

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Dr. Sharon Harris

516- 676-2008

safeglencove@yahoo.com

### **SAFE Glen Cove Coalition: SAMHSA Supports Expansion of Access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced its full support of provisions included in the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 117-328) that will significantly expand access to medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD). The act, signed into law by President Biden on Dec. 29, 2022, amended the Controlled Substances Act to eliminate the requirement for qualified practitioners to first obtain a special waiver to prescribe medications such as buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD). This ends a decades-long requirement, originally put in place through the Drug Abuse Treatment Act (DATA) of 2000. With the new law, the patient limits associated with this special waiver also no longer apply.

The removal of the federal requirement for practitioners to obtain a waiver will make it easier for qualified practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine, builds on the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Overdose Prevention Strategy, and delivers on the call to action in President Biden's Unity Agenda to address the overdose and addiction crisis.

SAMHSA is committed to addressing the overdose epidemic through the provision of person-centered and evidence-based care. With the elimination of the special waiver, SAMHSA is strongly encouraging all eligible practitioners, as permissible under state law, to screen each patient for OUD and offer access to buprenorphine. Additionally, all persons who obtain or renew a controlled substances license from the DEA will be required to receive eight hours of training on SUD, with certain exceptions. Given the urgency of the nation's overdose crisis, the importance of having medical professionals equipped with such training is imperative.

SAMHSA's 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) estimates that 9.2 million people 12 and older misused opioids in the past year. Overdose deaths remain a leading cause of injury-related death in the United States. Provisional data from CDC's National Center for Health Statistics indicate there was an estimated 107,622 drug overdose deaths in the United States during 2021, an increase of nearly 15 percent from the 93,655 deaths estimated in 2020.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is charged with improving the quality and availability of treatment and rehabilitative services in order to reduce illness, death, disability, and the cost to society resulting from substance abuse and mental illnesses. For more information about SAMHSA please visit [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov).

Anyone in the United States seeking treatment for substance use issues should call SAMHSA's National Helpline at 800-662-HELP (4357) or visit [findtreatment.gov](http://findtreatment.gov). If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](http://988lifeline.org).

The SAFE Glen Cove Coalition is conducting an opioid prevention awareness campaign entitled. "Keeping Glen Cove SAFE," in order to educate and update the community regarding opioid use and its consequences. To learn more about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition please follow us on [www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition](http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition) or visit SAFE's website to learn more about the Opioid Epidemic at [www.safeglencove.org](http://www.safeglencove.org).