awarded with the National Faith-Based and Community Leadership Award for the engagement of faith-based organizations in behavioral health, the PRIDE National Youth Leadership Award for ensuring the youth prevention was supported and funded, and the National Prevention Network Achievement Award for leadership in the prevention field.

She has been inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame, received the Distinguished Achievement and Courage Award by the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, was honored by the San Antonio Bar Foundation with the prestigious PEACEMAKER Award, and was selected

by Trinity University as a Distinguished Alumni. She has received the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director's Award for Community Leadership, the Department of Defense (DOD) Commander's Award for Outstanding Leadership, and the National Crime Prevention Council's "Outstanding Citizen Advocate Award" for crime prevention.

She serves on the Board of Directors of the Ella Austin Community Center, the Housing First Homeless Community Coalition, and Annie's List that supports women candidates for Texas political offices. She has served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA), the National Crime Prevention Council, the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, the National Family Partnership, the National Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Higher Education, the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas, and the Texas Mental Health Association.

Ms. Watts Davis brings a unique set of experiences and network to the behavioral health field as a former Elected Official, a Director of a Federal Agency, a Non-profit agency Director, an Adjunct Professor, a Community Organizer, and effective Policy Advocate which has facilitated her success in the prevention and behavioral health field.