

NASCSA NEWS

May 12, 2011

President's Message

The agenda for the annual NASCSA meeting, highlighted in this issue, is a testament to the extraordinary breadth and scope of the issues that controlled substances authorities address each day. Over 25 years of such NASCSA agendas provides a measure of the persistence of the problem of diversion and abuse of prescription controlled substances, despite all our best efforts to control it. These medicines touch many lives, most often for the better but too often in an unintended way. Recent national attention to the unintended consequences of prescription drugs, also highlighted in this issue, is welcome news. NASCSA's voice has been heard at the national level, along with the voices of many other organizations concerned about the issue. The problem isn't one that NASCSA and the other organizations can tackle alone, however. Rather, this problem requires a coordinated national response, with all federal, state and local partners involved. There's been a sea of change in the problem of drug diversion and abuse in recent years and it will take a sea of change both to respond to it and conquer it.

Grant Carrow, President, NASCSA

Save the Date for NASCSA's Annual Conference: October 18-21, 2011 in Portland, Maine

Mark your calendars for the 27th Annual Conference of the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities to take place at the Parkland East Hotel in Portland, Maine October 18-21, 2011. This is the first time ever that NASCSA's meeting has taken place in New England and both the Program Committee and the Executive Committee are confident that members will be thrilled with this year's program. The [Eastland Park Hotel](#) is in the heart of historic Portland and is within easy walking distance to many of the finest restaurants in the city

Help us Choose a New Logo!

NASCSA's Executive Committee recently decided to update its look and has commissioned a designer to create several possible new logo designs to give a fresh look and feel for our website, brochures and other materials. We will be asking members to vote on four possible designs in a brief survey to be released later this month. The results will be unveiled at the annual meeting. We are excited about launching a new logo as we continue to move forward in better serving all of our members.

Virginia Attorney General Offers Guidelines on "Take Back" Program

The Virginia Attorney General's Office has created a helpful resource guide in the state on holding so-called "Take Back" Programs. The document can be viewed [here](#).

Upcoming Meetings

as well as shopping and historic sites. [2011 Conference registration forms](#) and hotel information are already on NASCSA's website.

The hotel features complimentary Wi-Fi access as well as complimentary shuttle service from the hotel (subject to availability). Due to the popularity of the 25th Anniversary luncheon, which provided an opportunity for attendees to stay on the property and network with their colleagues, this year we will feature a luncheon during the conference, with a nominal increase in registration fee to cover the cost.

The Program Committee is hard at work putting the finishing touches on an exciting and thought provoking conference featuring topics such as identifying and preventing fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicare Prescription Drug Program; Palliative Care; Prescription Monitoring Program Updates by a number of state representatives; Risk Management Programs; Emerging and Hot Topics for States; State Efforts to Regulate Pain Clinics; Updates by the Drug Enforcement Administration and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and a presentation from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. The final program should be available by June. For information on exhibitor or sponsorship opportunities please contact Kathy Keough at kathykeough@nascsa.org.

Travel Scholarship Applications Available

Although this year's conference is still six months away, the deadline for submitting applications for travel scholarships is **June 30, 2011**. NASCSA's Executive Committee has authorized six (6) travel scholarships to attend this year's annual conference on October 18-21, 2011 at the Eastland Park Hotel in Portland, Maine.

Travel scholarships will be awarded in the amount of up to \$1500 each for states to attend this year's NASCSA conference. Scholarship criteria as well as the [application](#) are posted on NASCSA's website. Don't miss your chance!

- May 17-18 - Health Care Distribution Management Association, Supply Chain Conference in Alexandria, Virginia. Visit [HDMA](#) for more information.
- May 21-24 - NABP Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX
- June 7-9 - Alliance of States With Prescription Monitoring Programs in Washington, DC, Washington Plaza Hotel

If your contact information changes, please login using the original email address you originally had subscribed with and update any information (including your new email address and updated contact information)

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 under "News."

NASCSA Submits Comments to Surgeon General Requests on Prescription Drug Abuse Among Youth

NASCSA has submitted comments to the Surgeon General in response to The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)/NIH/DHHS which issued a Federal Register notice on May 2, 2011 seeking input to inform a Surgeon General response on prescription drug abuse in youth. NASCSA's President Grant Carrow submitted a letter on behalf of the organization offering our expertise and insights into the issue and its willingness to participate in any discussions. A copy of the [Federal Register notice](#) was posted on NASCSA's website and our comments will be available shortly.

Retirements and Staff Changes

The following staffing changes have occurred:

- **James Myatt** has replaced **Jerry Jones** in Arkansas, who recently retired from state service.
- **Tim Benedict** has retired from the Ohio Board of Pharmacy.
- **Derek Nakamura** is the Acting Administrator of the Hawaii Narcotics Enforcement Division, replacing **Keith Kamita**, who was promoted to Deputy Director for Law Enforcement.
- **Cathy Gallagher** is currently the Acting Section Chief at the US Drug Enforcement Administration, filling in for **Mark Caverly**, who recently retired.

Visit NASCSA's Exhibit at NABP Annual Meeting

For the first time in its history, NASCSA will be exhibiting at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy in San Antonio, Texas on May 21-24, 2011. With input from NASCSA's Membership Committee, it was felt that expanded outreach would help promote NASCSA. As a result, a poster was created for viewing at the NABP meeting, along with brochures and other related materials. Board member Ronald Klein will be manning the booth.

NASCSCA's Forum Gaining Momentum Join the Discussion!

NASCSCA's interactive "Forum" site continues to grow. The Forum is 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.

NASCSCA's Forum requires a one-time initial registration to create a user name and password in order to post or subscribe. The Forum is moderated to ensure that postings are appropriate. NASCSCA 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.

NASCSCA Welcomes Three New Members

NASCSCA welcomes three new Associate Members: **Associated Pharmacies** of Alabama, Lyndell Shepherd of **IDC, Inc.** and Shannon O'Boye of **Quarles & Brady, LLP** of Chicago. For membership information visit our [website](#). Note that membership renewals will be distributed to all members later this month for the 2011-2012 fiscal year

From the States

It has been a busy time for many state controlled substances authorities and others involved in prescription drug abuse including a number of bills of interest to all. Following is a brief update submitted by members. We welcome news items of interest:

Michigan - Michigan passed a "doctor shopper" law earlier this year.

Montana - Governor Brian Schweitzer recently signed into law [HB83](#) that enables the Board of Pharmacy to establish a prescription drug registry (monitoring program). The program is expected to begin on January 1, 2012.

Nebraska - Governor Dave Heineman recently signed into law a bill creating Nebraska's

[Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.](#)

Texas - Mathias Forrester, BS, an Epidemiologist at the Texas Poison Center Network at the Texas Department of State Health Services, recently published an article of interest in the Journal of Addictive Diseases entitled "[Ingestions of Hydrocodone, Carisoprodol, and Alprazolam in Combination Reported to Texas Poison Centers.](#)"

Wyoming - The Wyoming Legislature recently enacted two bills of interest: 1) [Senate File 59](#) adds "spice" chemicals to Schedule I in the Wyoming Controlled Substances and has a provision for an effective date "immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law". The description of "spice" chemicals is listed differently than the DEA's order in the hopes it would cover future derivatives; and 2) [House Bill 62](#) revises the WY controlled substances act in several places. It adds substances to all 5 schedules to update to the federal listings; makes tramadol and carisoprodol Schedule IV in WY; changes dates for controlled substance registrants; adds "bath salts" chemicals including MDPV to Schedule I; adds Salvinorum A to Schedule I; allows for electronic prescriptions for controlled substances; matches records for sales of methamphetamine precursors to the federal regulations; and allows release of PDMP reports to a third party if the patient signs a specific consent. The changes in HB0062 are effective July 1, 2011.

[White House Unveils Plan to Address Prescription Drug Abuse](#)

The White House unveiled a multi-agency plan aimed at reducing the "epidemic" of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. In concert with the White House plan, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing a new risk reduction program-called a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy-for all extended-release and long-acting opioid medications.

FDA experts say extended-release and long-acting opioids-including OxyContin, Avinza, Dolophine, Duragesic, and eight other brand names-are extensively misprescribed, misused, and abused, leading to overdoses, addiction, and even deaths across the United States. FDA says a 2007 survey

revealed that more than half of opioid abusers got the drug from a friend or relative.

Opioids-such as morphine and oxycodone-are used to treat moderate and severe pain. Over the past few decades, drug makers have developed extended-release opioid formulations to treat people in pain over a long period.

The new REMS plan focuses primarily on: educating doctors about proper pain management, patient selection, and other requirements and improving patient awareness about how to use these drugs safely. As part of the plan, FDA wants companies to give patients education materials, including a medication guide that uses consumer friendly language to explain safe use and disposal. For more information, please visit: [Opioid REMS](#).

We hope you enjoyed this issue of NASCSA News! Please share your news items with us!

Sincerely,

Kathy Keough
Executive Director, NASCSA