

NASCSA NEWS

April 2, 2012

Save the Date for NASCSA's 28th Annual Conference

Even though spring has just arrived, it's not too early to mark your calendars for the 28th Annual Conference of the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) to take place at the Hotel Valley Ho in Scottsdale, Arizona October 23-26, 2012. The hotel is located in the heart of beautiful Scottsdale, within walking distance of numerous restaurants and shopping. Check NASCSA's website at www.nascsa.org for important updates on the conference. The conference program will be available this summer.

The Executive Committee has authorized the awarding of six (6) travel scholarships to attend the Annual conference. Please click [here](#) for travel scholarship criteria and to obtain an application form and instructions. The deadline for submitting applications is June 29, 2012.

Second Round of Prescription Drug Monitoring Grants for 2012 Announced

NASCSA is pleased to announce that a second round of grant applications will be accepted for the 2012 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) grants. This solicitation is part of the \$200,000 grant for FY2012 from Purdue Pharma, LP to assist states with funding PDMPs for the purpose of operating and expanding such programs, and promoting the ability of state PDMPs to address the abuse and diversion of controlled substances. The

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."

maximum amount of each grant is \$20,000, unless special circumstances warrant awarding a grant in an amount in excess of \$20,000. Smaller projects costing \$5,000 - \$10,000 each are also encouraged. Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. Pacific Time on [April 5, 2012](#). For a complete set of criteria visit NASCSA's website [here](#).

NASCSA's Committees Working on Your Behalf

Over the past several month's NASCSA's committees have organized and begun to work on behalf of the organization. Following is a brief summary of activities of the various committees. For a complete list of committee members click [here](#).

Membership - The committee has established travel scholarship criteria to attend this year's conference and has already posted the application/materials. In addition, the committee, responsible for the publication of the newsletter, has set the following deadlines for newsletters throughout the year: April 1, June 15, August 1 and December 1. In order to promote the organization, NASCSA will hold an informational booth at this year's annual conference of the [National Association of Boards of Pharmacy](#) in Philadelphia May 19-21, 2012. Come visit NASCSA's table.

Special Projects - The committee has evaluated applications for the 2012 PDMP grants, and has determined there are sufficient funds available to authorize a second round of grants (see above). Over the coming months the committee will be working with grant awardees to ensure that spending plans and periodic reports are submitted. More details about the projects funded will be discussed at this year's annual conference.

Survey/Data - The committee is overseeing the periodic update of the "state profiles" page and is also conducting a survey of states related to the issuance of state controlled substances registration for ultimate publication. In addition, the committee

DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Reminder

DEA will host a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on **April 28, 2012** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Take-Back Day is intended to provide a setting for individuals who want to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. DEA intends for take-back days such as this to improve public health and safety through keeping prescription drugs out of the hands of teens and others. Pharmacists are encouraged to tell their patients about this opportunity to safely dispose of unused and unwanted medicines in a way that does not harm the environment. Visit DEA's [website](#) for more information on this upcoming event.

NIDA Launches New Drug Abuse Website

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) created an easy-to-read website on drug abuse designed for adults with a low reading literacy level. The site provides plain language information on drug abuse prevention and treatment. To learn more click [here](#).

will be conducting a survey of key issues for possible consideration of resolutions to be presented at this year's conference. Survey results may also be used by the Executive Committee and other committees of the organization throughout the year. We encourage all members to participate.

Resolutions/Bylaws - The committee has begun its work in identifying potential topics for consideration as resolutions to be presented at the annual conference. In addition, the committee will be reviewing procedures to ensure that the voting process for election of officers and Executive Committee Members and the operation of the business sessions are clear and transparent.

Logo - At the 2011 Annual Conference the membership voted to approve a concept for a new logo for the organization. After the conference, a committee was formed to develop a final logo, based on the approved concept, and ensure that it would meet all of NASCSA's media needs. The committee determined that only slight adjustments were needed and the final logo is very close to the approved concept. The committee extends its gratitude to webmaster Bill Ward for the original concept and to the design team that produced the final logo.

Policies and Procedures - Over the past year the committee has been working to ensure that a Policy & Procedures document is created in order to ensure that office operations are documented. It is expected this document will be finalized later this summer.

Program - The committee has been hard at work, reviewing evaluations from the 2011 conference, and identifying potential speakers and topics. The committee is especially interested in potential topics/speakers related to law enforcement. We encourage all members to share their ideas for consideration. The 2012 conference program will be available this summer.

FDA Announces New Web site on Needles / "Sharps" Disposal

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently launched a new website for patients and caregivers on the proper disposal of needles and other "sharps" at the workplace, home and while traveling. The [website](#) details the importance of proper disposal of used needles, explains the dangers of putting used "sharps" in public or household trash/recycling bins or flushing them down the toilet, and offers instruction on what to do if stuck by a used needle.

U.S. House Panel Holds Hearing on Prescription Drug Abuse

On March 1 the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Tradesubcommittee held a hearing entitled "Prescription Drug Diversion: Combating the Scourge." To learn more click [here](#).

NASCSA Website Enhancements

If you haven't visited NASCSA's website lately we've added a number of exciting new features including a mobile application, a streaming feed of breaking news nationally as well as a calendar listing. Please visit www.NASCSA.org and check out these exciting enhancements for our members. A special thanks to our webmaster Bill Ward for his continuous efforts on behalf of our members.

Did You Know About NASCSA's Forum?

Members are encouraged to take advantage of the "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. The Forum requires a one-time initial registration to create a user name and password in order to post or subscribe and is moderated by volunteers. 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. Detailed instructions on how to use the Forum are also included on the site.

Georgia: The Center of a Perfect Storm

Guest Column by Richard Allen, Director, Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency

Over the past three years, the number of rogue pain pill clinics in Georgia has grown from zero to approximately 150 today. We have found ourselves at the center of a thriving form of interstate commerce due to the number of surrounding states that have enacted new and strict laws on prescription controlled substances. For example,

Congress Holds Hearing on Chronic Pain

On February 14, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Chaired by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) held a hearing, "[Pain in America: Exploring Challenges to Relief](#)" to examine the issue of patients who suffer from chronic pain. The hearing was a result of a [report](#) released last year by the Institute of Medicine, which demonstrated that chronic pain has reached epidemic proportions in the U.S. and that treatment for chronic pain patients is inadequate.

Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) laws have been created in every state in the Southeast. Other states, such as Florida and Tennessee have passed laws to regulate how pain clinics operate. This is excellent work on the part of all these states, but the effects caused rogue pain pill clinics to start moving into Georgia.

After finally passing a PMP law last year, our state legislators soon came to realize that their work was not done. They became cognizant that rogue pain clinics were popping up like weeds all over the state, especially on the 'Pill-Billy Highways', I-75, I-85, and I-95 connecting points North with Florida and it's still existing rogue pain clinics. Billboards on the Interstates and roadside campaign type signs were everywhere advertising first one, then another pain clinic. Not to mention the complaints from cities all over the state wanting something done about these clinics opening up overnight and drawing unfamiliar customers from everywhere but Georgia. The result has been a cooperative effort between the state Attorney General, key legislators, and law enforcement. They've sponsored a bill that will cause rogue pain clinics to have to register with the state and follow strict guidelines similar to the ones in Florida, Tennessee and Ohio.

By our estimates, 98% of the pain clinic customers are from some state other than Georgia. Until this law can be enacted we're trying to ride out the storm with aggressive enforcement efforts using an unprecedented cooperation between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Our bill has already passed the state House and is now being debated in the Senate. Hopefully by the time you read this article, our law will be in existence. Otherwise bear with us, because we'll continue to be covered up with rogue pain clinics turning out enormous numbers of prescriptions for oxycodone, hydrocodone, alprazolam, and carisoprodol, most of which will wind

AMA Supports Efforts to Promote Physician Education on Controlled Substances

At its Interim Meeting in November, the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association (AMA) directed the organization to promote physician training and competence on the proper use of controlled substances and to encourage doctors to use screening tools from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and other organizations to assist in identify patients likely to abuse prescription drugs. The directive also calls on the AMA to make substance abuse identification and treatment resources available and encourage physicians to query the prescription-drug monitoring programs established in 36 states. The announcement is found [here](#).

up back in your states.

Staff Changes

- **Marty Allain** has been named as Director of the Indiana INSPECT program, replacing Josh Klatte
- **Regina Erving** became Director of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Bureau of Drug Control replacing long-time NASCSA member Wilbur Harling.
- **Terence O'Leary** has been named as the Director of the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement for the State of New York's Department of Health
- **Andrew Holt**, PharmD., has been named as Executive Director of the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy
- **Mike Small** has been named as the supervisor of the California CURES Program, replacing Kathy Ellis.

From the States

California - California has become the first state to regulate dextromethorphan (DXM), an antitussive in Benylin, Pertussin, Robitussin, and dozens of other over-the-counter (OTC) cough and cold products. A [state law](#) that went into effect Jan. 1 prohibits sales of products containing DXM to anyone under the age of 18 without a prescription.

Florida - The Department of Health, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, adopted regulations to establish reporting standards for capturing data from practitioners and pharmacies that dispense controlled substances. The rule specifies that submissions must be in accordance with standards of the American Society for Automation in Pharmacy. The rule is effective Feb. 20, 2012.

Nevada - The Nevada State Board of Pharmacy approved an emergency order making "bath salt" chemicals Schedule I controlled substances. The emergency order makes it illegal to produce, sell, purchase, or consume products

Industry News

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved Intermezzo (zolpidem tartrate sublingual tablets) for use as needed to treat insomnia characterized by middle-of-the-night waking followed by difficulty returning to sleep. This is the first time the FDA has approved a drug for this condition. Intermezzo should only be used when a person has at least four hours of bedtime remaining. It should not be taken if alcohol has been consumed or in combination with any other sleep aid. The drug is listed as a controlled substance in Schedule IV. To read the FDA press release click [here](#).

We Want to Hear From You?

Have news items you would like to share?

Email

KathyKeough@nascsa.org

with your articles and ideas.

containing the bath salt chemicals. A [draft](#) of a proposed regulation to permanently place bath salt chemicals in Schedule I was published November 17, 2011, and was scheduled for public comment at the Board's meeting on January 19, 2012.

Wisconsin - The Department of Safety and Professional Services, Pharmacy Examining Board, adopted regulations to establish a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to collect and maintain specified data on the prescribing and dispensing of monitored prescription drugs. The rule also requires the electronic submittal of reports to the board about each dispensing of monitored prescription drugs within seven days, requires submittal of reports to the board for each seven-day period when a monitored prescription drug is not dispensed, and allows the board to issue waivers for certain dispensers. In addition, the rule requires the board to develop and maintain a database for all submitted data that will be confidential and not subject to inspection or copying under the state's open record laws except for specified groups.

Kentucky - The All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting (KASPER) program recently became the 21st state to join the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy's Prescription Monitoring Program InterConnect (PMP InterConnect)

NABP Releases Task Force Reports on Technology Systems and Prescription Drug Accountability

The National Association of State Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) recently released two reports from its Task Forces. The Task Force on Pharmacy Practice Technology Systems met November 1-2, 2011, and its members were charged with reviewing existing state laws and regulations addressing the use of technology systems and relevant Model State Pharmacy Act and Model Rules of

the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (Model Act) language. The task force was also charged with recommending any necessary revisions to the Model Act addressing the issue, and with proposing a mechanism for researching, advising state boards of pharmacy, and updating the Model Act on future innovations and changes in technology.

The Task Force on the Control and Accountability of Prescription Medications met October 26-27, 2011 and its members were charged with reviewing existing state laws and regulations addressing the control and accountability of prescription drugs. The task force was also charged with reviewing relevant sections of the Model Act, and with recommending revisions, if necessary, to the Model Act.

The two reports are found at NABP's website: [Task Force on Pharmacy Practice Technology Systems](#) and [Task Force on the Control and Accountability of Prescription Medications](#).

Enhancing PDMP - A Mid-Way Report

In October 2011, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) engaged the MITRE Corporation to launch a project to identify opportunities to use health information technology (IT) to increase and expand timely access to prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs). The objective is to make information available in real time, at the point of decision making, for provider practices, emergency department physicians, and dispensing pharmacies. The project will examine how information from PDMPs can be securely provided to the electronic record systems of prescribers and dispensers to minimize the impact on workflow. Both work groups and pilot studies will be used as part of this effort.

The work groups have been meeting for many weeks, working on issues ranging from data vocabulary and transport to legal considerations and business agreements. Over 90 participants have come together to develop recommendations for the health care community to better leverage PDMP data. The results of the work groups are expected to be available by June 2012.

At the same time, pilot planning is underway. Aggressive outreach continues to identify candidates for pilot demonstrations. The project is making modest funds available to PDMP programs, health IT vendors, organizations, and end-user participants (providers, ED clinicians, pharmacists). Ideal opportunities are those that can be piloted locally and applied globally. We are still seeking pilot project candidates who want to enhance the visibility and usage of PDMP data in end user settings. If you are interested in learning more about participating in a pilot please email pdmphit@mitre.org.

Oxycodone Purchases in Florida Show Steady Decline Due to New Laws, DEA Reports

Data released last month from the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) illustrates a 97% decrease in oxycodone purchases by doctors in Florida from 2010 to 2011, following the implementation of new state laws in 2011. DEA notes that in 2010 Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System (ARCOS) data showed that 90 of the top 100 oxycodone purchasing physicians in the nation were located in Florida, and that in 2011 only 13 physicians on that list were located in Florida. DEA attributes this drop to the enforcement of new Florida laws that "stripped doctors of their ability to dispense controlled substances, including opioid based pain relievers, at rogue pain clinics," as indicated in a DEA [news](#)

release.

DEA also indicates that there have been "notable increases in doctors purchasing oxycodone in Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky." DEA states further that as "a result of law enforcement efforts and new state law, the remaining pill mill doctors are turning to writing prescriptions to be filled at pharmacies for drugs they previously dispensed directly to the customer. These prescriptions are then filled at pharmacies." However, DEA explains that the dispensing of oxycodone at pharmacies in the state only increased during the first quarter of 2011 and has steadily decreased since the initiation of Operation Pill Nation, a large-scale prescription drug investigation in Florida.

We hope you have enjoyed our latest edition of NASCSA News. This electronic newsletter is sent periodically to update and inform members and other interested parties of matters that may be of interest. 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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