

Alliance of States with Prescription Monitoring Programs 2007 Annual Report

Highlights of 2006 Annual Meeting

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the Alliance of States with Prescription Monitoring Programs (Alliance) was convened on October 16 –17, 2006 in San Antonio, Texas. Twenty states were represented. Also in attendance were several organizations including the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Institute for Justice Information Systems (IJIS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Jim Giglio (NY), President, presided.

The Alliance Executive Committee presented, verbally, the annual report to the affiliates. The report was accepted by unanimous vote of the membership.

A large portion of the meeting was devoted to discussion of the Alliance and the National Association of State Controlled Substance Authorities (NASCSA) joint committee's report on the merging of the two organizations. Tim Benedict (OH), who chaired the joint committee on merging, provided a handout. A lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of a merger followed. It was the committee's recommendation to prepare merger models and present this to the Alliance members at the 2007 meeting. The members voted to accept the joint committee's recommendation and to appoint members to represent the Alliance at future meetings.

The members provided updates on their state's monitoring programs, including new program and program changes, new proposals and legislative and regulatory activities.

Nick Reuter of SAMHSA provided information on the implementation of NASPER. It was decided by the members to have the Alliance formally request SAMSHA to have states review the draft report and solicit their input. Funding had yet to be appropriated for the implementation of NASPER legislation.

John Horton of ONDCP and Kathy Gallagher of DEA also delivered presentations.

John Eadie and Scott Serich of IJIS gave a presentation regarding the results of a survey of PMP's conducted by IJIS .

Alliance Activities 2006-2007

Two other state representatives from the Alliance membership were added to the Steering Committee established by the Integrated Justice Information Systems (IJIS). Three new states, Kentucky, Ohio, and Alabama joined California, Nevada Massachusetts, New York and Oklahoma. Phase II of the IJIS PMP project was completed when the California and Nevada PMP's successfully exchanged information. In August of 2007, Dave Hopkins (Kentucky) has been named vice-chair of the IJIS PMP steering committee.

The Alliance was again asked by the American Society for the Automation in Pharmacy (ASAP) to be part of a work group that will update the 2005 ASAP PMP standards for the reporting of electronic prescription information by pharmacies. These standards will be implemented for real time transmission of pharmacy data. Members from Ohio, Massachusetts, New York and Maine are members of the work group.

Adele Audet (MA), testified on behalf of the Alliance at a hearing convened by DEA and HHS. The hearing took place in July of 2006 in Crystal City, VA. The purpose of the hearing was to discuss issues surrounding electronic prescribing. Ms. Audet's testimony is posted on the DEA's Diversion Control website (www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov)

Jim Giglio (NY) will chair a IJIS subcommittee That will work with NAMSDL to ensure that the Model Interstate Sharing Agreement is kept current with the progress being made in the development of technology used for interstate sharing of PMP data.

In November of 2006, several state representatives from the Alliance were invited to participate in a workgroup hosted by the Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC). The workgroup discussed ATTC's marketing of products to family physicians and pharmacists describing the signs and symptoms of prescription drug abuse. These products include a tool that can help doctors screen, intervene and refer patients to treatment. A second objective was to assist PMP states and the medical community in increasing their familiarity with treatment systems and resources.

Massachusetts hosted a regional PMP meeting of the northeast states. Attending the meeting, along with Massachusetts, were other Alliance member states including New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut, Vermont and New York.

The Alliance-NASCSA joint committee on merging of the two organizations issued its report to their respective organizations for review. The state members representing the Alliance at the joint committee meetings were Grant Carrow (MA), Adele Audet (MA) and Mike Wissel (MI).