

**From:** White House Office of National Drug Control Policy <oipl@ondcp.eop.gov>  
**To:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
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## ONDCP Newsletter – November 2014

Welcome to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) *E-Newsletter Update*. In this issue:

- ☐ New ONDCP Deputy Director for State, Local and Tribal Affairs
- ☐ NIDA encourages community-based marijuana research
- ☐ Innovative CMS program to focus on substance use disorders
- ☐ The 2014 National Substance Abuse Prevention Month Twitter chat
- ☐ Deputy Director Mineta marches in Baltimore recovery rally

### **Mary Lou Leary Appointed as ONDCP Deputy Director for State, Local, and Tribal Affairs**

The Office of National Drug Control Policy is pleased to announce the presidential appointment of **Mary Lou Leary** as Deputy Director for State, Local and Tribal Affairs. Ms. Leary brings to ONDCP more than 30 years of criminal justice experience working closely with states, local governments, and community stakeholders. Ms. Leary replaces Benjamin Tucker who left the Obama Administration to work for the New York City Police Department.

Ms. Leary previously served in the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. She received a B.A. from Syracuse University, an M.A. from Ohio State University, and a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law.

ONDCP thanks Mary Hyland for her exemplary service as Acting OSLTA Deputy Director. Mary Hyland recently left ONDCP to join Customs and

Border Protection.

### **ONDCP and DEA Host Disposal Webinar**

On November 6, the Office of National Drug Control Policy joined the Drug Enforcement Administration to host a webinar for community agencies, coalitions, and governments looking to implement drug disposal programs. Safe, environmentally sound disposal of prescription drugs is one of the four pillars outlined in the 2011 *Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan* to reduce prescription drug misuse in the United States. Officials and disposal experts from Alameda County, California, also joined the webinar to discuss how ordinances might define and fund programs at the county level.

More than 800 community governments, coalitions, and citizens registered for the webinar. View the full DEA disposal rule webinar [here](#)

### **NIDA Encourages Community-Based Marijuana Research**

In a new video, National Institute on Drug Abuse Deputy Director Wilson Compton discusses the health of our communities in light of recently passed marijuana laws, what we know (and do not know) about the effects of marijuana use on the brain, and related research opportunities. To view the video, click [here](#).

### **Innovative CMS Program to Focus on Substance Use Disorders**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently launched the Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP) to improve care, improve health, and reduce costs. The IAP will support efforts to accelerate Medicaid innovation by offering states technical assistance and other resources. Based on work with states and stakeholders, CMS has identified substance use disorders as an area of focus for IAP efforts, pointing out that “[N]early 12 percent of adults in Medicaid and 6 percent of adolescents have a Substance Use Disorder or issue. Further, Medicaid beneficiaries with alcohol or substance use diagnoses are two of the top ten reasons for hospital readmissions.”<sup>[i]</sup>

As part of a strategy to improve the care and outcomes for individuals with such disorders, the IPA issued an information bulletin on October 29. The bulletin invites states to leverage IAP resources to introduce system reforms that better identify individuals with substance use disorders and expands coverage for their effective treatment.

For more information about the Innovation Accelerator Program, click [here](#).

### **Catch Up on the 2014 National Substance Abuse Prevention Month Twitter Chat**

In October, ONDCP hosted the 2014 National Substance Abuse Prevention Month Twitter chat. Leading the discussion were David Mineta, ONDCP Deputy Director for Demand Reduction; Ritankar Das, Chair of the

Science & Engineering Festival (USASEF) Youth Advisory Board; Jack Andraka, USASEF Youth Advisory Board Member; and Lauren Foisy, National Youth Leadership Initiative (NYLI) Young Leader. The chat, tracked through the hashtag [#PrevMonth](#), was delivered to more than 3 million Twitter timelines. Check out the [#PrevMonth](#) hashtag to catch up on what was discussed.

### **Deputy Director Mineta Marches in Baltimore Recovery Rally**

In September, ONDCP Deputy Director for Demand Reduction David Mineta participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Recovery Run, Walk, & Rally in Baltimore, Maryland. He was joined by 800 other participants, many of whom are in long-term recovery. The event was a celebration to highlight efforts in the city of Baltimore to promote recovery.

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### **Notes**

[i]Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP), Medicaid.gov. Available at <http://www.medicaid.gov/state-resource-center/innovation-accelerator-program/innovation-accelerator-program.html>

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Office of National Drug Control Policy • 750 17th St NW  
Washington, DC 20503 • 202-395-6700