

# NAATP HILL DAY 2023



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION<sup>®</sup>  
OF  
ADDICTION TREATMENT PROVIDERS

Voice. Vision. Leadership.

# The NAATP Public Policy Program and Hill Day 2023 Preparation

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**Mark Dunn**

Director of Public Policy  
NAATP



**Sherri Layton**

Director of Public Policy  
La Hacienda Treatment Center  
NAATP Hill Day 2023 Chair



**Scott Munson**

Executive Director  
Sundown M Ranch  
NAATP PAC Chair



**Marvin Ventrell**

Chief Executive Officer  
NAATP Public Policy Committee Chair



**Nikki Soda**

Director of Membership and State Advocacy  
NAATP

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# Welcome to Washington DC



Marvin Ventrell,  
Chief Executive Officer, NAATP

**NAATP**  
NATIONAL 2023



# NAATP Public Policy Statement

The purpose of this Public Policy Statement is to describe the positions of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP) relative to issues of law, policy, funding, and regulation that impact the delivery of addiction treatment.

## NAATP Provides a Unified Voice

NAATP and our members set the national standard for addiction treatment care and operation through united law and public policy advocacy. As treatment professionals, we advance our work on both a day to day patient treatment level and a broader systemic policy level. These are the concurrent approaches necessary to evolve our work and reach the largest number of people with the best treatment possible.

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The banner features a background of classical white columns receding into the distance. The text 'NAATP' is in dark blue, 'PUBLIC POLICY' is in orange, and 'UPDATES' is in large white letters. A dark blue horizontal bar is at the top right, and a vertical orange bar is on the far right.

NAATP

PUBLIC POLICY

UPDATES

*Essential elements of policy influence*

Public Policy Updates

2019 Hill Day Success

Your participation matters!



- The Power of Collective Voice
- Who is allowed to participate
- The Right Candidate

NAATP Political Action Committee  
Scott Munson, Chair

A graphic in the bottom right corner features a blue and grey geometric background with overlapping shapes. The text 'NAATP NATIONAL 2023' is overlaid in a dark blue, sans-serif font. 'NAATP' is on the top line, 'NATIONAL' is on the second line, and '2023' is on the third line, partially overlapping the 'NATIONAL' text.

# NAATP Priorities

Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equality Act (Parity)

Behavioral Workforce Shortage

Medicare in Residential Treatment

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# Policy Review

Mark Dunn, NAATP Director of Public Policy

## Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equality Act (Parity)

Americans continue to be denied access to SUD care because the Federal Parity Act is not being enforced. In 2022, Congress authorized funds to enable States to fully enforce this critical law. NAATP asks that those funds be included in this year's appropriations bills.

The Department of Labor has asked for authority to access financial penalties on insurance companies who refuse to comply with this law. Congress should provide that authority.

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# Policy Review

Mark Dunn, NAATP Director of Public Policy

## Behavioral Workforce Shortage

As addiction rates rose dramatically over the course of the pandemic, and more patients arrived with greater acuity than previously, treatment providers have been faced with an exhausted and depleted workforce creating greater staffing challenges in recruitment, hiring, and retention.

Increase funding and expand national loan repayment programs. This would include the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), the NHSC SUD Workforce Loan Repayment Program, and the SUD Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Loan Repayment Program as a means to increase access to tuition assistance for the mental health and SUD treatment fields.

Support implementation of the Mental Health Access Improvement Act. Passed into law in late 2022, the bill would allow marriage and family therapists and licensed professional counselors to bill Medicare and provide support for this sector of the workforce in preparation for new billing structures.

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# Policy Review

Mark Dunn, NAATP Director of Public Policy

## Medicare Residential Treatment

Medicare beneficiaries do not have access to residential treatment for SUD. Congress should pass legislation to eliminate the discrimination of this population and provide access to the full continuum of care and close the healthcare coverage gaps.

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## Leave Behind Packets

- Cover Letter
- Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equality Act (Parity)
- Workforce Solutions
- Medicaid Residential Treatment
- Substance Use Disorder Updates
- Quality Assurance Guidebook

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# Your Appointments

- Each state should have two Senate appointments – made by Senate Lead in each state
- Representative appointments were made by constituents  
It's not too late!
- Coordinate with others in your constituent group
  - Who will talk about what issue?
  - Plan how you can all contribute to discussion of each issue
- Give the person you are meeting with the Leave Behind packet and reference the relevant paper as you are talking about each issue.
- Most likely you will meet with staff members.

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# Making It Local

- Why do these issues matter in your District? Your treatment facility? Can you give a real life example Bring the boots on the ground perspective.
- Data sources
- Who do you represent?

## **Addiction Treatment Providers in the 21<sup>st</sup> District**

Over 750 licensed treatment beds; Over 800 licensed outpatient slots; Over 800 employees

### La Hacienda Treatment Center, Hunt

130 bed licensed treatment center – detox, intensive residential, PHP\*  
188 employees

### Starlite Recovery Center, Center Pointe

131 bed licensed treatment center – detox, intensive residential, PHP  
123 employees

### Fullbrook Center, Fredericksburg

19 bed licensed treatment center – detox, intensive residential  
25 employees

### Methodist Specialty & Transplant Hospital, San Antonio

Substance Use Disorder unit in larger medical hospital – detox, PHP, IOP\*

### Shadow Mountain Recovery – Ripple Ranch, Spring Branch

15 bed licensed treatment center – detox, intensive residential, + 40 IOP slots  
30 employees

### Laurel Ridge Treatment Center, San Antonio

252 bed psychiatric hospital with addiction treatment services – detox, PHP, IOP

### Infinite Recovery, Buda

83 bed licensed treatment center – intensive residential + 120 Outpatient slots  
93 employees



The University of Texas at Austin  
Addiction Research Institute  
*Steve Hicks School of Social Work*

**Drug Trends in Texas 2021:**  
A Report to the National Drug Early Warning System

Jane Carlisle Maxwell, Ph.D., Research Professor Emeritus

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## Highlights

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Texas has 254 counties and, as of 2020, a population of 28,995,881 with 42% White, 40% Hispanic, 12% Black, and 5% Asian. Fifty percent of the population is female, and 26% are younger than 18 years of age (United States Census Bureau, 2019). Because of the size of the U.S. – Mexico border, the drug patterns in Texas can vary, but these are the current trends.

- Methamphetamine still outnumbers other drugs in the four drug reporting systems, and it continues to increase, a pattern consistent with that seen in other states.
- Heroin indicators have been rising, except for decreases in poison center calls.
- Cocaine indicators have continued to decrease, except recent reports of increases in drug items and overdose deaths are a concern.
- Marijuana indicators are level.
- Fentanyl use is increasing because it is used to “cut” heroin, but it can cause additional treatment problems.
- Benzodiazepine indicators are decreasing except for rising alprazolam overdose deaths.
- Reports on Synthetic Cannabinoids have decreased and are being replaced by new chemicals such

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# Tips for a Successful Legislative Visit

- **Be concise!** 15 – 20 min is a typical meeting length.
- IF there is a specific bill, don't forget to "close the deal" and ask for Support or Opposition to Bill XXX, depending on what you are referencing.
- **Offer yourself as a resource for ongoing discussion of issues.**
- Don't make things up. If you don't know something acknowledge that and offer to get the info and get back to them.
- Non-partisan; Singleness of purpose
- Get the contact info of the person you are meeting with. Give them your contact info.
- Thank them for their time.

After the visit –

- Follow up, follow up, follow up – get back with any info you promised promptly.
- Send a thank you note/email quickly.
- IF a specific bill was discussed, continue to communicate about progress the bill is making.
- **Connect with staff in the District office.** Attend events when legislator is back home.

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# Advocacy is Like Baseball!

- Legislative changes happens s-l-o-w-l-y!  
It's supposed to.
- Most of the time when a batter steps up to the plate, nothing happens!
- Very successful baseball players hit around .300.
- Wayne Gretzky: "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."



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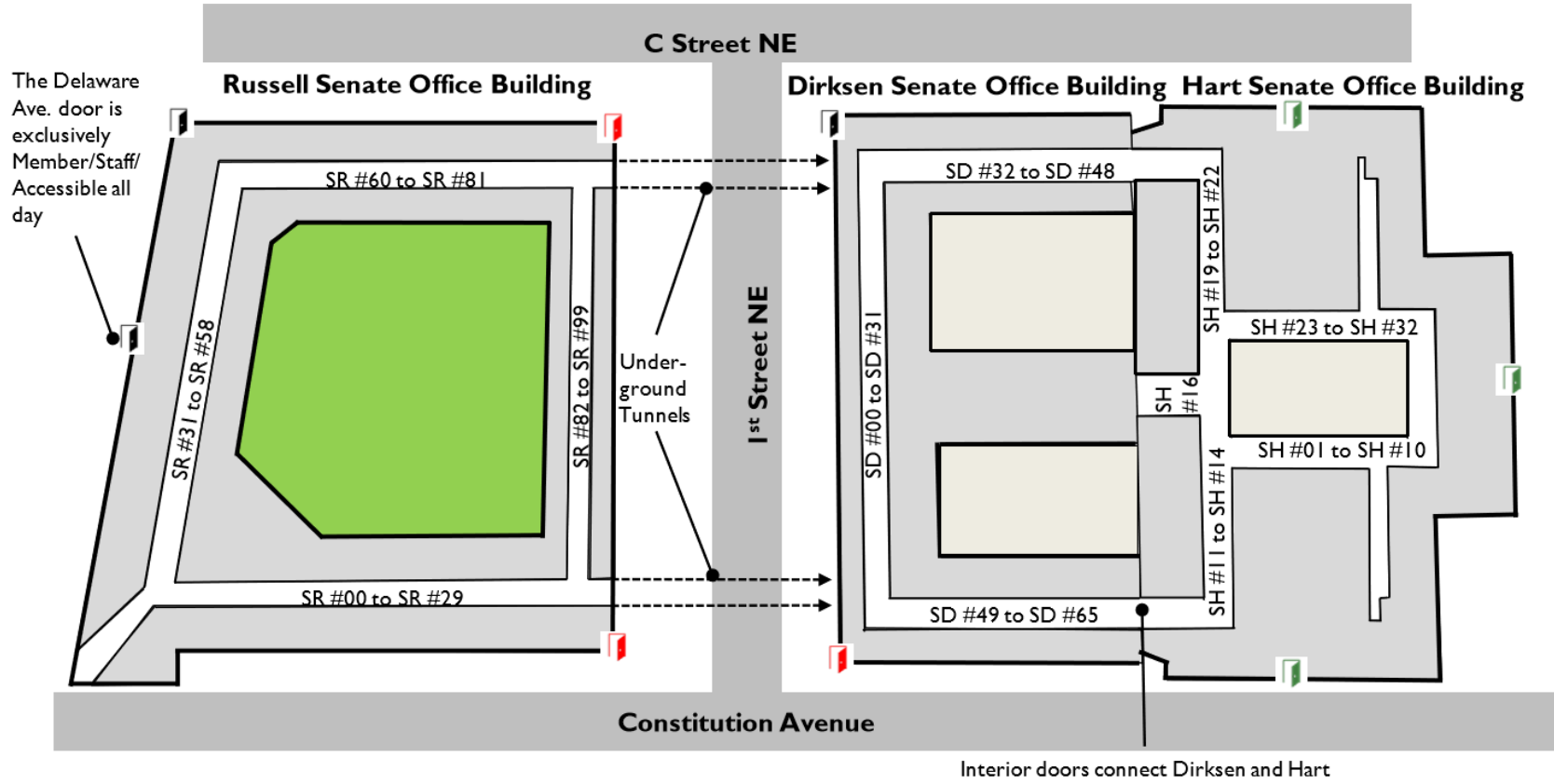


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# Inside the Senate Office Buildings

 Public, Handicapped Accessible Entrance     Public Non-Handicapped Accessible Entrance     Entrance Member/Staff-Only Until 10 AM




- Use the floor plans below to orient yourself once inside Senate office buildings; the floor plans are identical for different floors within the same building
- To identify offices, keep in mind that the first two letters before the office number identify the building ( e.g., "SR" is Senate-Russell), the next number indicates building floor, and the last two numbers indicate specific office
- For example, SD 249 is on the second floor of Dirksen.



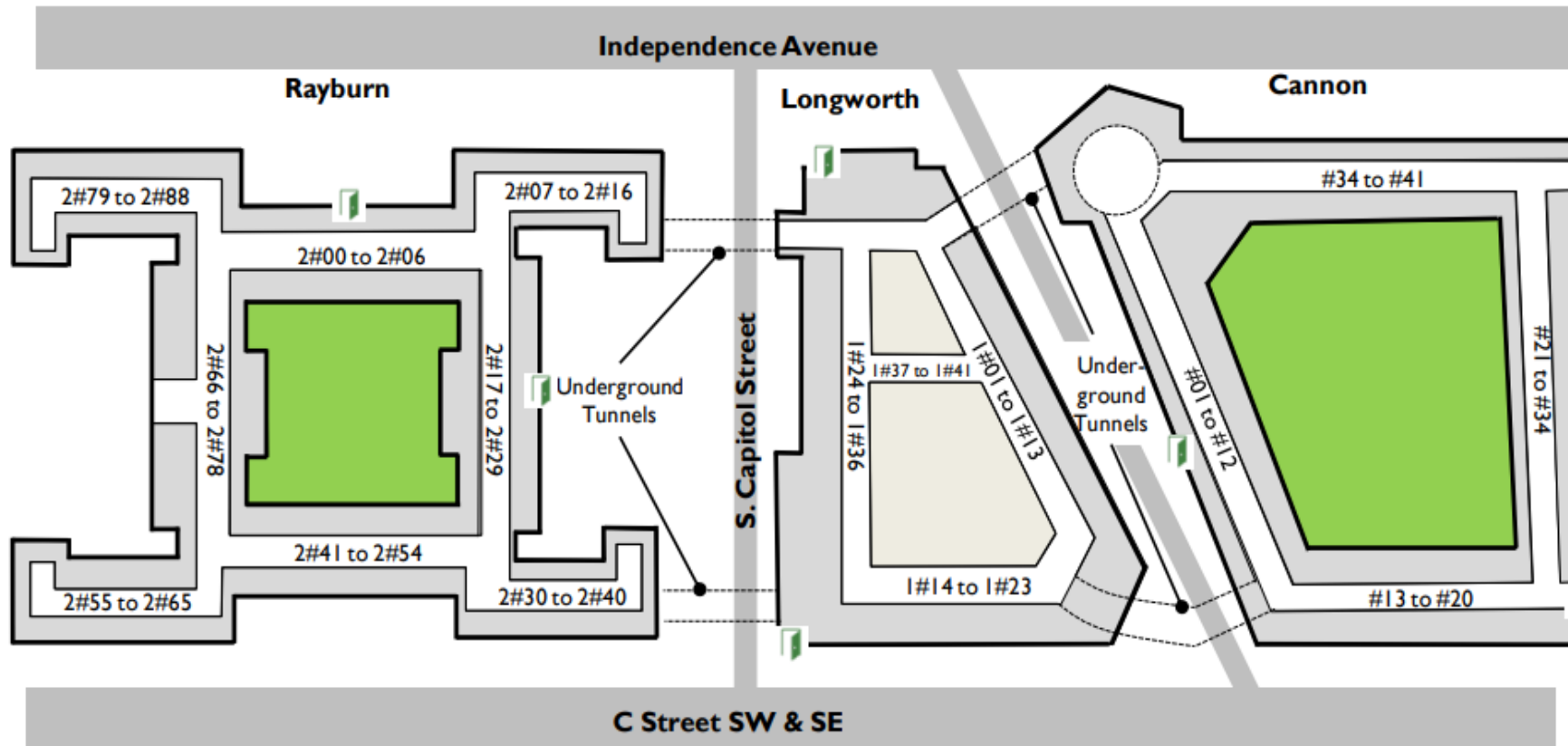
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# Inside the House Office Buildings

 Public, Handicapped Accessible Entrance    Public Non-Handicapped Accessible Entrance    Entrance Member/Staff-Only Until 10 AM

- Use the floor plans below to orient yourself once inside House office buildings; the floor plans are identical for different floors within the same building
- To identify offices, keep in mind that the first digit identifies the building (three digit numbers are in Cannon, four digit numbers starting with 1 are in Longworth, and four digit numbers starting with 2 are in Rayburn), the next number indicates building floor, and the last two numbers indicate specific office
- For example, Room 2255 is on the second floor of Rayburn



NAATP HILL DAY 2023

# Capitol Hill Hotel

Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am – 4:00 PM

The Independent Meeting Room



📍 200 C Street SE Washington D.C., 20003-1909

📞 202.543.6000 | Fax: 202.547.2608

✉ [info@capitolhillhotel-dc.com](mailto:info@capitolhillhotel-dc.com)

- Beverages & light snacks throughout the day
- Luggage storage – check with the bell stand
- Hill Day Committee members will be available for help & questions
- Report back after visits

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**NAATP**

STATE

# ADVOCACY



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# State Level Issues – No one knows like you do!

- Budget
- Funding Sources
- Counselor Licensing
- Regulation of Treatment Facilities

"I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody."

~ Lily Tomlin

## Advocacy is Needed at the State Level, Especially Now

- State-level initiatives drive the national policy
- Many Federal initiatives are enforced at the state level
- Local Issues vary, and require local input
- Engagement with other stakeholders helps build better solutions and allies for larger policy issues.



NAATP

STATE

ADVOCACY



## NAATP Alliance for State Advocacy (ASA)

As a leading membership organization for addiction treatment providers, NAATP is well-positioned to provide support, resources, and networking opportunities to our members so that they can do the important work of advocacy. To that end, we have developed the Alliance for State Advocacy (ASA) as a means of creating greater engagement and resource sharing on state and local initiatives that further the Association's mission and values.

The purpose of ASA is to bring together, at the local and state level, NAATP members and volunteers to provide training, resources, and to develop a consistent voice on public policy that enhances the access to and quality of addiction treatment services. Involvement in this forum is a member benefit.

NAATP strongly encourages each state to create an ASA that can be formed by a group of interested volunteers who are NAATP members. The more individuals who join ASA and who are willing to share these responsibilities, the less work the State Lead must manage alone, resulting in more accomplishments on behalf of addiction professionals. A key goal for each ASA is to collaboratively plan and execute a Recovery Capitol Hill Day.

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# Advocacy Starts With You

## NAATP STATE ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

Advocacy campaigns and initiatives encompass multiple detailed steps, the involvement of many people, often over a long span of time. Becoming an effective advocate is a large undertaking, and, with this toolkit, NAATP is striving to offer as many helpful details and resources as possible.



Identify  
Your Cause



Build  
a Coalition



Develop  
a Message



Communicate  
Like an Advocate



Organize  
a Hill Day

[www.naatp.org/advocacy](http://www.naatp.org/advocacy)

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# How can NAATP Support you?

- Strategic Advice/Planning Guidance
  - Best Practices
  - Letters of support
  - Talking Points
- Encouragement and Support

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# Questions?

Let us know how we can help!

- [mdunn@naatp.org](mailto:mdunn@naatp.org)
- [nsoda@naatp.org](mailto:nsoda@naatp.org)
- [slayton@lahacienda.com](mailto:slayton@lahacienda.com)

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