

NASCSA NEWS

*A Publication of the
National Association
of State Controlled
Substances
Authorities*

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Greetings!

This has been an exciting year so far for the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA). Members of the Executive Committee and several volunteers from our membership have agreed to serve on various committees throughout the year and are hard at work on their respective projects.

We look forward to sharing developments that may be of interest to state regulatory agencies and others interested in controlled substances. Such issues include support for appropriate prescribing while ensuring that such medications are not used inappropriately.

Since its inception 25 years ago, NASCSA has been a consistent place for the exchange of information and ideas among state and federal agencies, associations, as well as industry thought leaders. It is our hope that NASCSA will continue to serve this vital year as we move into our next quarter century. So I ask that you share with your colleagues information about NASCSA by passing on this e-newsletter or directing them to our website which has just undergone an overhaul.

Karen Tannert, President, NASCSA

Newsletter Tips

To view a full screen of the newsletter, right click.

In addition, 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).

Join Our Mailing List!

FDA to Place New Limits on RX Narcotics

The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) plans to create a risk-management program aimed at further restricting the prescription and distribution of 24 pain medicines to address the misuse and abuse of such drugs. The agency will seek feedback on the program through meetings with drug companies, patient and consumer advocates, and the public starting March 3. Please stay tuned for more information on this initiative.



NASCSA Participates in Opioid Forum

Karen Tannert, R.Ph., MPH, participated on behalf of the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) at a forum on February 10, 2009 sponsored by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) entitled "FDA Regulatory Processes and Standards for Review and Approval of Opioid Analgesics: An Educational Primer and Conversation."

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss FDA's regulatory processes and standards for the review and approval of opioid analgesics, including the limitations in authority for regulating opioid drug products, and balancing the needs of diverse groups. NASCSA was among several invited organizations to provide brief overviews of regulatory issues around opioid analgesics.

"We were honored to be among the first groups invited by FDA to participate in this important forum that provided an opportunity for dialogue and an exchange of ideas among advocacy organizations, as well as federal agencies involved with pain management," said Karen Tannert. "Our goal was to show that NASCSA and its member states recognize the important balance between appropriate pain management but at the same time preventing inappropriate prescribing and diversion. The meeting was an excellent opportunity for many of these groups to learn more about NASCSA and the important work it does."

A New Year Brings New Changes to NASCSA's Website

We are pleased to announce a newly revamped website to enhance the level of information provided to members as well as those interested in controlled substances issues. Thanks to the diligent efforts of NASCSA's webmaster Bill Ward, who has given a considerable amount of his time to the organization, the new website has improved features including important links and resources as well as a current listing of PMP contacts. While you are on the site, make sure to click on the most recent state regulatory update under the "news" section.

If you haven't visited the website recently, we encourage you to do so at www.nascsa.org. If you have suggestions on links or ways to improve the website, please contact Bill Ward billward@nascsa.org or Kathy Keough at kathykeough@nascsa.org.

2009 Conference Planning Well Underway!

It is hard to believe that the Program Committee is well on its way in planning this year's annual conference, to be held at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown San Diego, California October 20-23, 2009. This year marks a special milestone as NASCSA celebrates its 25th Anniversary. We already have a number of exciting topics planned for this year's conference, however if you have specific topics and/or speakers you would like to be considered by the Program Committee please contact NASCSA's office. In addition, for those attendees who will be staying overnight on Friday night, the Program Committee is currently exploring a group activity on Friday afternoon after the program concludes at noon. Stay tuned for more!

Due to current fiscal challenges being faced by many state agencies nationally, NASCSA's Executive Committee this year has voted to award six (6) travel scholarships of up to \$1500 each to attend this year's conference. More details to follow.

Farewell to Jim Giglio on His Retirement

Jim Giglio, retired from the New York State Department of Health (DOH) Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement in November 2008 after 31 years of state service. Mr. Giglio started his career with DOH in 1977 administering the environmental health phase of the statewide Lead Poison Program. In 1978, he was appointed the Department's Olympic Operations Coordinator for the 1980 Winter Olympics held in Lake Placid, N.Y. where he was responsible for ensuring the public health protection of the athletes, officials and the spectators. In April of 1980, he joined the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement. During the 28 years in the Bureau, he held various administrative and investigatory

positions including Chief of the Diversion Prevention Section, where he directed the NYS Official Prescription Program (PMP) as well as the Licensing Program. He also served as Chief of the Narcotic Investigations Section overseeing and directing major investigations into the unlawful sale and trafficking of prescription controlled substances. In 1991 he was appointed Director of the Bureau in 1991.

Asked how he has enjoyed his retirement, Jim reports, "The best part of retiring is being able to spend time with my two year old granddaughter, Dakota Rose. Because as my Mom would say ... "There are only three important things in a person's life -your faith, your family and your health."

Jim was an important voice in controlled substances issues, and served in a variety of leadership positions within NASCSA including serving as President. NASCSA's leadership and its members, who have worked with Jim over the years wish him and his family well in his future endeavors.

Federal Legislation Filed to Fight Methamphetamine

The Combat Methamphetamine Enhancement Act of 2009 has been reintroduced by Senator Feinstein and has been given a new bill number from last year. S. 256 requires all retailers who sell product containing ingredients that can make methamphetamine to self-certify that they have trained their personnel on this issue. Distributors must sell these products to retailers who have certified that they will comply with the law. Furthermore, DEA must publish the list of retailers that have self-certified.

Check Out State Regulatory Developments

Please visit NASCSA's website www.NASCSA.org for the latest posting of "State Regulatory Developments". This document, which is compiled each month, summarizes state regulatory developments as they relate to controlled substances in respective states.

State News

Wyoming -- The Wyoming House of Representatives has given preliminary approval to a bill that would make forgery of a drug prescription a felony. The bill has bi-partisan support as it makes its way through the legislative process. For a copy of the bill go to: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2008/Bills/HB0127.pdf>.

Illinois - Emergency Room Physicians in Illinois and its surrounding states are utilizing the Illinois Prescription Information Library (PIL) website in their efforts to save trauma patients and to turn away addicted individual who use ERs as a drug source. Now one year old, the PIL (which enrolls 20-25 new users daily) receives some 5-7 unsolicited support calls and emails weekly from its 5,500 registered users.

In order to provide the latest news and updates of interest to members as well as others interested in controlled substances issues, please forward any information that you think should be included in our e-newsletter and/or for posting on our website. All items will be considered.

We hope you have enjoyed this latest edition of our electronic newsletter. If you have news items to share or other information that may be helpful to our members, please forward to me.

Sincerely,

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