



June 20, 2025

Jon E. Rice  
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director  
Office of National Drug Control Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
1800 G St NW  
Washington, DC 20006

RE: Alliance for Connected Care Recommendations to the President's 2026 National Drug Control Strategy

Dear Mr. Rice,

The Alliance for Connected Care (the "[Alliance](#)") appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the development of Office of National Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) 2026 National Drug Control Strategy. We write to emphasize the importance of maintaining comprehensive access to telehealth, because it is often an essential part of treatment for mental health conditions and substance use disorders and supports long-term recovery.

The Alliance is dedicated to improving access to care through the reduction of policy, legal, and regulatory barriers to the adoption of telemedicine and remote patient monitoring. Our members are leading health care and technology organizations from across the spectrum, representing health systems, health payers, technology innovators, and patient and provider groups, including many types of clinician specialty and patient advocacy groups who wish to better utilize the opportunities created by virtual care.

As you may know, President Trump signed into law the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment ([SUPPORT](#)) for Patients and Communities Act, which called for safe access to controlled substances via telehealth. Telehealth has proven to be a crucial tool in reducing overdose fatalities among individuals seeking mental and behavioral health services across the country.

For example, telehealth improves access to SUD treatment for populations that might otherwise be unable to access these services. Rural communities with access to telehealth availability have [higher uptake](#) of SUD counseling, case management, and recovery services compared to communities without telehealth capabilities. Patients in these communities also demonstrate better clinical outcomes, including improved treatment retention.

High retention rates and improved access to care enable patients to receive the treatment they need for their behavioral health conditions without resorting to illicit drug use. Research shows that many patients discontinue use of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) involuntarily, often due to treatment barriers. In every study, over 50 percent of patients resumed illicit drug use after discontinuing a valid MOUD prescription. A [2023 study](#) found that use of SUD-related telehealth services was associated with a significantly reduced risk of fatal drug overdose, as was MOUD received from an office-based setting. Another study found telehealth for SUD treatment was effective in preventing overdoses.



For many people with SUD, continuity of care and treatment retention are key to achieving long-term recovery. Telehealth has been a critical resource in improving retention. One study found patients who initiated treatment via telehealth remained in medically necessary treatment for 90 consecutive days. Telemedicine for SUD treatment has also expanded behavioral health care and MOUD access for urban populations, demonstrating that telehealth provides treatment that leads to long-term recovery and aligns with the ONDCP's comprehensive and coordinated National Drug Control Strategy. Access to mental and behavioral health treatment via telehealth has proven to be an effective way to provide safe and successful way to improve access to safe and effective treatment for SUD and a path to long-term recovery.

**We urge ONDCP to continue its work with the federal agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration, to ensure that all clinically appropriate options are on the table for the treatment and prevention of mental health conditions and substance use disorders. Specifically, access to non-narcotic mental health treatments via telehealth can serve as a preventive measure—helping individuals avoid turning to illicit drugs. For individuals with SUD living in rural areas, telehealth is often the only lifeline to treatment.**

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The Alliance for Connected Care greatly appreciates the ONDCP for considering how telehealth can improve provision of treatment that leads to long-term recovery. If you have any questions or would like to hear from Alliance member experts on these topics, please contact [rikki.cheung@connectwithcare.org](mailto:rikki.cheung@connectwithcare.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Adamec".

Chris Adamec  
Executive Director  
Alliance for Connected Care