
STATE-FEDERAL UPDATE ON OPIOID POLICY

MARGARET WILE- SENIOR POLICY SPECIALIST

STATE-FEDERAL AFFAIRS



NCSL IN DC

- Advocating for: NCSL's members, the NCSL HHS Committee and the NCSL HHS Policy Working Group.
- Keeping congressional committees and federal agencies up to date on what states are prioritizing.



RECENT FEDERAL LAWS

- **CARA**- Comprehensive and Addiction Recovery Act (2016)
- **Cures**- 21st Century Cures Act (2016)
- **SUPPORT**- Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (2018)



COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT

- Focused mostly on opioids with some attention on substance use more generally
- Expanded prevention and intervention efforts
- Created plans of safe care that states are working to implement
- Several different grants and funding opportunities
 - Federally qualified health center grants
 - Naloxone education and access programs
 - Prevention/intervention grants to states



21ST CENTURY CURES

- Addressed state opioid grants but it also addressed broader public health issues
- Addressed the Medicaid same day billing issue so patients can now see multiple providers on the same day
- Strengthening parity laws
 - HHS parity guidance on compliance, authority to audit of health plans and state-federal partnership to enforce parity laws



SUPPORT ACT

- Data, Studies, and Reports
- Coverage
- Workforce
- *Funding- will be addressed in the afternoon session*



SUPPORT-DATA, STUDIES AND REPORTS

- Study and report on the gaps in Medicaid coverage for pregnant and postpartum women with SUD
- Report on how Medicaid covers peer recovery coaches
- Study and report on barriers to accessing SUD treatment
- State specific reports on the prevalent and treatment of SUD among Medicaid beneficiaries
- Report on innovative state initiatives and strategies to provide housing related services and supports to individuals with SUD under Medicaid
- FDA to publish guidelines for prescribing opioid analgesic
- Government Accountability Office (GOA) report on hospice safe drug management



SUPPORT- COVERAGE

- Allows states to cover treatment for babies born with NAS at recovery centers and facilities that provide services and counseling to the mother and family for Medicaid beneficiaries
- Allows states the option for telehealth (both for Medicaid and Medicare enrollees)
- CMS will issue guidance on how states can cover non-opioid treatment coverage for Medicaid population
- Expands Medicare coverage to include Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) for MAT

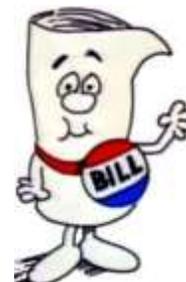


SUPPORT- WORKFORCE

- Increase the number of providers eligible to apply for a waiver to prescribe MAT over the next five years
- Ensures that physicians who graduate with certain specialties obtain a waiver to prescribe MAT
- Allows pharmacists to administer injection or implant controlled substances for the purposes of maintenance or detox



Questions?





Margaret Wile, MSW
Senior Policy Specialist
Health and Human Services
State-Federal Affairs
Margaret.Wile@NCSL.org
202 624-8171 (direct line)
202-227-7542 (cell)

THANK YOU!