

Professional Experience

National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)

Washington, D.C.

Executive Director 12/09 – Present.

- Supervise 15 employees in the following Departments: Public Policy, Research/Program Applications, Finance and Membership Services. Serve as liaison to the Board of Directors and members from all States and Territories.
- Work with federal entities including Congress, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Department of Justice (DOJ), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and Department of Defense (DoD).
- Worked to provide technical assistance regarding drug courts, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program, Second Chance Act and other criminal justice initiatives.
- Worked to provide technical assistance on issues related to the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), 21st Century Cures Act, and the SUPPORT Act.
- Testified before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee in April 2018.
- Testified before the House Appropriations Committee in March 2014 regarding NASADAD priorities.
- Engaged in Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation by working with Congress, HHS, SAMHSA, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Coalition for Whole Health (CWH) and others.
- Worked on issues related to Family First Act and the Regional Partnership Grants.

Interim Executive Director/Director of Public Policy 12/08 – 11/09.

- Maintained relationships with Congress, National Governors Association (NGA), National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), National Association of Counties (NACo), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), ONDCP, HHS, SAMHSA, DoD and others.
- Worked on issues related to health reform.
- Initiated study to examine impact of State-level health reform efforts on State alcohol and drug systems.
- Developed NASADAD's recommendations regarding ONDCP's annual National Drug Control Strategy.
- Worked with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) to educate respective members regarding the benefits of State-drug court program collaboration.
- Developed collaborations with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD), National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS), National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), and National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) on shared priorities.

Deputy Executive Director/Director of Public Policy 12/06 – 11/08.

- Promoted to Deputy Executive Director to manage larger role within NASADAD.
- Worked to provide technical assistance on issues related to the Second Chance Act.
- Worked on issues related to outcome measures, disaster response, drug treatment courts, along with alcohol and other drug prevention services.
- Partnered with criminal justice groups, including DOJ, National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), Council of State Governments (CSG), Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA), American Correctional Association (ACA) and others on federal policy.
- Served as Co-Chair of Addiction Leadership Group (ALG), Executive Committee Member of the Friends of NIDA Coalition, member of the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG), and other coalitions.
- Developed materials regarding publicly funded State alcohol and drug systems.

Director of Public Policy 9/01 – 12/06.

- Served as liaison to Congress, executive branch and other stakeholders.
- Worked to provide technical assistance regarding issues related to substance use disorder services for criminal justice populations, prescription drug monitoring programs, underage drinking, and services to child welfare populations.
- Worked to provide technical assistance on issues related to the Combat Meth Act.
- Worked on issues related to disaster response (Hurricane Katrina), tobacco and Department of Education's Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program.

Smith, Bucklin and Associates, Inc.

Washington, D.C.

Associate Director, Health Care Practice Group 1/99 – 9/01.

- Designed and implemented government affairs programs for the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA), Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), and Society for Gynecologic Oncologists (SGO).
- Represented clients before Congress, executive branch and coalitions on general health, mental health, biomedical research, appropriations, workforce, managed care and other issues. Served as lead for Hill Day/“Fly-in” events.
- Worked on issues in the Children’s Health Act (P.L. 106-310) regarding the use of seclusion/restraint.
- Drafted letters, testimony, regulatory comments, policy memos, talking points and newsletter articles.
- Initiated the establishment of a joint program of the National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH) and National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) to help recruit and maintain psychiatric nurse researchers.
- Collaborated on research priorities on behalf of clients with National Institute on Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).
- Chosen to serve on Mental Health Liaison Group’s (MHLG) Steering Committee from 2000 to 2001.

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Public Policy Associate 12/97 – 1/99.

- Assisted Director of Public Policy in providing technical assistance to Congress, executive branch, Governors and other stakeholders.
- Duties focused on federal programs supporting the continuum. In addition, specific projects related to tobacco, education, criminal justice, and child welfare.

Office of U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg

Washington, D.C.

Legislative Aide 3/96 – 11/97.

- Performed legislative research on health, crime, tobacco, appropriations and other legislative issues.
- Drafted and edited floor statements and memos, monitored floor debate, parliamentary action and votes.

Intern Coordinator 2/95 – 2/96.

- Recruited, hired, trained, and supervised up to 15 interns per semester.

Staff Assistant 8/94 – 1/95.

- Responsible for directing mailroom operations and data-entry.

Intern 1/94 – 6/94.

- Duties included legislative research, attending hearings, and assisting the press department.

Awards

- National Treatment Network’s (NTN) Champion Award (2018)
- National Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC) President’s Award (2016)
- NASADAD Service Award (2015)
- National Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC) Partnership Award (2012)
- NASADAD President’s Award for Distinguished Service (2007)
- American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) President’s Award for Distinguished Service (2001)

Education

Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, MD, Masters coursework, American Government
Drew University, Madison N.J., BA, Political Science
University of York, York, England, Academic Year Abroad