



Women's Services Network

The Women's Services Network (WSN) is an organization of State Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Agency Treatment Representatives dedicated to the development and promotion of evidence-based practice that addresses the unique alcohol and other drug prevention, treatment, and recovery service needs of women and their families throughout their lifespan.

WSN Overview

As a component of the National Association of State Alcohol/Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) and the National Treatment Network (NTN), the Women's Services Network (WSN) functions as a specialty network under the auspices of the NTN, and in collaboration with the National Prevention Network (NPN). The WSN focuses on women's treatment and prevention issues while remaining dedicated to the NTN's overall goal of effective, socially responsive treatment delivery for all populations.

The WSN is comprised of the women's treatment coordinators from across the country that have been appointed by their State Director to guide the development and the delivery of prevention, treatment, and recovery support services in their respective states.

The primary role of the WSN is to partner with the NTN/NPN to ensure that the unique treatment and prevention needs and concerns of women and their families are addressed. The WSN works to expand and improve the publicly-funded treatment and prevention systems and services, and to facilitate collaboration with other public and privately funded service agencies that serve women and their families. The NTN and WSN also work with the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and other stakeholders to support and promote shared interests including expansion of effective and efficient treatment for substance use disorders that is comprehensive as well as culturally and gender appropriate.

Women with Substance Use Disorders (SUD)

- Women get drunk faster, become addicted to alcohol more quickly and develop alcohol-related diseases such as hypertension and liver, brain and heart damage more rapidly than men. (Women Under the Influence; National Center on Addiction and Substance Use at Columbia (CASA) 2006)
- In 2002, 6.4 million (6%) women 18 or older were estimated to have an SUD and 2 million to have a co-occurring substance use and mental health disorder. (National Survey Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) 8-20-04)
- Physical and sexual trauma followed by post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is more common in women than in men who seek substance use treatment (National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA) 2009)
- An annual average of 6.3 million women ages 18-49 needed treatment for a substance use problem in 2004-2006: 10.4% received treatment, 84.2% did not perceive a need and 5.5% did not receive treatment because they weren't ready to stop using, they lacked necessary funding or because of social stigma. (NSDUH 10-4-07).
- Among pregnant women ages 15-44: 11.2% drank alcohol, 6% used prescription medications for non medical reasons and 4.6% used illicit drugs. Use by pregnant teens ages 15-17 was even higher. (NSDUH 2003-2004 data)
- Approximately 222,000 children are exposed to illicit substances in utero and over 1 million to illicit drugs and alcohol each year. (National Abandoned Infant Association (AIA) April 2008)
- Over 8.3 million children under 18 years of age (11.9 %) live with at least one parent who is dependent on or abused alcohol or an illicit drug during the past year. (NSDUH 4-16-09)

WSN Executive Committee Officers

President Susan.Gadacz@wisconsin.gov	Susan Gadacz WI
Vice President Starleen.scott-robbins@dhhs.nc.gov	Starleen Scott Robbins NC
Secretary Martha.kurgans@dbhds.virginia.gov	Martha Kurgans VA
Treasurer Ruthie.Dallas@state.mn.us	Ruthie Dallas MN
Region I Representative CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT Kristen.Jiorle@maine.gov	Kristen Jiorle ME
Region II Representative NJ, NY, PR MariaMorris@oasas.state.ny.us	Maria Morris-Groves NY
Region III Representative DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV stucker@dhmh.state.md.us	Suzette Tucker MD
Region IV Representative AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN atrica_warr@dcf.state.fl.us	Atrica Warr FL
Region V Representative IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI mccarey@ada.ohio.gov	Jackie McCarey OH
Region VI Representative AR, LA, NM, OK, TX Christine.Reid@arkansas.gov	Christine Reid AR
Region VII Representative IA, KS, MO, NE lynne.allar-meine@dmh.mo.gov	Lynne Allar-Meine MO
Region VIII Representative CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY Shawna.kautzman@health.wyo.gov	Shawna Kautzman WY
Region IX Representative AZ, CA, HI, NV skurkam@azdhs.gov	Michelle Skurka AZ
Region X Representative AK, ID, OR, WA johnsoS2@dhw.idaho.gov	Sherry Johnson ID
NTN Representative NTN Secretary/Treasurer RShannon@dhhs.state.nh.us	Rosemary Shannon NH
NPN Representative NPN Vice President, External Affairs diane.casto@alaska.gov	L. Diane Casto AK
NASADAD Staff Liaison kmandell@nasadad.org	Kara Mandell
CSAT Project Officer Sharon.Amatetti@samhsa.hhs.gov	Sharon Amatetti

For information on the Women's Services Network please contact Kara Mandell, NASADAD Staff Liaison, at the email listed above.

WSN Committees

❖ **Treatment Standards**

Dedicated to the development and dissemination of care standards for the substance use disorder treatment for women and their families.

❖ **Criminal Justice**

Dedicated to the improvement of clinical and social support practice in multiple systems and disciplines to achieve better service outcomes for women in community corrections and incarcerated women and their families and communities.

❖ **Outcomes**

Dedicated to providing gender-specific insight regarding women and their families to the National Outcome Measures (NOMS) dialogue. The Outcomes Committee will ensure that the domains and the outcome measures strike a data collection balance that is realistic and achievable for women and their families.

❖ **Pregnant and Parenting**

Dedicated to educate policymakers and legislators regarding substance use during pregnancy, its social and economic impact on women, children, families, and societies, and the need to promote prevention and treatment services that are comprehensive, readily accessible and cost-effective.

Links for More Information

- NASADAD: <http://www.nasadad.org>
- CSAT: <http://csat.samhsa.gov>
- Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP): <http://prevention.samhsa.gov>
- Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/cmhs/>
- Children and Family Futures: www.cffutures.org
- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: <http://ncsacw.samhsa.gov>
- National Institute of Corrections: www.nicic.org
- National Trauma Consortium (NTC): www.nationaltraumaconsortium.org/