



National Association of State
Controlled Substances Authorities



NASCSA NEWS

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Farewell to Christina Morris

Christina Morris,
Director of the Kansas
Prescription Drug
Monitoring Program
and a member of
NASCSA's Board for
the past two years, has
recently left her position
and will be beginning a
new chapter in her
professional career as
Government and
Industry Strategist with
Cerner. We wish
Christina well in her
future endeavors.

Update on Mark Keeley

As many of you know,
Mark Keeley from the
Ohio Board of
Pharmacy and
NASCSA's current
President is currently
undergoing cancer

Save the Date for 29th Annual NASCSA Conference

This year's 29th Annual Conference of the National Association of State Controlled Substances Authorities (NASCSA) is now less than two months away so make your travel plans now. The conference will take place at The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri October 22-25, 2013. The hotel is in close proximity to shopping and restaurants. Please note that the program is slightly changed from the conference brochure. Updated program materials are found [here](#) and will be updated regularly as needed. In the meantime, below are a few logistics:

Registration - Please make sure to submit your conference registration via email, fax or mail as soon as possible. This allows us ample time to prepare conference name badges and plan for meals/seating during the conference.

Room Rates/Hotel Information - Online reservations can be made with the hotel [here](#) or by calling (888) 627-8538 (the rates are under the NASCSA room block). Room rates are \$99 per single/double occupancy for government employees (proper identification must be shown at check in). All others are \$129 per night. The deadline for reservations is October 4, 2013. We cannot guarantee rooms will be available after that time at the reduced room rate.

Ground Transportation - The hotel is approximately 35 miles from the International Airport. One way tax fares are approximately \$50 each way, however there is a super shuttle service available for \$31 round trip. Transportation information is found [here](#).

NASCSA is "Going Green." - For the first time ever, NASCSA is "going green". Responding to the high cost of printing and shipping of conference notebooks, a smaller version of the conference materials will be provided at the conference.

treatment at James Cancer Hospital at Ohio State University. We have been in close contact with Mark and his spirits are terrific and he sends his thanks and well wishes to his many friends and colleagues at NASCSA. Mark will be unable to attend this year's conference due to his ongoing medical treatment that will conclude later this fall, but fully expects to return shortly to his role as Chairman of the Executive Committee shortly thereafter. Mark can be reached at mkeeley@insight.rr.com and checks his email regularly.

Don't Forget to Renew Your Dues

As a small nonprofit organization, NASCSA relies on dues from its members to help support its operations and to continue to provide valuable services to our members.

Dues statements for this year (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014) should have been received. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the office. If you need to update any information, please make sure to complete the membership [application](#) to ensure we have updated contact information. Please note that in order for

Presentations will be available for attendees the week prior to the conference as well as during the conference. The program, attendee list, speaker list, bylaws, resolutions, etc... will still be available in hard-copy form. This new initiative is consistent with the direction of what many other organizations are doing. We will be surveying attendees following the conference to measure their level of satisfaction with this new practice and will make adjustments as needed.

Alliance of States With Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs - The Alliance will be meeting in conjunction with the NASCSA conference and will meet Oct. 21-22. A draft agenda is posted [here](#).

Travel Scholarship Winners Announced

This year saw an unprecedented number of applicants for one of six travel scholarships to attend this year's conference making it a difficult decision for the Membership Committee who was responsible for evaluating the applicants. The following states were selected and were approved by the Executive Committee: Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, North Dakota, Virginia and West Virginia. Three alternates were chosen in the event a representative from one of the selected states is unable to attend. The Executive Committee will be discussing continuation of these popular scholarships sometime early next year.

Proposed Bylaw Changes/Resolutions to Be Taken Up at Annual Conference

The Resolutions/Bylaws Committee has been hard at work updating NASCSA's bylaws and has posted proposed changes to the bylaws along with written summary of the changes. All members are encouraged to review the proposed bylaw changes in advance of the meeting. The proposed bylaws are found [here](#). The Committee has been working on a number of resolutions for discussion/voting at the conference. Among the topics to be presented included several honorary memberships, synthetic marijuana, and interoperability of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program data. Proposed resolutions will be disseminated electronically in September.

states to be eligible for full participation in the organization, including voting, running for office, travel scholarships and our Prescription Drug Monitoring Program grant program, dues must be paid in full.

SAMHSA Report Points to Increase in Stimulant Use

A new report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) shows that some drug-related emergency department visits increased by 300 percent -- from 5,605 visits in 2005 to 22,949 visits in 2011. These visits, made by adults aged 18 to 34, were related to the nonmedical use of central nervous system (CNS) stimulants. On average, about 30 percent of these visits also involved alcohol.

The report, entitled *Emergency Department Visits Involving Nonmedical Use of Central Nervous System Stimulants among Adults Aged 18 to 34 Increased between 2005 and 2011*, is based on findings from the 2005 to 2011 Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) reports. DAWN is a public health surveillance

From the States

Alabama - Alabama Governor Robert Bentley has signed into law three bills aimed to reverse the state's growing prescription drug abuse rate. In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified Alabama among the top 20 states in number of drug overdose deaths. Included in the package of bills, the prescription drug monitoring program bill ([HB 150](#)) clarifies language authorizing the Board of Medical Examiners to regulate the physician's use of the state's PMP. Physicians can now allow staff members to access the database on their behalf. The bill also allows the Medicaid Agency to access the database to check the controlled substance prescription medication history of patients enrolled in Medicaid. The pain management bill ([HB 151](#)) strengthens regulation of pain management clinics where drugs are prescribed for chronic, nonmalignant pain. Under the new law, pain management clinics must be registered with the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners, and must have a medical director who is a physician licensed in Alabama. The law also allows the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners to issue subpoenas while investigating clinics. The "doctor shopping bill" ([HB 152](#)) makes it a Class A misdemeanor to lie to doctors about similar prescriptions to get more drugs. Convictions are punishable with up to a year in jail; after four convictions, the offense becomes a Class C felony, which is punishable by a sentence of up to 10 years.

Kentucky - According to a state [report](#) released in late July, drug overdose deaths in the state of Kentucky decreased by 19 to 1,004. This is the first time the state has experienced a decline in a decade. In recent years, the state has implemented a number of program and policy initiatives, including prescription drug monitoring programs, and expanded substance abuse treatment programs. State officials report that these initiatives may account for the decline. However, officials also report that there has been a drastic resurgence in the use of heroin in both rural and urban areas, particularly in the state's southeastern counties; heroin-related overdose deaths increased by 550% from their 2011 levels. The most common drugs in fatal overdose cases were alprazolam (Xanax®), morphine, and the painkillers hydrocodone and oxycodone. Heroin was detected in nearly 20% of overdose victims' bodies, **Washington** - The Washington state Prescription

system that monitors drug-related hospital emergency department visits and drug-related deaths to track the impact of drug use, misuse, and abuse in the United States. The complete survey findings are available on the SAMHSA Web site [here](#).

NACDS Issues White Paper on Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs

The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) announced the availability of the white paper, "NCPDP Recommendations for Improving Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs." The document details an action plan to help standardize prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) to better track and deter abuse of prescriptions for controlled substances.

The report notes that the prescription monitoring process is not integrated into pharmacist and prescriber workflow, and does not support proactive intervention because it does not provide information in a timely manner, making it difficult for pharmacy and medical professionals to identify

Drug Monitoring Program is looking to hire a staff member. The job announcement is found [here](#).

Federation of State Medical Boards Updates Pain Policies

The Federation of State Medical Boards recently completed a comprehensive review of its longstanding Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for Pain.

First developed in 1998, and revised in 2004, the FSMB's model policy is intended as a resource for use by state medical boards in educating their licensees about cautious and responsible prescribing of controlled substances - while providing much-needed guidelines to help avoid the overtreatment or under-treatment of patients with pain.

Since their publication, the 1998 and 2004 Model Policies have been widely distributed and used by various stakeholders in the health care system, and have been endorsed by organizations such as the American Academy of Pain Medicine and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

During the years since the last revision of the Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for Pain, a considerable body of research and experience has accrued, providing new insights into the risks of opioid prescribing. While recognizing that still more research is needed, the FSMB has created a new model policy to better reflect current knowledge and practices in the use of opioids for pain management.

The new [Model Policy for the Use of Opioid Analgesics in the Treatment of Chronic Pain](#) supersedes the 2004 Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for Pain. The new policy provides guidelines to help ensure physicians who prescribe or use opioids do so in full compliance with state and federal regulations, accepted clinical practice, and in a manner that is safe and reduces risk. In addition to the Model Policy for the Use of Opioid Analgesics in the Treatment of Chronic Pain, the FSMB adopted a related policy in 2013 - the [Model Policy on DATA 2000 and Treatment of Opioid Addiction in the Medical Office](#).

Together, these policies provide important guidance for clinicians as the medical community continues to face the twin challenges of treating chronic pain while confronting the public health threat of opioid misuse,

potential drug abuse and diversion, evaluate patient safety risk and make appropriate clinical decisions before a prescription is written or dispensed. Providing timely clinical data will also ensure access for patients with a valid medical need for controlled substances to treat their medical conditions, according to the group.

State Regulatory Developments

Did you know that NASCSA publishes a monthly compilation of state regulatory actions related to pharmacy and controlled substances. State Regulatory Developments is located on the website [here](#).

Head of ONDCP To Leave Post

Gil Kerlikowske will leave his post as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and will become the new U.S. Commissioner of Customs. Kerlikowske previously had served nine years as the Chief of Police for Seattle.

abuse and addiction. Questions about the policies may be directed to Kelly Alfred at kalfred@fsmb.org or 817-868-5160.

We hope you enjoyed this latest edition of NASCSA News. We strongly encourage members and others to share information from their respective agencies for consideration for our newsletter. Please email KathyKeough@nascsa.org with your articles and ideas.

Sincerely,

Kathy Keough
Executive Director

Did You Know NASCSA is on Twitter?

If you have a Twitter account, please make sure to follow us @NASCSA. Our followers are growing by leaps and bounds so spread the word and stay connected!

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