



**Addressing New York State's Number One Public Health Crisis:
The Epidemic of Overdose and Addiction
Legislative Recommendations**

ASAP strongly endorses legislative proposals that:

- Requires all asset forfeiture funds in the Substance Abuse Services Fund to be spent by OASAS on substance use disorders prevention, treatment, and recovery support projects within 18 months of receipt in the fund and prohibits “sweeping” of the fund for other purposes
- Lifts roadblocks to employment and housing for people in recovery who developed a criminal justice history while actively suffering from their addiction disease
- Protects OASAS programs from scope of practice concerns related to social work licensing
- Strengthen access to emergency/crisis services for persons with substance use disorders, especially those with co-occurring health and mental health issues
- Create wraparound services for adolescents and adults while in treatment and to support recovery post-treatment. Such services would include case management, peer supports; employment support; transportation assistance, and other recovery supports
- Make treatment more accessible, eliminate waiting lists, make a comprehensive continuum of SUD services accessible in every region of the state
- Reduce under-age drinking using such measures as making labeling and marketing practices that are specifically targeting persons under age 21 illegal, educating stores and persons that sell alcohol products about under-age drinking risks and consequences, and environmental strategies that reduce the likelihood of problems related to under-age alcohol and other drug use
- Make Naloxone more readily available; provide naloxone training to first responders, teachers, family members, and concerned persons; and facilitate access to Naloxone
- Mandate continuing education for physicians and other practitioners that prescribe opiates with a focus on addiction and appropriate assessment, brief intervention, and referral to treatment
- Promote harm reduction to reduce the chances for persons becoming positive for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and other health conditions associated with IV and other drug use.
- Reduce access to synthetic cannabinoids by making it illegal to sell, making analogues illegal to sell, and creating a synthetic cannabinoid surrender program
- Prohibit gambling on fantasy sports
- Prohibit legalization of internet poker gambling