

## Rebecca Liebers

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**From:** Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine <admin@wisam-asam.com>  
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**To:** Rebecca Liebers  
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WISAM News | September 2019

# Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine

*A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine*



## President's Message

Dear fellow WISAM members,

This is my final President's Message as my two-year term ends on September 27th at the close of our annual conference.

At that time, I will formally turn over the WISAM presidency to our current President-Elect, Dr David Galbis-Reig. Dr Galbis-Reig brings an enthusiasm, organizational skill set, prior experience as an officer of the Wisconsin Medical Society and expertise in the workings of administrative medicine. He's been the driver of the X-Waiver training series and has graciously donated of himself in this and more areas than I can list. I am looking forward to his leadership.

I came into the role of WISAM President from a background in Addiction Psychiatry, and having utilized buprenorphine-naloxone in my private practice since 2003. My focus was, and still remains, wanting to refocus the conversation beyond just medication management into empowering patients to move forward on healing what is driving their substance abuse. During my time as WISAM President, I've found varying degrees of interest in this issue and more than one perspective on the best way for this to happen.

As I tell my patients, there is always more than one way to walk a path, and we are strongest when we open ourselves to considering all reasonable perspectives. This is how we learn from each other and grow both as a field and as individual clinicians. We all bring our different skill sets, experiences, perspectives and interests to an organization such as WISAM and I encourage you all to get involved.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity. I am truly grateful to have been able to serve in this role as I've learned much and grown as a leader. I look forward to continuing my involvement on the WISAM Board of Directors in the role of Past President.

Hope to see you all at the 2019 annual conference!

Matt Felgus, MD, President Term: 2017-2019

## Current News

### DHS reports lowest number of opioid deaths since 2015

*August, Wisconsin Health News*

The number of opioid deaths in the state is at its lowest level since 2015, the Department of Health Services reported Wednesday.

There were 838 deaths in 2018, a 10 percent reduction from the previous year.

"The most recent data on Wisconsin's opioid epidemic is encouraging," said DHS Deputy Secretary Julie Willems Van Dijk. "It shows that our collective ongoing efforts to support individuals and communities affected by this public health crisis are working to save lives, but we still have a lot of work to do to end this epidemic."

The department on Wednesday [released](#) a federally funded online tool containing up-to-date information on opioid usage, hospitalizations and deaths.

### Lutheran Social Services plans to open addiction treatment facility

*August, Wisconsin Health News*

Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan plans to open a facility in Waukesha offering addiction treatment next year, according to a Wednesday statement.

The 22-bed LSS Aspen Center will serve about 125 individuals from southeastern Wisconsin annually. It will fill a need in Waukesha county by offering affordable, medically monitored treatment for women seeking care.

[Read more.](#)

### More than \$5 million headed to state to support fight against opioid epidemic

*September, Wisconsin Health News*

Around \$5.2 million in new federal funding is heading to Wisconsin to help fight the opioid epidemic, Democratic U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin said Tuesday.

The money, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will help the Department of Health Services' opioid surveillance and prevention efforts.

Baldwin pushed for the money.

"Washington needs to do more to address the opioid epidemic," she said in a statement. "A strong partnership with state and local officials is essential to an effective response."

## Upcoming Events

### Free X-Waiver Training - Only Two Dates Left!

Between February and August, a series of ten complimentary buprenorphine X-Waiver courses are being made available to all eligible prescribers in Wisconsin. The training,

presented by the Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine in partnership with Wisconsin DHS, is designed to increase treatment capacity for opioid use disorders in Wisconsin.

The remaining two sessions take place:

**Monday, October 28, 2019 | 1:00-5:30 p.m. Madison**

**Wednesday, November 6, 2019 | 4:30-9:00 p.m. Wauwatosa**

[Learn more](#) and sign up for a course today. Registration will close as sessions reach full capacity.

## **WISAM 2019 Annual Conference: Healing Through Partnerships**

This educational activity is designed for professionals across disciplines who work in addiction treatment and prevention, including physicians, PAs, nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, social workers, mental health and substance abuse counselors, recovery coaches, law enforcement, public health workers. This event will be held on **Thursday, September 26 & Friday, September 27, 2019 at The Pyle Center in Madison, WI.**

Find more information and registration options [here!](#)



## **National Addiction Treatment Week - October 21-27, 2019**

This week-long initiative promotes that addiction is a disease, evidence-based treatments are available and recovery is possible. The week also highlights the need for clinicians to enter the field of addiction medicine!

Read more [here!](#)





## Wisconsin Doctor Day 2020

More than 500 physicians and medical students from 20 different physician organizations are expected to participate in Doctor Day 2020.

The event will feature policy breakout sessions, legal updates and priority issue briefings at the Monona Terrace Convention Center prior to visits with legislators and staff at the State Capitol.

Learn first-hand how to participate and make a difference in the legislative process! The multi-specialty nature of Doctor Day makes this among the largest state Advocacy Day events for physicians in the country.

Find more information [here!](#)

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