

# NASCSA NEWS

March 3, 2011

## President's Message

Planning for NASCSA for 2011 began just hours after the Executive Committee was installed on the last day of the 2010 conference. Each year at the end of a conference, it seems that the general feeling of the Committee is that there are only 362 days left until the next conference! While that may seem like a long time, it takes an extraordinary level of commitment and coordination to achieve the goals the organization sets for itself each year.

While the Executive Committee sets the course, the work to get there is mainly accomplished through six subcommittees: Bylaws/Resolutions; Membership; Policies/Procedures; Program; Special Projects and Survey/Data. Each subcommittee consists of regular and associate members and is chaired by a member of the Executive Committee. Much of the work is "data-driven", based on feedback at the conferences and other communications. One telltale of the success of this approach was the record number of resolutions on topical issues adopted by the membership at the recent conference.

The resolutions had been largely based on issue areas identified in evaluations of the 2009 conference. Thus, the feedback that members provide in conference evaluations is used well beyond planning for the next conference. It is the participatory nature of the organization that enables it to accomplish so much in so little time.

*Grant Carrow, President, NASCSA*

## NASCSA's 2011 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grants Awarded

Recipients of NASCSA's 2011 Prescription Drug

## BREAKING NEWS DEA Places Synthetic Cannabinoids into Schedule I

On March 1, 2011 the US Drug Enforcement Administration issued a final order to temporarily place five synthetic cannabinoids chemicals (JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-200, CP-47,497, and cannabicyclohexanol) used to make "fake pot" products as a Schedule I controlled substance. The federal register notice is found [here](#).

## Quick Links

Save the Date for the 2011 Annual Conference to take place October 18-21, 2011 at the Eastland Park Hotel in Portland, Maine

## State Regulatory Developments

State Regulatory Developments is a monthly compilation by NASCSA of state regulatory actions related to pharmacy and controlled substances. State Regulatory Developments is located on the website [www.nascsa.org](http://www.nascsa.org) under "News."

Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Program have been announced. The grant program is funded by a \$200,000 grant from Purdue Pharma, LP to support the operation, expansion and awareness of appropriately-designed state prescription drug monitoring programs.

NASCSA's Special Projects Committee, consisting of Ralph Orr (VA), Danna Droz (OH) and Mark Keeley (OH), were responsible for evaluating the proposals and making recommendations to the Executive Committee who recently approved the recommendation.

Below is a description of the PDMP projects funded through the grant program:

- Florida - Marketing and education plan for implementation of the PDMP;
- Indiana - Prescription mapping and information exchange network and RX Watch: Web application to allow certain users access to view de-identified and demographic data in possession of the program;
- Kansas - An initiation evaluation of perceptions related to prescription drug abuse, diversion and pain management in Kansas;
- Maine - Evaluation of risk factor identification for prescription drug overdose using PDMP and Medical Examiner case data;
- Michigan - Automation of processes to distribute notification letters to physicians to alert them of possible abuse/diversion by their patients;
- Minnesota - Provide for software update for management of passwords and education/marketing campaign;
- Mississippi - Marketing and education plan for the PDMP;
- Virginia - Sponsor educational conference and produce education/marketing materials;
- Washington - Provide IT Quality Assurance Services or marketing of the program; and
- Wyoming - Provide education and marketing about the program.

## NASCSA Launches Interactive Forum!

The National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) is pleased to

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announce the official launch of its interactive "Forum" site for members and others interested in a variety of topics related to controlled substances, prescription monitoring programs, trends, legislation and other issues. The Forum, located at <http://forum.nascsa.org> is also accessible from the main website [www.nascsa.org](http://www.nascsa.org).

The Forum project, which was previewed during the 2010 Annual Conference in Charleston, SC, is the result of efforts of members of the Survey/Data Committee whose members include: Dean Wright (chair), Grant Carrow, Brian Howes, Heather Thompson, Ron Hatfield and former member Bill Sybrant. Special thanks goes to NASCSA's webmaster, Bill Ward.

NASCSA's Forum will require a one-time initial registration to create a user name and password in order to post or subscribe. The Forum will be moderated to ensure that any inappropriate postings are removed. NASCSA has initially limited the number of "forums" included, however if you would like to suggest a new forum subject please send your suggestion to [KathyKeough@nascsa.org](mailto:KathyKeough@nascsa.org).

**Detailed instructions on how to use the Forum are also included.**

"We are extremely excited to be offering this valuable service to our members," said NASCSA President Grant Carrow, PhD., of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. "Often we receive inquiries from state and associate members as well as others seeking information about proposed legislation, draft legislation or trends nationally and we did not have an easy way to disseminate or collect information in a timely way. It is our hope that members utilize this exciting service which has been made possible through our generous sponsors of NASCSA. The Forum is intended to serve as an inclusive way for state and industry leaders and others interested in prescription drug abuse to share information."

## NASCSA Participates at NABP Task Force Meeting on PDMP's

Ralph Orr, VA recently represented NASCSA before a task force convened by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) to discuss state Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP's). NABP convened a meeting of the Task Force on Prescription Monitoring Program Standards in late October in Northbrook, IL. The Task Force has been charged with reviewing and identifying variations in existing prescription monitoring programs as compared to the *Model Prescription Monitoring Act* found in the *Model State Pharmacy Act and Model Rules of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (Model Act)*; and potentially recommend revisions, if necessary, to the NABP *Model Act* addressing this issue. Additional details will be made available upon publication by NABP.

## NASCSA Testifies at DEA Hearing on Drug Disposal



Ralph Orr, Secretary/Treasurer of NASCSA attended a public meeting conducted by the DEA on January 19-20, 2011 in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to hear comments about procedures for the surrender of unwanted controlled substances by the ultimate user to assist

DEA in developing regulations to implement the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010. There was a great deal of consensus on many facets of the issues to include the following:

- The need for a range of options for secure disposal of controlled substances and other pharmaceutical drugs-convenience and accessibility is essential;
- Take-back programs should be able to include both controlled and non-controlled substances without sorting them;
- Security of the medications to be disposed of is critical, including tracking of containers, tamper evident seals, locked containers, and other such measures;
- Regulations should not require that individual pills/vials/etc. be counted and logged. Many presenters suggested logging by weight;
- Allow different means of destruction of collected meds while contemplating hazard requirements; and
- Cost to consumers and states must be considered

Mr. Orr presented information at the meeting based specifically on the 2007 and 2010 NASCSA resolutions pertaining to drug disposal and take back programs, which are found at [www.nascsa.org](http://www.nascsa.org). A copy of NASCSA's formal testimony is found [here](#).

### DEA's Mark Caverly Retires

Mark Caverly, Chief of the Liaison and Policy Section at the US Drug Enforcement Administration and a long-time supporter and frequent speaker at NASCSA's annual conference, recently retired after many years of service. NASCSA sent a [congratulatory letter](#) to be read at his retirement party last month. We wish Mark well and look forward to our continued partnership with DEA

### From the States

**Oklahoma-** The Oklahoma Board of Pharmacy has teamed with the nonprofit Oklahoma Pharmacy Educational Foundation and the local chapter of the National Association of Drug Diversion

Investigators to produce a short video entitled "Road to Nowhere," depicting a young man named Tyler and the consequences of his choice to abuse prescription drugs. Pharmacists have presented the "Road to Nowhere" video in over 100 Oklahoma schools since the project began, and are continuing to make presentations. The DVD is available **free** to anyone with an interest in helping curb youth prescription drug abuse. To obtain a copy of the video to show in schools, church youth groups, scout meetings, etc, contact the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association (OPhA) at [www.opha.com](http://www.opha.com). The "Road to Nowhere" video may be viewed by visiting the link on the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy Web site at [www.ok.gov/OSBP/](http://www.ok.gov/OSBP/) or going to the OPhA Web site.