

# CSAM NEWS

"The Voice For Treatment"

Newsletter of the California Society of Addiction Medicine

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## CSAM President's Message

Dear CSAM Members,

It seems like such a long time since our last newsletter. Hopefully you've stayed safe, well, and connected to us through our website, e-mail blasts, and statewide CSAM member zoom meetings over the past few months. The events of this past year can be summed up in a quote from former Chicago mayor and presidential advisor Rahm Emanuel, "Never let a serious crisis go to waste. And what I mean by that it's an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before."



The year 2020 started in January with a leadership change for CSAM with EVP/CEO Kerry Parker and her management company retiring after 20 years, and Kimberly Andosca taking on that role with her Sacramento-based management company, Advocacy Management Group. In June, ASAM also had a leadership change with the retirement of Penny Mills after 10 years and Julia Chang taking the helm as EVP/CEO. As a member of both search committees, I can confidently say that we have great teams leading CSAM and ASAM during these tumultuous times. You will have the opportunity to virtually meet Kim and Julia at the CSAM "State of the Art" conference in September.

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Amhaud Arbery and others have sparked a desire for real change in the way that we personally and as a society interact with our black and brown patients, neighbors, colleagues, and friends. At our ASAM State Chapters Council meeting on June 4, I had the opportunity to share excerpts from a [blog, beautifully written by past CSAM president Tim Cermak](#), to start an important discussion about us doing our part. CSAM and ASAM have both committed to reviewing our internal processes and to [develop better, more intentional pathways to promote diversity and inclusion](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic that took grip of the U.S. in February 2020 continues to spike, causing significant morbidity and mortality in many states including California. The legislative changes and relaxation of policies regarding telemedicine regulations have been helpful and long needed. CSAM and ASAM will advocate for the ability to continue these changes when the national emergency is declared to be over. You deserve tremendous thanks for continuing to advocate for and serve your communities and patients while frequently putting yourselves at risk. Even though we all must do it sometimes, my hope is that you don't make a habit of sacrificing your personal wellbeing in the care of others. Avoid giving your "left-over" time and energy to the people whom you love most. Prioritize your spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional health so that you will be able to serve your family, friends, patients, and colleagues with creativity, focus, and vigor.

As you know, COVID-19 has forced us to convene our annual conference and business meeting virtually this year. The Education & Conference Planning Committees led by Jean Marsters and Cynthia Chattergee have put together a great "State of the Art" conference, with workshops and a test-taking track for those preparing to take addiction boards and certifying exams. Some other states will be joining us for their annual meeting this year. We happily welcome them along, with other participants from various states and countries. I also want to welcome trainees from all disciplines, along with MERF and MERF-MATE scholars. I'm looking forward to the times we will get to interact during the conference.

Stay Safe and Well,

Anthony Albanese



## CSAM STATE OF THE ART CONFERENCE IN ADDICTION MEDICINE

### Schedule of Events

**Aug 28-29:**

**Addiction Medicine Board Exam Prep**

**Sep 16-17, & 21:**

**Pre-Conference Workshops**

**Sep 22-25:**

**State of the Art Plenary**

CSAM State of the Art brings together national experts to share frontiers of research, treatments, and policies in the field of Addiction Medicine. This year we do so under the overarching theme of Frontiers of Access to Care. Due to the pandemic, our conference will be entirely virtual, and for the first time will span across four weeks. Leading up to the plenaries, half-day workshops will be offered in primary care for individuals with addiction; implementation of treatment in correctional health; motivational interviewing, and addiction psychiatry. The CSAM Addiction Medicine Board Exam Preparation Workshop will be offered August 28th and 29th, and then be posted on the Education Center. Poster presentations will be available on demand.

[Read More & Get Registered!](#)

[Printable Registration Form](#)

### Novel Program for Preventing Addiction-Related Suicide

*Article written by Bruce Jancin. Published on May 19, 2020.*

The group intervention is designed for a population at high risk for suicide.

"There is an enormous unmet need for evidence-based strategies for preventing addiction-related suicide, since people with substance use disorders have a 10-fold increased risk of suicide. Based upon these new study findings, the Preventing Addiction Related Suicide (PARS) program can now be considered the first such evidence-based intervention for this extremely high-risk population, Dr. Ries said at the virtual annual meeting of the American Association of Suicidology."



*Use the button below to read the entire article. (Please note, a free sign up to MDEdge will be required to view the article).*

[Read More!](#)

### Where has all the Prop 64 Money for Youth Treatment Gone?

*By Timmen L. Cermak, MD*

I have served on the Bureau of Cannabis Control's (BCC) Cannabis Advisory

Committee (CAC) as well as on the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Prop 64 Committee since their inceptions. Serving on these committees has offered little more than an inside look at how Prop 64 is rolling out, rather than any practical impact on the implementation of youth treatment for substance use disorder.

The CAC appears to be annoying window dressing for the BCC. Over the two plus years of involvement, I have developed virtually no direct relationship with anyone at the BCC. In addition, California's open meeting laws prohibit any contact between CAC members except during face to face public meetings, where a significant portion of the meeting time is occupied listening to public comment on every action being considered by the CAC. Members of the BCC attend, but participate primarily through comments by their lawyer.



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[CSAM's COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

**CSAM** CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF  
ADDICTION MEDICINE

**California Society of Addiction Medicine**

One Capitol Mall, Suite 800

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (415) 764-4855 | Fax: (916) 444-7462

Website: <https://www.csam-asam.org>

