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SAMHSA Awards AAAP-Led Coalition A Multi-Million Dollar Grant to Confront the Opioid Crisis

EAST PROVIDENCE, RI—January 18, 2018—The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) today announced the award of a \$12 million grant each year for two years to the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatrists Psychiatry (AAAP) and a coalition of 22 national healthcare organizations to confront the opioid crisis.

Under the grant, AAAP will lead the coalition of national professional organizations on the front lines of the opioid crisis in a state-based effort to expand the availability of treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) by providing training, educational resources and clinical mentoring for healthcare providers and community health centers across the country.

“As the opioid epidemic ravages families nationwide, it is vitally important to recognize that opioid use disorder is preventable and treatable,” said Shelly Greenfield, MD, MPH, president of AAAP. “With this grant, we will build on our current efforts and expand evidence-based practices to support community health centers and other healthcare providers. They are helping to prevent opioid use disorder and any substance use disorder, and they are guiding patients through treatment and recovery.

Research shows that only about half of all U.S. counties have access to prescribed therapies for medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and counseling services that increase the chances of successful recovery. Compounding the problem is that only a small proportion of primary care providers certified to prescribe MAT therapies make them available to their patients.

The grant will support the efforts of the State Technical Assistance Team Education and Support (STATES) Consortium, an unprecedented effort of physicians, nurses, physician assistants, allied health professionals and public and behavioral health organizations that are combining forces to address the opioid epidemic. Consortium members have national, regional and state networks with technical expertise in prevention, treatment and recovery from substance use disorders (SUDs) and OUD in particular.

The goal of the STATES coalition is to increase the number of healthcare providers who are certified to prescribe buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone—the three medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of OUD—and are experienced in prevention and recovery.

“Clinicians need more training to overcome stigma and other barriers to medication-assisted treatment,” said Kathryn Cates-Wessel, CEO of AAAP and the principal investigator and project Director of the STATES Consortium. “Providers also need systems in place, such as able staff and access to behavioral health specialists to work with them. The STATES Consortium and its on-the-ground clinical

experts will provide local clinicians with the technical assistance specifically targeting their unique needs.”

The STATES Consortium will expand on the work of several earlier funded SAMHSA initiatives including the [Providers’ Clinical Support System for Medication Assisted Treatment](#) led by AAAP and the Addiction Technology Transfer Centers led by the University of Kansas, as well as other national initiatives. A core group of organizations will be charged with the strategic planning and oversight of the grant working with AAAP including: Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network (ATTC); Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) ; Center for Social Innovation (CSI) ; Columbia University’s Division on SUDs; Research Triangle Institute (RTI) ; and the Adolescent Substance Use and Addiction Program at Boston Children’s Hospital.

In addition to the core members, the following organizations are partners in the coalition: American Psychiatric Association; American College of Family Physicians; American College of Physicians; American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine; American College of Emergency Physicians; American Medical Association; Association for Medical Education and Research; Council on Social Work Education; National Alliance for HIV Education and Workforce Development; National Council for Behavioral Health; Physician Assistant Education Association; National Association of Drug Court Professionals; Coalition of Physician Education; National Association of Community Health Centers; and Strengthening Families.

The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry is a nonprofit professional membership organization of addiction specialists whose mission is to promote the need for research, clinical treatment using evidence based approaches through training and education.

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