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## NASADAD Presents Exemplary Awards at Annual NPN Research Conference

*By Matthew Aumen, Prevention Associate*

**D**uring the National Prevention Network (NPN) Research Conference in Anaheim, California, NASADAD presented seven National Exemplary Awards for Innovative Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, Practices, and Policies. Six traditional awardees were recognized under the program, with another highly successful program receiving the first– ever Prevention Pioneer Award.

The Exemplary Award Program has been in existence for over twenty years, and identifies outstanding achievements in substance abuse prevention. Award candidates incorporate the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) five steps of the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) in their applications. The Strategic Prevention Framework is built on a community-based risk and protective factors approach to prevention and a series of guiding principles that can be implemented at the Federal, State/Tribal, and community levels.

The following is a synopsis of the winners:

The University of Houston’s program, **Intent and Motivation: Alcohol Group Exercise (IMAGE)**, increases university students’ motivation to reduce the negative consequences associated with alcohol consumption and targets three at-risk groups: first-year residence hall students, student athletes, and the Greek community.

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### NPN Executive Committee

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Shown above are representatives of the 2009 Exemplary Award programs in Anaheim, California. Front row, from left: Simone Powell, Elisha Figueroa, Brenda Murdock, Dr. Dolores Cimini. Second row, from left: Gregg Raduka, Gaylyn Maurer, Linda Salzman, Laura Shumaker, CSAP Director Fran Harding, Mandy McGlone, Steve Liga, Diane Litterer, Diane Liga. [photo courtesy One Moore Photo]

## Senate Finance Committee Action on Health Reform By Barbara Durkin, Senior Policy Analyst

**O**n September 16, the Senate Finance Committee released its health reform bill entitled *America's Healthy Future Act of 2009*. Senate Finance Committee Chairman, Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), began the Committee mark-up on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> and continued mark-up into the following week. The draft bill would cost approximately \$774 billion over ten years, all of which would be off-set. The bill only includes areas in which the Senate Finance Committee has jurisdiction over—including Medicaid, Medicare, ERISA and other revenue issues.

The Committee continued to consider amendments to the original “Chairman’s Mark” through the end of September. The Coalition for Whole Health, a coalition of mental health and substance use disorder groups interested in health reform, worked on six possible amendments to be introduced at the Senate Finance Committee mark-up.

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## Status of FY 2010 Appropriations By Barbara Durkin, Senior Policy Analyst

**N**either the House nor the Senate has finalized their FY 2010 health or Department of Justice (DOJ) funding bill and with the fiscal year having ended on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, Congress was forced to pass a continuing resolution or “CR” to continue to fund government programs and operations until Congress can finalize FY 2010 funding.

The House passed the “CR” on Friday, September 25, which will continue to fund programs—including NASADAD’s priority programs within the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education and the Department of Justice (DOJ)—at FY 2009 funding levels until October 31<sup>st</sup> or until Congress can finalize FY 2010 funding. The House passed the “CR” as part of the FY 2010 Legislative Branch appropriations bill. The “CR” will provide additional funding above FY 2009 levels for a couple of programs such as for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical programs within the Veterans Health Administration.

The Senate was set to act on the FY 2010 Legislative Branch appropriations bill and the “CR” by October 1st.

# REMINDERS

**NPN Research and Evaluation Committee Conference Call**  
**Wednesday October 14, 2009**  
**1:30 PM EDT**

**2010 NPN Research Conference Planning Committee Conference Call**  
**Thursday, October 15, 2009**  
**2:00 PM EDT**

**NPN Executive Committee Conference Call**  
**Monday November 2, 2009**  
**2:00 PM EDT**

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ON THE PREVENTION CALENDAR

### U.S. Senate Introduces Resolution to Name October National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month

From a CADCA Press Release, 24 September 2009

In response to the growing epidemic of prescription and over-the-counter medicine abuse, the U.S. Senate has introduced a resolution designating October as National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month (NMAAM). Sponsored by Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa), Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.), Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), S. Res. 263 urges communities to educate parents and youth of the potential dangers associated with prescription and over-the-counter medicine abuse.

According to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, one in 10 teens reports having abused cough medicine to get high, with some teens intentionally taking excessive amounts—sometimes up to 50 times the recommended dose—to get “high” from the active ingredient dextromethorphan.

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### 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health Released

From a SAMHSA Press Release, 10 September 2009

The 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) has now been issued by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The report indicates that progress has been made in curbing illicit drug use. For example, past month methamphetamine use among those aged 12 and older dropped sharply from approximately 529,000 people in 2007 to 314,000 in 2008. Similarly, the level of current cocaine use among the population aged 12 and older has decreased from 1.0 percent in 2006 to 0.7 percent in 2008.

Promising results from the latest survey were also found among youth (12 to 17 year olds). Among youth there was a significant decline in overall past month illicit drug use, from 11.6 percent in 2002 to 9.3 percent in 2008. There have also been significant decreases in the current use of alcohol, cigarettes and non-medical use of prescription drugs since 2007.

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#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Alcohol Law Symposium

HOST: Center for Alcohol Policy  
DATES: October 18-20, 2009  
LOC: Chicago, IL  
INFO: <http://www.centerforalcoholpolicy.org>

#### 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Healthy Teen Network “Celebrating Healthy Teens and Young Families: 30 Years of Making a Difference”

HOST: Healthy Teen Network  
DATES: October 21-24, 2009  
LOC: Tampa, FL  
INFO: <http://www.HealthyTeenNetwork.org>

#### United States Conference on AIDS

HOST: National Minority AIDS Council  
DATES: October 29-31, 2009  
LOC: San Francisco, CA  
INFO: <http://www.nmac.org/index/2009-usca>

#### 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association

HOST: APHA  
DATES: November 7-11, 2009  
LOC: Philadelphia, PA  
INFO: <http://www.apha.org>

#### International Drug Policy Reform Conference

HOST: Drug Policy Alliance  
DATES: November 12-14, 2009  
LOC: Albuquerque, NM  
INFO: <http://www.reformconference.org>

#### CSAP Community Prevention Day

HOST: CSAP  
DATES: February 8, 2010  
LOC: National Harbor, MD  
INFO: <http://www.prevention.samhsa.gov>

#### CADCA National Leadership Forum XX

“Coalitions at Work: Restoring Communities”  
HOST: CADCA  
DATES: February 9-11, 2010  
LOC: National Harbor, MD  
INFO: <http://www.cadca.org>

#### NIDA Blending Conference

“Blending Addiction Treatment and Practice: Evidence-Based Treatment and Prevention in Diverse Populations and Settings”  
HOST: NIDA  
DATES: April 22-23, 2010  
LOC: Albuquerque, NM  
INFO: [www.NIDABlendingConference.info](http://www.NIDABlendingConference.info)

#### NASADAD/NPN/NTN Annual Meeting & Conference

HOST: NASADAD  
DATES: June 1-6, 2010  
LOC: Norfolk, VA  
INFO: <http://www.nasadad.org>

#### 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Society for Prevention Research “Cells to Society: Prevention at All Levels”

HOST: Society for Prevention Research  
DATES: June 1-4, 2010  
LOC: Denver, CO  
INFO: <http://www.preventionresearch.org>

## Thomas McLellan Becomes Deputy Director of ONDCP

From a CADCA Press Release, 13 August 2009

**T**homas McLellan, Ph.D., a longtime addiction treatment researcher, was sworn in as Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). As Deputy Director, Dr. McLellan will serve as the primary advisor to ONDCP Director R. Gil Kerlikowske and assist in the formulation and implementation of the President's National Drug Control Strategy.

Dr. McLellan brings to the position 35 years of addiction research. His contributions to the advancement of substance abuse research and public policy have changed the landscape of addiction science and improved the lives of countless Americans and their families.

In a press release, ONDCP Director Kerlikowske said Dr. McLellan's appointment underscored the Administration's commitment to reforming how we think about and address drug addiction. "His knowledge and experience in preventing and treating substance abuse is critical to the development of comprehensive, science-based drug control policies and will help us broaden our response to drug issues by emphasizing both public health and public safety concerns," he said.

Dr. McLellan was confirmed unanimously by the U. S. Senate on Aug. 7, 2009. His biography is available on [www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/about/mcllellan.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/about/mcllellan.html).

## National Prevention Network Member Profile: Craig PoVey

**C**raig L PoVey, M.S.W, L.C.S.W. is a Program Administrator for the State of Utah, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. He has worked in the adolescent treatment and prevention field since 1988. Craig has worked most of his career at Weber Human Services, a community mental health/ substance abuse center.

Craig joined the NPN in 2003 and immediately got involved with the Research and Evaluation Committee. Later, he was co- chair of that committee as well as the Western Region Representative. Earlier this year, he was elected as the NPN President.



Craig PoVey

Craig loves his job, but loves his three- day weekends (a temporary cost- saving mechanism, courtesy of the State of Utah) even more. On weekends, you can find him riding his mountain bike with his three sons, hiking with his wife, or volunteering on snowy winter Saturdays as a member of the National Ski Patrol. He has held several church positions and also served in the Boy Scouts of America.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Seed Grants for HIV/AIDS Interventions in Targeted Regions

The National AIDS Fund, in partnership with Johnson & Johnson, is providing support through *GENERATIONS: Strengthening Women and Families Affected by HIV/AIDS*. The goal of the initiative is to increase the capacity of community-based organizations to utilize cutting-edge prevention science to implement innovative interventions to reach specific populations of women and girls at-risk of HIV/AIDS. Applications must be submitted by November 2, 2009. Visit the National AIDS Fund website to download the Request for Proposals.

<http://www.aidsfund.org/2009/08/20/generations-strengthening-women-and-families-affected-by-hiv/aids/>

Historically, young adults have had the highest rates of substance abuse, and for most types of illicit substance abuse the levels have remained steady over the past year. However, over the past three years there has been a steady drop in the rate of heavy alcohol use by full time college students aged 18 to 22 – from a high of 19.5 percent in 2005 to 16.3 percent in 2008.

Despite many positive trends, the most recent NSDUH survey also reveals negative ones as well. For example there were significant increases in the rates of Ecstasy and LSD use among youth over past few years.

NSDUH is a scientifically conducted annual survey of approximately 67,500 people throughout the country. Because of its statistical power, it is a primary source of information on the levels of illicit drug, alcohol, and tobacco use as well as certain mental health conditions.

The complete survey findings are available on the SAMHSA Web site at <http://oasbeta.samhsa.gov/nsduh/2k8nsduh/2k8Results.cfm>.

## Prevention Trivia

### 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

1. What is the rate of current (past month) illicit drug use for the 50-59 year old age group?
  - A. 0.6%
  - B. 1.1%
  - C. 4.6%
  - D. 7.1%
2. Among the 50-54 year old age group, 50.9% report being current drinkers. Of those, what percentage report heavy alcohol use?
  - A. 6.4%
  - B. 9.1%
  - C. 12.8%
  - D. 15.5%
3. What percentage of persons aged 50-54 reported driving under the influence of alcohol in the last year?
  - A. 5.9%
  - B. 11.4%
  - C. 14.2%
  - D. 15.6%

Answers: C,A,B

The Committee accepted three amendments impacting mental health and substance use disorders. The following amendments were accepted:

- The Committee accepted an amendment which would apply the mental health and substance use disorder parity law (the *Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act*) to all plans in the exchange. Thus, not only would mental health and substance use disorder benefits be required to be part of any minimum benefit package, but the parity requirements would also extend to small employer and individual health insurance plans.
- The Committee accepted an amendment which would clarify that therapeutic foster care services in out-of-home placements are a defined Medicaid service category. Therapeutic foster care was also defined by this amendment.
- The Committee accepted an amendment which would specify that all health plans must include behavioral health treatment as part of mental health and substance use disorder services.
- The Senate Finance Committee bill also includes the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as one of the federal agencies to be consulted with on the prevention and wellness aspects of the bill.

Once the Finance Committee passes its version of health reform, the Senate leadership will need to work to combine the Finance Committee and Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee bill into one Senate bill and bring it to the Senate floor for a vote. There is no word on when this will all happen.

All three House Committees of jurisdiction over health reform—the House Energy and Commerce, House Education and Labor, and House Ways and Means Committees—cleared their health reform package in a Tri-Committee manner. The House leadership is now meeting to iron out the differences between the three House Committee versions of the health reform legislation. One contentious issue in these talks with House leadership is the public option or the public plan and whether such an option should be included within health reform. The House leadership hopes to schedule a House vote shortly.

## Nominate Topics for Healthcare Research

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Effective Health Care (EHC) Program conducts effectiveness reviews designed to provide current, reliable evidence about healthcare interventions. The results of this research support well-informed decision-making for clinicians, consumers, policymakers, and others.

The process of identifying, selecting, and developing important topics for research reviews or new research is a key aspect of the EHC Program. The process is enhanced by strong stakeholder involvement, maintaining transparency and public accountability, and striving for continuous self-evaluation and improvement. The program uses an established set of criteria to guide the process of topic selection.

The EHC Program wants to hear from you. Substance abuse is one of the priority areas identified for the EHC Program, and few topics have been nominated for research in this area so far. What healthcare decisions do you believe need better evidence? Which topics are of interest and importance to you? Nominating topics for future research is easy. Just go to the EHC Program website at [www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov](http://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov) and click on "Get Involved." You may also contact Samantha Slaughter-Mason at [slaughsa@ohsu.edu](mailto:slaughsa@ohsu.edu) for more information.

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### Medicine Abuse Awareness Month

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When used correctly, dextromethorphan-containing medicines have a 50-year history of being safe and effective. But when abused in extreme excess, dextromethorphan can produce dangerous side effects, especially when combined with alcohol, illicit drugs, or certain prescription drugs.

In May 2009, The Partnership/Metlife Parents Attitude Tracking Study (PATS) indicated that more parents are talking to their teen about the dangers of using over-the-counter cough and cold medicine to get high. Additionally, in February 2009, the 20th annual Partnership Attitude Tracking Survey, a national study of teen behavior and attitudes about drugs and alcohol, showed that an increased number of teens view the intentional abuse of OTC cough medicines as risky.

Localities interested in hosting their own town hall or launching an educational campaign during National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month can download helpful planning tools at: [www.StopMedicineAbuse.org](http://www.StopMedicineAbuse.org).

### Exemplary Awards

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The School District of Palm Beach County, Florida, and its program **Families Acting Collaboratively to Educate and Involve Teens (FACE IT)**, is a prevention and early intervention program designed for youth between the ages of 12-18 as an alternative to school suspension.

Amethyst, Inc., from Columbus, Ohio, implements a program titled **SummerQuest** which provides a 12-week intervention to children whose mothers are engaged in long-term addiction treatment and focuses on economically disadvantaged youth ages 6-14.

In Idaho, the Meridian Police Department has taken the lead on the **Meridian Mayor's Anti- Drug Coalition (MADC)**, uniting civic leaders, business owners, educators, law enforcement, treatment providers, churches, and residents with a focus on providing consistent messages and policies regarding substance abuse.

The New Jersey Prevention Network, of Lakewood, New Jersey, hosts an intervention called the **Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (WISE)**, and focuses on the overuse and misuse of alcohol and prescription medications among older adults.

**The Georgia Underage Drinking Prevention Initiative**, of The Council on Alcohol and Drugs, located in Atlanta, is designed to decrease the onset and prevalence of underage drinking and its related problems through environmental approaches to empower and create change.

**The STEPS Comprehensive Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention Program**, by the University at Albany, State University of New York, is tasked with reducing alcohol use frequency and quantity among target populations of university students who are at risk for problem drinking behavior.

In addition to receiving national acclaim at the NPN Research Conference, winning programs receive an unrestricted mini-grant of \$1,500, exhibit space during the conference, and linkage to CSAP's *Service to Science* program (if requested). The programs' U.S Congressional delegations are also notified.

For more information on these exemplary programs, please visit the prevention link on our website, [www.nasadam.org](http://www.nasadam.org).