

Sexual Assault Survivors Bill of Rights Perfected in the Senate

The Missouri Senate perfected legislation that establishes certain rights for sexual assault victims.

SB775 championed by Sen. Holly Thompson Rehder, would make certain a victim of sexual assault has the right to consult with a rape crisis center representative, offered a shower, clean clothing, have an interpreter, if needed, and more. This Bill also contains rape shield protections.

Read the full article [HERE](#)

Read SB775 [HERE](#)

Justice Department Secures Settlement to Resolve Disability Discrimination Against People with Opioid Use Disorder

On March 17, 2022, the Justice Department reached a settlement agreement with Ready to Work, a not-for-profit residential, work, and social services program for individuals who are homeless, with facilities in Aurora and Boulder, Colorado. The agreement resolves a complaint under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that Ready to Work discriminated against an individual with opioid use disorder (OUD) by denying her admission to its residential, work, and social services program because she uses a prescribed medication to treat her OUD. Under the agreement, Ready to Work will not deny services on the basis of disability, including OUD, or apply standards or criteria that screen out individuals with disabilities. The agreement also requires Ready to Work to adopt non-discrimination policies, train staff on its non-discrimination obligations, and report on compliance. Ready to Work will also pay damages to the Complainant. For more information on the ADA or this settlement agreement, please visit ada.gov or call the toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 (TTY 800-514-0383).

Source: News Release from the U.S. Department of Justice

U.S. House Votes to Remove Marijuana from the List of Scheduled Substances

The U.S. House of Representatives on Friday voted 220-204 to remove marijuana from the list of scheduled substances so that growing, selling, or possessing the drug would no longer carry criminal penalties. The Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act would also create a process to expunge non-violent marijuana convictions and review criminal sentences for offenders, and impose a five percent federal tax on cannabis that eventually increases to eight percent, a portion of which would fund programs aimed at helping communities affected by the war on drugs. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer plans to introduce a separate marijuana bill this month.

This measure still needs to go through the U.S. Senate and will need to be signed by President Biden before it actually becomes law.

Read articles: [AXIOS](#), [CNBC](#), [The Hill](#), [The New York Times](#), [Roll Call](#),

U.S. Overdose Deaths, Fueled by Fentanyl, Reach Record High

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported an estimated 105,752 people died from overdoses during a 12-month period ending October 2021, a record high. Of those deaths, approximately two-thirds (2/3) involved fentanyl and other synthetic opioids. The CDC reports overdose deaths increased in all states, excluding New Hampshire, Hawaii, Delaware, and Wyoming compared to the previous year.

Overdose deaths increased by almost 40% involving methamphetamines and other psychostimulants from the previous year.

Read article [HERE](#)



22.35 Million Americans Report having Resolved Substance Use Problems

1 in 10 Americans reports having resolved a significant substance use problem.

Two goals were outlined in this study which included: "estimating national prevalence - to determine what proportion of the US adult population 'used to have a problem with drugs or alcohol, but no longer do'" and to determine the percent who

resolved their substance use problem with formal assistance and without.

Read the full article with all data and results including graphs [HERE](#).

Greg's Message

Things are really picking up on the legislative front. MCRSP already reported the unfortunate news that the U.S. Congress did not adopt a large increase in the federal substance abuse block grant (SABG) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. Without the large increase, the 10-percent set aside for recovery programs was also left out of the appropriations legislation. However, the Biden Administration released its FY2023 budget on Monday, March 28. Included in the budget proposal was a \$1.1 billion increase in the SABG and a 10-percent set aside for recovery programs once again. MCRSP is actively working with a national coalition to secure this funding in FY2023. Please be on the lookout for calls to action as we progress through the appropriations process. It is important that legislators hear from constituents on these matters.

The House of Representatives' Energy and Commerce Committee will be holding a hearing on Tuesday, April 5, to begin the process of reauthorizing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). As part of this reauthorization process, several changes to SAMHSA have been proposed. One is a change to the name of the agency. Under the current proposed legislation, "Substance Abuse" will be changed to "Substance Use," a change that advocates have been trying to make for several years to eliminate the stigmatizing language in the agency's name. MCRSP and its national coalition are also trying to include a 10-percent set aside for recovery programs in the SABG in this authorizing legislation. One of the reasons appropriators cited for not including the 10-percent set aside in this year's appropriations bill was that the 10-percent set aside was not authorized under SAMHSA. We are hoping to remove that excuse in the FY20023 appropriations bill by getting the set aside authorized as part of the SAMHSA legislation.

Things have also been busy in the Missouri State Capitol. Last week, the House Budget Committee marked up its FY2023 budget bill. The bill will be considered on the House floor on Tuesday, April 5, and will then be sent to the Senate. Funding for Recovery Support Services (RSS) have stayed the same as the FY2022 levels. In addition, however, are funds that have been sent to the state through the federal government, which has basically doubled the size of the RSS program.

Also last week, the Missouri Senate passed the Missouri Prison Nursery bill. Several Missouri lawmakers are working to pass the bill that would allow women in prison to stay with their newborn babies for up to 18 months. The bill passed the Senate on March 31, 32-0, and last month passed 142-1 in the House.

MCRSP is continuing to work on HB2527, a tax credit for donations made to recovery organizations in the state. The bill is still held up in the House Rules Committee for Administrative Oversight. However, members of the House and Senate plan to offer the legislation as amendments on the House and Senate floors when appropriate bills come before those bodies for consideration.

Upcoming Events

- April 8-10, 2022 ~ **MACA Spring Conference**
Camden on the Lake, 2359 Bittersweet Road, Lake Ozark, MO 54049
<http://www.macamo.org/upcoming-events>
- May 2, 2022 ~ **MO Substance Abuse Prevention Conference AWARD Nominations Deadline**
Nomination Form [HERE](#) (ALL nominations due by 5:00 pm)
- May 3, 2022 ~ **MO Mental Health Foundations Mental Health Champions Awards Banquet**
Register to attend in person or virtually [HERE](#)
- June 3, 2022 ~ **MCRSP/KC Recovery Coalition Conference**
Healing House Recovery Community Center, 112 N. Elmwood Ave, Kansas City, MO
Register [HERE](#)
- July 21, 2022 ~ **MO Suicide Prevention Conference**
Show-Me Center in Cape Girardeau, MO
- August 11, 2022 ~ **MCRSP/Central Missouri Recovery Coalition Conference**
Stoney Creek Hotel (Columbia), 2601 South Providence Road, Columbia, MO
Discounted room rate of \$95/night; reservations made by July 13. Click [HERE](#) to make a reservation.

August 26-27, 2022 ~ **5th Annual Intersection of Christian Beliefs and Recovery Seminar**
Landmark Church, 204 Metro Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109

If you have an event you would like to share please email [Christa Harmon](mailto:Christa.Harmon@mo.gov)

Training Opportunities

Wellness Webinars - The Missouri Behavioral Health Council (These webinars are designed for Behavioral Health Care Providers:

- April 22, 2022 - 1:00 pm (Back to Basics: Using Effective Communication Techniques - basic communication techniques for wellness coaching. [Register Here](#)

Peer Specialist Training - Missouri Credentialing Board

- Certified Peer Specialist [Register Here](#)
- Peer Specialist Supervisor [Register Here](#)
- Certified Peer Specialist Speciality Training [Register Here](#)

Missouri Recovery Support Specialist Training - Missouri Credentialing Board

- MRSS training [Register Here](#)

Ethics Training - Missouri Credentialing Board

- Ethics training [Register Here](#)

MARS Training - Missouri Credential Board

- MARS training [Register Here](#)

If you have a training you would like to share please email [Christa Harmon](mailto:Christa.Harmon@mo.gov)

Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers Missouri's Recovery Lifeline

MCRSP Staff Contact Information

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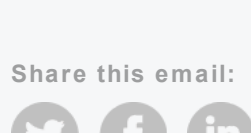
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