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Contact: Rebecca Reid  
Email: [rreid@schmidtpa.com](mailto:rreid@schmidtpa.com)  
Phone: 703.548.0019

## **The Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose Welcomes New Member** *NAMA-R Joins the Fight to Stop Opioid Overdose*

Rockville, MD (February 8, 2019) – The Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose (CSOO) is pleased to welcome the National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery (NAMA-R) to the coalition. Founded in 1988, NAMA-R is an organization of patients who receive medication assisted treatment (MAT), healthcare professionals, and associates working together for greater public understanding and acceptance of MAT. NAMA-R works on the state and federal levels to give a strong public voice to patients and educate policymakers on the stigma associated with MAT and discrimination against patients who receive MAT. In addition, NAMA-R developed and operates The MARS Project, a peer support recovery center for MAT patients, at the Montefiore Albert Einstein Wellness Center. There are 17 MARS Projects operating nationwide and in Vietnam.

“NAMA-R works on the front lines to improve the lives of patients who use medications for addiction treatment, and we welcome the organization as a new member of the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose,” said Dr. Corey Waller, Chair of the American Society of Addiction Medicine’s (ASAM) Legislative Advocacy Committee. “Medications are a fundamental component of opioid use disorder treatment, and often remission and recovery. While we have made substantial progress in destigmatizing the use of medications for addiction treatment, there is still much more work to be done. I know that with NAMA-R, we will continue to increase access to high-quality healthcare and move toward a more accepting, stigma-free future.”

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### **About the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose**

The Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose is a coalition of local, regional and national groups that are committed to advancing meaningful legislative and regulatory policies in response to the opioid overdose epidemic. The Coalition seeks to address the U.S. opioid overdose epidemic by engaging policy makers, public health leaders, chronic pain and addiction specialists, individuals in and seeking recovery and family members, so that legislation and policies get the support and funding needed.