

## **NASADAD Update: Association Attends Meetings Across the Country -- Recent Events and Presentations**

### **NASADAD Afforded Opportunities to Participate in Various Meetings and Conferences – Many Include Presentations on Role of NASADAD Members**

Over the past few months, NASADAD has been participating in meetings and conferences across the country – as a moderator, presenter, panelist, or attendee – promoting the work of State substance abuse agencies and the Association. Please find below an update on some of these opportunities along with supplemental information about the presentations and meetings.

### **NASADAD Attends Meeting on Children and Marijuana Policies – Former President Carter Addresses Group:**

On May 17, Robert Morrison, Executive Director attended a small meeting sponsored by National Families in Action to discuss issues related to marijuana and children. NASADAD members Cassandra Price (SSA-GA), Travis Fretwell and Chris Wood attended the meeting. In addition, Michael Langer (NPN-Washington State) participated. The group heard from Former President Jimmy Carter as he outlined policy issues related to addiction that he faced during his Administration and his concerns with current policies promoting the legalization of certain amounts of marijuana.



Cassandra Price, State substance abuse director from Georgia and NASADAD Board Member, with Former President Jimmy Carter in Atlanta.

**NASADAD Participates on Panel During the National TASC Conference in Columbus, Ohio:** On May 10, Robert Morrison served on a panel during the 19<sup>th</sup> National TASC Conference on Drugs, Crime and Reentry held in Columbus, Ohio. The panel was set up as a facilitated round-table discussion designed

to consider the two previous days of learning. In particular, the goal was to promote an interactive session with maximum audience participation.

In addition to NASADAD, the panel included:

- Pam Rodriguez, Illinois TASC, Moderator
- Ken Robertson, SAMHSA/Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)
- Alexa Eggleston, Council of State Government's (CSG) Justice Center
- Tisha Wiley, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- Phillip Nunes, President, International Community Corrections Association (ICCA)

To learn more about National TASC, please visit <http://www.nationaltasc.org/>.

**...NASADAD Spends Time with Orman Hall, Ohio State Substance Abuse Director and Tracy Plouck, State Mental Health Director:** Given that the TASC meeting was in Columbus, Robert Morrison met with NASADAD Board Member Orman Hall and Tracy Plouck, Director of Ohio's Department of Mental Health (DMH). The two agencies are consolidating and the new entity shall be operational on July 1, 2013. More news to come in the near future. Special thanks to Orman and Tracy for taking the time to meet and discuss issues impacting the membership in general, and Ohio in particular.

**NASADAD Presents on Public Health Impact of Marijuana Before National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Spring Forum in Denver, Colorado:** On May 3, Robert Morrison presented during the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Spring Forum on a panel regarding marijuana issues. Other panelists included

- David Blake, Colorado Department of Law, Office of the Attorney General
- Meg Sanders, Gaia Plant-based Medicine, Colorado
- Representative Curtis Oda, Utah (moderator)
- Michael Hely, New Mexico Legislative Council Service (moderator)

Rob Morrison offered an overview of NASADAD and the role State substance abuse agencies play in managing prevention, treatment and recovery systems. In addition, information was provided on the scope of the marijuana problem – including prevalence data; the number of admissions to treatment; the impact that heavy use has on health; the impact of marijuana use on youth in particular; and federal funding and programs that support effective substance abuse prevention and treatment programs – including the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant.

*To see NASADAD's presentation made during the NCSL meeting, please visit [Marijuana Regulation: Considerations from State Substance Abuse Agency Directors](#).*

David Blake focused his remarks on implementation of a State-wide ballot initiative known as Amendment 64 which allows for legal use of certain amounts marijuana for "recreational use." David

reviewed a number of unresolved issues – including those related to enforcement; labeling; residency requirements; lack of guidance from the Federal government; and more.

Meg Sanders discussed her role on issues related to medical marijuana.

NASADAD wishes to thank NCSL for the strong partnership over the years. We wish to also recognize specific NCSL staffmembers, including

- Karmen Hansen, Program Manager;
- Joy Johnson Wilson, Health Policy Director;
- Susan Parnas Frederick, Senior Federal Affairs Counsel; and
- Jennifer Arguinzoni, Policy Specialist

Special thanks to Michelle Dirst, NASADAD's Director of Public Policy, for the preparation work and outreach to NSCL on these and other important issues.

**...NASADAD Spends Time with Lisa Clements, Colorado's State Director:** Rob Morrison also held a meeting with Lisa Clements, State Director from Colorado. Dr. Clements presented earlier in the day to a large audience on issues related to mental illness and violence.

### **NASADAD Moderates Briefing on the Role of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant**

On Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, as part of the Advocacy Leadership Summit, the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC), the Treatment Communities of America (TCA), and the State Association of Addiction Services (SAAS) co-hosted a briefing on the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant titled "Ensuring Access to Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery: The Role of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment Block Grant Today and Beyond." Panelists included NASADAD Board member Gary Tennis (PA), TCA President and President of Center Point Inc. (CA) Dr. Sushma Taylor, and Executive Director of Odyssey House (LA) Edward Carlson. The panel was moderated by NASADAD Executive Director Rob Morrison.

Co-chair of the Congressional Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus, Congressman Tim Ryan (D-OH 13<sup>th</sup>), offered remarks at the beginning of the briefing. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, he mentioned his request to increase the SAPT Block grant in FY14. He also urged the audience to recognize the number of people impacted by addiction in every State and in every community, and the importance of helping those people and the addiction community have a policy voice that reflects the size of those that are impacted. Secretary Tennis discussed the substance abuse treatment gap and the importance role of the SAPT Block Grant. He cited the NASADAD "Three State Study" that examined Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts. The study demonstrated the continued importance of the SAPT Block Grant following State-level health reform to fill gaps in coverage, provide services to the remaining uninsured, and provide prevention and recovery services not covered by public or private insurance.

Dr. Taylor mentioned the high rate of return on investment from substance abuse treatment. Mr. Carlson went over the need for coverage of the full continuum of care, which the flexibility of the SAPT

Block Grant helps to fund. He also offered the provider perspective on the need for the SAPT Block Grant as health reform is implemented, and the prospect that many services in the continuum of care will not meet coverage requirements in Medicaid and private insurance.

Prior to the briefing, SAAS, NAADAC, and TCA presented an award to Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) who was not able to attend, and his staffer at the Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS/EDU Subcommittee, Lisa Bernhardt for their work on substance use disorder issues.

*To see the Three State Study, please visit*

<http://nasadad.org/resources/Final%20revisions%20HCR%20508%20compliant.pdf>.

**NASADAD Moderates Panel on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) at the National Council's Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada:** On April 8, Robert Morrison served as a moderator on a panel focusing on medication assisted treatment (MAT) held during the Annual Conference of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare. The panel also featured

- Jeb Bird, CRC Health Group Inc.;
- Chris Nichols, Loyola Recovery Foundation; and
- Jane Nickels, NA World Services

Rob reviewed with the audience the work of NASADAD on MAT – including the release of a Consensus Statement on MAT approved by the Board of Directors and initially drafted by leadership of the Association's National Treatment Network (NTN).

Overall, the National Council's conference included over 100 different sessions and presentations and Council staff estimated that over 4,000 people attended the meeting.

*To see the Consensus Statement on MAT, please visit <http://nasadad.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/13-January-15-NASADAD-Statement-on-MAT.pdf>.*

*To learn more about the National Council's meeting, please visit*

<http://www.thenationalcouncil.org/cs/conference2013>.

**NASADAD Presents on State Substance Abuse Agency Actions at the National Rx Drug Abuse Summit in Florida:** On April 2, Robert Morrison, Executive Director, served as a speaker on a panel held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Rx Drug Abuse Summit held in Orlando, Florida. This particular "Vision Session" also featured

- Fran Harding, Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA);
- General Arthur Dean, Chairman and CEO, Community Anti-Drug Communities of America (CADCA); and

- Thomas Hall, Director of Wellness Services, University of Central Florida (UCF).

The focus of the session was to highlight how federal, State and community level leaders are working together on issues related to the prevention of prescription drug abuse.

In 2012, Rick Harwood and Cliff Bersamira of NASADAD's Research and Program Applications Department developed an inquiry and completed a report describing State substance abuse agency activities related to prescription drug abuse and misuse.

For this panel presentation, Cliff Bersamira used the report and asked members to provide additional information on prevention-specific actions – including those States with CSAP's Partnerships for Success II (PFS-II) grants focusing on prescription drug abuse. This information was collected and included in a PowerPoint and shared with session attendees.

To see the slides NASADAD prepared for the National Rx Abuse session, please visit [Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and the States](http://www.nasadad.org) on NASADAD's Web Page (<http://www.nasadad.org>).

The larger Rx Abuse Summit included keynote presentations from a number of federal government and non-federal government leaders, including

- Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY), Chairman, House Appropriations Committee;
- Gil Kerlikowske, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP);
- Dr. Nora Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA);
- Dr. Tom Frieden, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);
- Dr. Margaret Hamburg, Food and Drug Administration (FDA);
- Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City; and many others.

*To learn more about the conference, please visit <http://nationalrxdrugabusesummit.org>.*

*To learn more about Rep. Hal Rogers, please visit <http://halrogers.house.gov>.*



Fran Harding, Director, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), addresses the National Rx Summit.

**Meetings in Coordination with Association of State and Territorial Health Officers:** NASADAD has been collaborating with ASTHO, led by Dr. Paul Jarris, on a number of issues of common concern.

- ***Prescription Drug Abuse/Misuse:*** As previously reported, NASADAD and ASTHO have been sharing information regarding prescription drug misuse and abuse. NASADAD joined ASTO representatives and others during meetings led by the National Safety Council in both Chicago (January 8) and Atlanta (March 13 and 14) on prescription drug abuse with a focus on overdose deaths. During the meeting in Atlanta, both Orman Hall (SSA-OH) and Cassandra Price (SSA-GA) made presentations regarding actions taking place in their respective States regarding this issue.

*To learn more about the National Safety Council, visit*

[http://www.nsc.org/safety\\_home/PrescriptionDrugOverdoses/Pages/Prescription-Drug-Overdoses.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/safety_home/PrescriptionDrugOverdoses/Pages/Prescription-Drug-Overdoses.aspx)

- ***National Prevention Strategy:*** Robert Morrison participated in a meeting hosted by the Surgeon General and ASTHO to discuss how the National Prevention Strategy is being utilized to promote advances in prevention programming and services. As you know, the Affordable Care Act required the development the National Prevention Strategy and the document was released June 16, 2011. Preventing drug abuse; preventing excessive alcohol use; and tobacco free living are core pillars of the Strategy.

To learn more, visit <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/initiatives/prevention/strategy/>



Robert Morrison with Surgeon General Regina Benjamin during a meeting discussing the National Prevention Strategy.