

Subject: News from NASCSA April 2008

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NASCSA NEWS

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

April 2008

Dear Katherine,

Welcome to the first edition of the NASCSA newsletter, our new tool for communicating news and ongoing issues relevant to the members of our organization. The Executive Committee has committed to many projects this year, some new and some needing a final push towards completion. This edition of this newsletter will update you on several of these projects, including improved survey tools, prescription drug monitoring, and the 2008 conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. We hope you will provide us with feedback on the newsletter and offer suggestions for future issues. The Executive Committee is committed to improving communications with the membership on the organization's activities and it believes this newsletter format is a big step in that direction.

The Executive Committee has created several Subcommittees to address a variety of issues, and these Subcommittees have been busy over the past several months planning for their respective projects. The Subcommittees consist of the program subcommittee, membership subcommittee, survey subcommittee, and the prescription monitoring program subcommittee. Updates on the activities of these committees are found below.

Sincerely,

Karen Tannert, President, NASCSA

Membership News

NASCSA would like to welcome the state of **Maryland** (Board of Pharmacy), which is our newest member! Currently we have 47 member states and 11 associate/individual members.

Please note that the term of membership runs from July 1 through June 30th. Renewal notices will be distributed in mid June. For an updated list of members and state contacts please visit our website.

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NASCSA Conference Update

This year's conference will be held at the Sheraton Yankee Clipper Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida October 21-25, 2008. Please note the change in hotels due to renovations at the original hotel. For the most recent information visit our website for updates at <http://www.nascsa.org>.

As with past NASCSA conferences, a meeting room will be made available to the Alliance of States with Prescription Monitoring Programs to hold their annual meeting.

2008 Conference Program Subcommittee

The 2008 Conference Program Subcommittee (chaired by Danna Droz), has been busy finalizing the program. In accordance with the decision made by the membership at the October 2007 annual meeting, this year's NASCSA conference will begin Tuesday afternoon, October 21, 2008 and conclude on Friday, October 24, 2008 at noon.

Two travel scholarships to attend the 2008 conference will be made available for state members. More details to follow.

Membership Subcommittee

The Membership Subcommittee, chaired by Mark Keeley (Ohio), has been hard at work updating the NASCSA membership brochure, which should be available shortly. In addition, the Subcommittee is working on identifying individuals as well as organizations that may be interested in joining NASCSA or attending our annual conference.

Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Subcommittee

Several years ago, NASCSA's Executive Committee agreed to begin collecting current information and data on PMPs. This information is designed to be available to states with PMPs and those contemplating development of such programs. The PMP Subcommittee (chaired by Ralph Orr) has been hard at work on this endeavor.

A current list of state PMP contacts has just been posted on our website at www.nascsa.org and is effective March 25, 2008. Take a

look at the updated contact list on the Prescription Monitoring section of the website.

Other items coming shortly to the webpage include information tables on programs to include law and regulation citations and other useful "at-a-glance" types of information. These items will be updated as we receive new information.

In 2005, the Executive Committee discussed an initiative to collect state PMP annual reports; in keeping with that initiative the PMP Subcommittee recently sent out a request for state's Hal Rogers Grant Semi-Annual Progress Reports. The PMP Subcommittee plans to use the data to provide an annual summary of new and innovative ideas states are working on and take the data from the performance measures and put it into a format that can be used for comparison and information (e.g. The number of prescriptions in Schedule II filled for individuals.). We have received several reports to date and are looking forward to compiling the information into a user-friendly format for your use.

Several states have inquired about the legality of submitting these reports to NASCSA. Reports submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) are public records. The subcommittee has made BJA aware of NASCSA's project to collect and summarize these reports. Anyone may obtain copies through FOIA requests or by request to an individual state agency.

Survey Subcommittee

The Survey Subcommittee (chaired by Teresa Anderson) is finalizing a brief (10 questions) survey addressing issues for which NASCSA is frequently contacted regarding state policies and/or laws or regulations. The Executive Committee intends to work towards ensuring that NASCSA continues to provide valuable and current information on legal and regulatory issues relating to controlled substances.

The surveys will be distributed and completed electronically for ease of use by respondents. The results will be shared with the membership on the website or at the annual conference.

We hope you have enjoyed this first edition of our newsletter. Please send any updates or other helpful information for our members to my attention.

Sincerely,

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