





**Welcome to CSAM News—where you'll find key policy developments, event updates, and member perspectives—all aimed at supporting your work and advancing the field.**



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## **Exciting News: CSAM's Annual Conference Recordings Now Available for Sale!**

Access Leading Medical Insights and Continuing Education from Our Latest Conference



## Discover the Value of Our Association's Medical Education Conference Recordings

We are thrilled to announce that recordings from our recent medical educational conference, held in August 2025, are now available for purchase on our official website. This year's event brought together top experts, acclaimed speakers, and passionate attendees from across the healthcare field, delivering a wealth of knowledge, research updates, and practical skills crucial for today's medical professionals.

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## Check out the 2025 CSAM Annual Conference Photo Recap







Thank you to Dr. Stephen M. Taylor, President of ASAM for joining us at the CSAM Annual Conference. Pictured here with Dr. Sharone Abramowitz, Immediate Past President of CSAM (left) and Dr. Dana Harris, President of CSAM (right).

## Board Exam Prep Track Concludes

With our 2025 CSAM conference in Anaheim, we sunsetted our beloved Board Exam Prep Track or affectionately known as the Test Taking Track. Over the decades CSAM has prepared thousands of applicants for the Addiction Medicine and Addiction Psychiatry Board Exams; initially it prepared diplomates of the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) then later it helped those applying under the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM). Many thanks to all our members who have served as faculty over the years and to our Chairs:

- Lori Karan
- Jack Kwo
- Murtuza Ghadiali
- Jim Golden
- Mason Turner
- Trey Meeks
- Chwen-Yuen Angie Chen



## CSAM Committees at Work!

Behind the scenes at CSAM, our various policy committees are hard at work! CSAM President Dana Harris comments, “On behalf of CSAM, I would like to recognize and commend the outstanding work of our committees. Their dedication, expertise, and collaborative spirit drive the success of our organization. Through their tireless efforts—whether advancing important initiatives, fostering professional development, or addressing key challenges

in our field—our committees play a vital role in fulfilling our mission and serving our members. We are deeply grateful for their commitment and the meaningful contributions they make each day.”

Here are the important highlights the committee chairs would like to share with all CSAM members.

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## ASAM Advocacy Conference 2025

The ASAM Advocacy Conference, held in Washington, D.C. on September 15–16, brought together nearly 100 participants from 35 states. California was well represented by members Brian Hurley MD, MBS, FAPA, DFASAM, Mario San Bartolome MD, MBA, MRO, QME, FASAM, Neal Mehra MD, MBA, FASAM, Itai Danovitch MD, MBA, DFAPA, DFASAM, Deivis Danovitch, Nicholas Athanasiou MD, MBA, DFASAM, Lori Karan MD, FACP, DFASAM and Candy Stockton-Joreteg MD, FASAM.

Over two days, attendees received policy briefings, advocacy training, and met with 149 Congressional offices to advance two key legislative priorities: the Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act (MOTAA), which would expand methadone access through community pharmacies, and the Residential Recovery for Seniors Act, which would establish a Medicare benefit for residential treatment programs meeting nationally recognized standards.

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# New Membership Platform Coming to ASAM

*Temporary Unavailability of Website and Membership Platform – November 2 - 10*

ASAM transitioned its association management software to a new platform for an improved member engagement experience recently, and you may have noticed you could not access their website between November 2-10.

ASAM apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused and appreciates your understanding as they work to improve your online experience. Let us know what you think!



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Fall 2025

# CSAM Committees at Work!



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## Youth and Prevention Committee

The CSAM Youth and Prevention Committee is our newest committee formed in January of 2024 and is dedicated to the prevention, recognition, and treatment of addiction among pediatric, adolescent and young adult populations in California. Our mission is to advocate for the well-being of young people and their families by taking a leading role in evidence-based prevention, recognition and treatment approaches that acknowledge addiction as a youth-onset condition.

Our committee will take the lead on identifying pervasive and emerging issues in pediatric addiction medicine, provide education to healthcare professionals who care for youth, serve as a resource for local and state governments, and provide support to youth and families affected by addiction. We are currently revising the 2017 Standards of Care for Adolescent Treatment and preparing a CME workshop on adolescent media addiction.

***Veronika Mesheriakova, MD***  
***Youth and Prevention Committee Vice-Chair***

### **Government Affairs Committee**

The CSAM Government Affairs committee has been working to address legislation related to addiction treatment throughout the state. We have been advocating for more progressive treatment and expanded access to care, including providing supportive testimony for bills in the state assembly and position letters on various bills.

A major focus of the committee this year has been supporting legislation to establish a Physician and Surgeon Health and Wellness Program (AB408 Berman) which is currently a two-year bill and in progress for the next legislative year. The Medical Board of California is sponsoring this bill along with advocacy from the California Medical Association and from CSAM's own CPPPH. <https://cppph.org>

In this current political environment, our focus in the coming legislative cycle will be around protecting access to treatment for our vulnerable populations and the advancements we have been able to make in harm reduction in the state of California.

***Veronica Losso, MD***  
***Government Affairs Committee Vice-Chair***

### **CSAM Education Committee**

The Education Committee plays a central role in shaping and executing the educational mission of CSAM, with its most time-intensive responsibility being the planning and oversight of the annual conference. The Committee oversees all aspects of conference planning, including appointing a dedicated conference chair, approving members of the planning committee, and ensuring that all logistical and educational components are aligned with CSAM's goals.

In addition to conference planning, the Education Committee is responsible for maintaining compliance with CME and ACGME accreditation standards. The Committee ensures all documentation is up to date and that CSAM is prepared for periodic audits. While CME-related tasks are generally less demanding outside of accreditation cycles, they require ongoing attention to detail, particularly in supporting the documentation process, reviewing conference feedback, and maintaining accurate records of committee activities.

The Committee also manages the CSAM online education center, where every three years, a review is conducted to determine whether to update, retain, or retire existing materials. This involves recruiting volunteers to review content and ensuring that the online offerings remain current and relevant. The Education Committee meets quarterly to review progress, plan future initiatives, and ensure alignment with CSAM's broader mission.

We recently hosted a free CME webinar on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Andrew Herring and Josh Luftig, PA-C, co-founders of the California Bridge Network. The recording is available here.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/rtmdnBTbLVmfo4i8p6v5sKV7rgTYTKsBrx1PJrOVt50xsye\\_02sY3gEfZvJikJIS.KD0gy-ZLayHPvZes?](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/rtmdnBTbLVmfo4i8p6v5sKV7rgTYTKsBrx1PJrOVt50xsye_02sY3gEfZvJikJIS.KD0gy-ZLayHPvZes?startTime=1760554917000&passcode=^Lb41gzH)

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***Joy Hao, MD***

***Education Committee Chair***

## **CSAM Committee on Opioids**

In 2025, the committee continued to refine the roster. The massive volume of tenure and experience continues to be filled with young talent and enthusiasm. Dr. Soraya Azari has been serving as a highly capable and effective Co-chair of the committee. The committee created a well-received "informational one pager" comparing the differences between federal and state law in OTPs. We await the California final rule on federal vs state rules regulating opioid treatment programs so work can commence on updating the OTP guidelines.

We have continued to address opioid-related issues brought by the Board and at large. In 2025 we focused on Avert D, the questionable but approved genetic test for OUD risk, changes in buprenorphine inductions necessitated by changes in the illicit fentanyl analog supply, and the use of long-acting injectable buprenorphine.

2026 will hopefully bring substantive work on updating the OTP guidelines, a preconference workshop if called upon to do so and continuing to address any opioid related topics brought to us.

***Matt Torrington, MD***  
***Opioid Committee Chair***

### **Integration and Access to Systems of Care (IASC)**

The Integration and Access to Systems of Care (IASC) Committee is dedicated to expanding access to patient-centered, evidence-based treatment for individuals at risk for substance-related and addictive disorders. Originally focused on bridging the gap between addiction medicine specialists and systems of care, the committee's scope has since broadened to include medico-legal issues, systemic quality and safety concerns in the SUD treatment industry, and national challenges that affect California—such as pharmacy barriers limiting access to FDA-approved medications.

The committee currently oversees two active subcommittees:

1. Primary Care Toolkit for Patients Who Use Substances
2. Addiction Services Quality and Safety

The Primary Care Toolkit group is working to expand the reach and practical use of this valuable resource. Developed with substantial effort, the toolkit equips primary care providers to effectively support patients who may not yet be ready to engage in specialty treatment.

The Addiction Services Quality and Safety group launched its first initiative at the recent CSAM Conference with a pre-conference workshop, "The 7 Deadly Sins," which highlighted common medico-legal pitfalls for addiction medicine leaders. Looking ahead, the subcommittee will expand its work to address treatment center quality and safety as well as regulatory transparency.

In addition, the IASC Committee is actively addressing MOUD pharmacy barriers, promoting low-barrier SUD services, and supporting the development of CSAM leaders with content that fosters innovation across diverse practice settings.

We invite CSAM members to join us! The committee meets quarterly—and we promise the meetings are not only productive but enjoyable.

***Mario San Bartolome, MD, MBA***  
***IASC Chair***



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