

NEWS BITES

JULY 2026

LAPPA NEWS

PUBLICATIONS

Model Laws

The [Model Involuntary Commitment for Substance Use Disorder Act](#) establishes protocols and procedures for the involuntary commitment of individuals with substance use disorder that is separate and distinct from the procedure for the involuntary commitment of individuals with mental health issues. This model act also: (1) ensures that the due process rights of individuals with substance use disorder who are subject to involuntary commitment proceedings are respected and protected and that all individuals are treated with dignity, respect, and empathy throughout the process; (2) enumerates the rights of individuals involuntarily committed for substance use disorder treatment; (3) establishes discharge planning requirements to prevent harm upon discharge from involuntary commitment and reduce the risk of overdose upon reentry into the community; (4) establishes an involuntary commitment review board to review the admission and retention of individuals ordered to undergo involuntary commitment for the treatment of substance use disorder in a clinical setting; (5) establishes training and education materials on the process of involuntary commitment for courts, the medical community, and the general public; and (6) establishes a reporting requirement for treatment facilities to ensure the collection and analysis of data related to involuntary commitment and its outcomes.

The updated [Model Opioid Litigation Proceeds Act](#), drafted in partnership with the O'Neill Institute for National & Global Health Law at Georgetown University Law Center, the Center for U.S. Policy, and Brown & Weinraub, PLLC, assists states in their efforts to maximize funds available to address the overdose crisis. The updated act guides states through the establishment of a dedicated fund, separate from the state's general treasury fund, that is designated for substance use disorder abatement, including prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction infrastructure, programs, services, supports, and resources. All proceeds received by the state arising out of legal claims made against manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioid analgesics, pharmacies that dispensed prescription opioid analgesics, and related parties shall be deposited into the dedicated fund.

Fact Sheets

[Kava](#): Kava is a psychoactive plant found in the South Pacific Islands, including Hawaii, that has been used by indigenous Pacific Islanders for social, ceremonial, and medical purposes for centuries with relatively low reported health risk. For those purposes, kava is typically consumed in a beverage made using the root of the plant. It is also consumed in capsules, flavored and unflavored powdered extracts, and as a liquid extract

dissolved in grain alcohol. Kava contains kavalactones, which can act as a mild sedative, and the substance can also induce muscle relaxation, numbness in the mouth and throat, and provide some pain relief. As with other herbal products sold at retail stores across the United States, kava products are unregulated which can lead to a great risk of harm to those who use these products, particularly when combined with alcohol or other substances.

Inhalants: Inhalants are a class of substances that produce gases and/or vapors that individuals can take by breathing them in to induce a condition of intoxication. These substances are often found in products that are legal to purchase and use and include common household items like glue, cleaning fluid, spray paint, magic markers, and cooking spray. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, there are four categories of inhalants: (1) volatile solvents; (2) aerosols; (3) gases; and (4) nitrites. This class of substances produces vapors that can be inhaled, either directly from open containers or by soaking rags in the substance and then “huffing” the rags. Additionally, users spray aerosols directly into their noses or mouths or onto the user’s shirt collar, sleeve, or cuffs to sniff over a period of time. Depending on the substance, inhalants can produce effects similar to alcohol, sedatives, or the early stages of anesthesia.

50-state Summaries

Syringe Services Programs: Syringe services programs (SSP) are harm reduction programs that provide a wide range of services including the provision of new, unused hypodermic needles and syringes and other injection drug use supplies, such as cookers, tourniquets, alcohol wipes, and sharps waste disposal containers, to people who inject drugs. In this summary, readers will find information with respect to SSPs for each state, including citations to applicable statutes and/or regulations, whether the state allows SSPs by statute, whether there are any municipal or county ordinances or regulations in place within the state, program components, miscellaneous provisions, and information on any pending legislation.

FEDERAL NEWS BITS

New Funding Announced: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently announced more than \$700 million in new funding for programs to address substance and mental health issues and homelessness. The funding package includes \$96 million for the Safety Through Recovery, Engagement, and Evidence-based Treatment and Support program (STREETS), which will award eight communities up to \$3 million annually for four years. In addition, \$150 million will be invested in behavioral health programs that will expand mobile crisis teams, strengthen school-based counseling, support overdose prevention efforts, and improve services for children, families, and pregnant and postpartum women. All these investments are part of President Trump’s “Great American Recovery Initiative” the goal of which is to coordinate a national response to addiction across a variety of stakeholders.

Investigation Initiated: The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has asked the inspector general of the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate a whistleblower’s claims that DEA agents permitted hundreds of thousands of fentanyl pills onto the streets of New Mexico without intervening. This request came days after the Associated Press (AP) reported that DEA agents had repeatedly monitored – but not seized – major shipments of fentanyl ostensibly in a bid to build cases against traffickers between 2023 and 2025. DEA Administrator Terry Cole stated that an internal probe was necessary and warranted because the allegations have “generated significant public attention and have raised questions regarding the DEA’s operational decisions, supervisory oversight, and response to concerns.” The AP cited current and former agents, including an internal report of a 2023 delivery of 74,000 pills to a mobile home park in Albuquerque. A statement released by the Justice Department said that it welcomes a partnership with New Mexico leaders to keep the state safe. New Mexico’s Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has said the state may sue the federal government for billions in civil damage.

Temporary Scheduling Announced: On July 1, 2026, the DEA filed its intent to temporarily place 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) and three related substances into Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. Prior to issuing this notice of intent, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services confirmed that 7-OH and the three related substances do not have any accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse. Once the temporary scheduling takes effect, the manufacture, distribution, sale, and possession of covered 7-OH substances will be subject to criminal, civil, and administrative provisions of the Controlled Substances Act. 7-OH is found in trace amounts in the *Mitragyna Speciosa* plant, a tropical evergreen tree indigenous to Southeast Asia, and it is commonly used in religious or communal ceremonies. Substances that contain 7-OH produce opioid-like effects and can carry the same risks for addiction. This temporary scheduling action does not apply to botanical kratom products that contain naturally occurring 7-OH below a specified threshold, instead targeting synthesized products and those containing elevated concentrations of 7-OH.

STATE NEWS BITS

California: The synthetic opioid, isotonitazene, known by the street name ISO, recently claimed its first life on the streets of San Francisco. ISO is cheap, often blended with other opioids into counterfeit pills, 20 times more powerful than fentanyl, and undetectable in tests that indicate the presence of other synthetic opioids. ISO is increasing in popularity among people who use drugs, prompting not only San Francisco health officials to issue an alert but also the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. For information on isotonitazene, read [LAPPA's fact sheet](#).

Louisiana: A new psychedelic-assisted therapy pilot program will fund controlled clinical trials of psilocybin, ibogaine, and MDMA for patients that have treatment-resistant mental health and substance use disorders. The programs will be funded with \$5 million from the state's opioid settlement fund, with lawmakers arguing that psychedelic therapy addresses the root causes of opioid misuse, such as untreated trauma and chronic pain. Eligible participants include veterans and first responders with treatment-resistant PTSD and depression, individuals with opioid use disorders and co-occurring substance disorders, and people with treatment-resistant neurological or mental health conditions. The pilot will launch in early 2027, be administered by the Louisiana Department of Health, and run for five years. To learn more about [psilocybin](#) and [ibogaine](#), click on the hyperlinks provided to read LAPPA's respective fact sheets on these two substances.

Maryland: Under newly signed legislation, Maryland pharmacists will have more opportunities to participate in collaborative patient care and play a more active role in treating opioid use disorder. Among other changes, House Bill 838 eliminates a longstanding administrative requirement that authorized prescribers submit prescriber-pharmacist agreements to the applicable health occupations board, a requirement that many providers viewed as unnecessary. This change alone should streamline implementation of collaborative practice arrangements and facilitate the development of pharmacist-led clinical services. The enactment of this measure continues a nationwide movement of recognizing pharmacists as essential members of a patient's care team who perform critical clinical functions and help improve patient outcomes.

Oklahoma: Governor Kevin Stitt signed a bill requiring first responders across the state to notify law enforcement when they have treated an overdose. Specifically, the legislation requires first responders to notify law enforcement as soon as practicable after that first responder has attended to the medical needs of an individual when a drug overdose is suspected. First responders will have legal immunity as long as their notifications are made in good faith. The hope is that the measure will ultimately save lives by encouraging first responders, health care workers, and law enforcement to coordinate their efforts in implementing prevention strategies and educational campaigns.

Virginia: As of July 1, 2026, all kratom products in Virginia must be kept in locked cases or behind store counters, pursuant to new legislation signed by Governor Abigail Spanberger. Products containing kratom are now also required to contain warning labels reading “this product may cause dependence and opioid-like withdrawal.” House Bill (HB) 360 received broad support across the commonwealth from Virginia businesses and the addiction treatment community and was considered a significant defeat for the American Kratom Association, the kratom industry’s foremost lobbying organization, headquartered in Gainesville, Virginia. In addition to the aforementioned sales restrictions, the legislation bans all sales of 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) products, a highly potent concentration. HB 360 passed the Virginia legislature with almost unanimous support.

IN OTHER NEWS

National Deflection Week is Coming Up: National Deflection Week (NDW) will be observed from July 19 to 25, 2026. This year's theme is *Innovation and Inspiration in Deflection: Highlighting Hope, Help, and Heroes in Our Field*. The global campaign recognizes progress and growth within the deflection field. Specifically, the goals of NDW are to raise awareness and understanding of diversion, educate target audiences, showcase community diversion efforts, and highlight the work of the [Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative \(PTACC\)](#). Click [here](#), to access PTACC’s full guide to NDW.

The Campaign for Trauma-informed Policy and Practice (CTIPP) Announces New Executive Director: CTIPP, a nonprofit that supports a trauma-informed, community-led approach to building resilient systems by educating, advocating, and activating the prevention of trauma and by supporting healing throughout society has a new executive director – Jeremy Fierstien. His mission is “to build a safe, ethical ‘storytelling pipeline’ designed to transform lived experiences into actionable national policy and advocacy tools.” CTIPP can assist much of the work that LAPPAs stakeholders conduct. For more information, click on the CTIPP link above or to welcome Mr. Fierstien, email him at jeremy@ctipp.org.

New Toolkit Released: In February 2026, the [International Healthcare Facility Diversion Association](#) released a toolkit developed by its Substance Use Recovery and Support Steering Committee, designed to provide best practices and ethical considerations for supporting healthcare professionals (HCPs) in recovery. This resource is intended for use by entities supporting HCPs in recovery from substance use with the potential to return to safe practice. Click [here](#), to access the toolkit.

ABOUT THE LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS AND PUBLIC POLICY ASSOCIATION

The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to conduct legal and legislative research and analysis and draft legislation on effective law and policy in the areas of public safety and health, substance use disorder, and the criminal justice system.

LAPPA produces up-to-the-minute comparative analyses, publications, educational brochures, and other tools ranging from podcasts to model laws and policies that can be used by national, state, and local criminal justice and substance use disorder practitioners who want the latest comprehensive information on law and policy. Examples of topics on which LAPPA has assisted stakeholders include naloxone laws, law enforcement/community engagement, alternatives to incarceration for those with substance use disorder, medication for addiction treatment in correctional settings, and the involuntary commitment of individuals with alcohol or substance use disorder.

For more information about LAPPA, please visit: <https://legislativeanalysis.org/>

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