

THE ALLIANCE MONITOR_x

Regional Meetings

- **SOUTH Regional**
April 28-29, 2009
Birmingham, AL
- **WEST Regional**
May 5-6, 2009
Denver, CO
- **NORTH Regional**
June 9-10, 2009
Indianapolis, IN
- **EAST Regional**
June 2-3, 2009
Portland, ME

Regional Meetings Confirmed

The four regional committees worked through the winter to plan and develop their respective regional meetings. Their hard work and commitment has been successful.

The regional meetings will bring representatives from PDMP and Non-PDMP together to discuss a host of important and relevant issues concerning prescription monitoring programs.

Invitations have gone out to all 50 states and one US Territory. The response from the Alliance's members has been tremendous with the majority of states planning to attend. Several states are bringing additional PDMP staff with them.

Some of the issues to be discussed include performance measures and the latest information on interstate data sharing. The agenda also includes a group discussion about the accuracy of the information

being submitted to PDMPs and how states are addressing it.

Also an important agenda item at all four regional meetings will be a discussion on local or regional issues which states may have concerns about.

The meetings will also provide an opportunity to hear updates from states about their programs.

Regional updates will also be discussed at the National Conference in September.

Federal Allocation of \$2 Million Dollars for PDMPs

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A Federal Omnibus Spending bill signed by President Obama on March 11, 2009, appropriated \$2 million for the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act of 2005 (NASPER).

NASPER establishes a Department of Health and Human Services formula grant program for States to establish, implement, or improve a prescription monitoring program (PDMP). To be eligible, states and

territories must meet NASPER requirements including having enacted laws or regulations to permit implementation of a PMP and the imposition of appropriate penalties for the unauthorized use and disclosure of PMP information.

The Fiscal Year 2009 appropriation must be obligated by September 30, and must follow a Federal Register notice to solicit comments on minimum standards.

To meet these deadlines, it is conceivable that States would need to be in a position to submit grant applications no later than early to mid-July.

The Alliance is working with SAMHSA to provide states with the latest information on NASPER funding.

New Kids on the Block

Vermont is the latest state to implement a PMP. The Vermont Department of Health launched the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System (VPMS) on January 12, 2009.

The VPMS will provide timely and useful information to both licensed prescribers and pharmacists. It will also help health care providers identify patients who may need treatment for drug

abuse or addiction.

“The system will improve the ability of health care providers to treat patients by providing a more completed record of their treatment, especially for patients who may have more than one health care provider,” said Health Commissioner Wendy Davis, MD.

Only licensed practitioners and pharmacists, registered with DEA and VPMS, will have access to

patient information. Pharmacies are required to report their data at least every seven days.

“We recognize that prescription drug abuse is a significant problem, and we are hopeful this program is successful in reducing overdose deaths and diversion of prescription drugs”, said Maj. Tom L’Esperance, commander of the Criminal Division of the Vermont State Police.

For more information about the VPMS visit the Vermont Health Department website at: healthvermont.gov/adap/VPMS.aspx

BJA Hosts Meeting on Interstate Sharing in Washington, DC

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), in coordination with the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws (NAMSDL), hosted a one day meeting to discuss PMP interstate data sharing.

Groups represented at the meeting included BJA NAMSDL, IJIS, Brandeis University and the Alliance. The states represented at the meeting included Oklahoma, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maine, and Virginia.

Topics of discussion included: activities and functions of a HUB, states’ authentication processes, responsibilities of the HUB’s policy and technical administrators, the formation and responsibilities of a Governance Board, and the legal issues of data sharing and complying with federal (including HIPAA) and state confidentiality laws.

The participants also identified several basic components states may wish to include in a Memorandum of Understanding when they want to share data.

Coming out of this meeting will be action items which the Alliance, working with BJA, NAMSDL, and IJIS, will undertake to further the development and implementation of an interstate data sharing system.

Further discussion of this issue will be presented at the regional meetings.

Did You Know...

Our Alliance Contact list has been updated with the most current information about our members and stakeholders. Please let us know anytime your information changes.

Operational PDMPs: In 2001, there were 15 operational PDMPs and by 2008, this had increased to 32, a 213% increase!

Tufts Health Care Institute sponsored a two day “Conference on Prescription Monitoring Research Update”. The conference was held in Boston, MA on

April 2-3, 2009. Alliance members from three states (**MA, OH, and OK**) attended.

A policy brief “Balance, Uniformity and Fairness: Effective Strategies for Law Enforcement for Investigating and Prosecuting the Diversion of Prescription Pain Medications While Protecting Appropriate Medical Practice” was issued February, 2009. The brief is a collaboration of the Center for

Practical Bioethics, Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Association of Attorneys General. Electronic copies are available at www.PracticalBioethics.org.

Iowa’s PMP is operational! It officially “went live” with Internet access to prescription data on March 26, 2009.

Oklahoma's PMP – Building Alliances

By Don Vogt, Manager, Oklahoma's PMP

Oklahoma's Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) was the first state to require dispensers to electronically transmit prescription information to its Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP).

Early in 2008 OBN began planning for the next version of our PMP. For the first time Oklahoma was going to ask dispensers to report prescription information at the point of sale. This single idea would require a significant restructuring of OBN's assets and the reporting systems currently in existng. OBN decided to reach out to industry and an advisory committee was formed to plan and develop the new system. OBN needed to find out what obstacles industry would face, hear their concerns and suggestions, and ultimately build a system that was functional and practical.

Oklahoma's PMP staff identified a wide cross-section of participants to invite. They included representatives from the other PMP states, all the major retail pharmacy chains, independent pharmacies, software companies, regulatory boards, medical personal and their staff, Federal agencies, trade organizations and third party providers.

The size of the group was carefully constructed so that the advisory committee could stay focus and included everyone from clinic managers to corporate executives and government leaders.

Response from the various groups exceeded expectations and allowed OBN to interact with all of the stakeholders. OBN received praise from the entire industry, especially those regulated by the state as well as their support groups for reaching out to them for the first time.

Over the next year, the advisory committee meet about every 30 days, addressing and resolving issues on a variety of topics. During the meeting OBN came to understand the perspectives and road blocks pharmacies and software providers experience in reporting prescription data. In turn, the PMP industry learned why PMP's were designed and how critical they are to the medical professionals. That is not to say there were not contentious moments, especially when discussing formats, data delivery, and reporting time periods. Eventually, compromises were made on both sides as issues were discussed, clarified and eventually resolved.

The results of reaching out and building alliances cannot be understated. A direct line of communication is now open between the drug industry and Oklahoma's PMP at all levels. An ongoing working relationship has developed based on mutual respect and consideration where it did not exist before.

Oklahoma's PMP community has benefited

from this new alliance and by January 1, 2010 Oklahoma will begin receiving patient prescription data which will be no more than 24 hrs. old and by 2013 the data will be available the moment it is dispensed. Building this alliance was about listening, understanding and coming to a consensus. The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics will continue to foster this type of effort with all those involved in making our PMP successful.

"...Building this alliance was about listening, understanding and coming to a consensus...."

National PDMP Conference Scheduled

The Alliance and Brandeis University in cooperation with BJA are planning to host the 5th Annual PDMP Conference.

The conference has been scheduled for September 24-25 of 2009 at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The Alliance asks that you pencil in these dates. The conference promises to be very informative and will cover important PDMP issues.

Vice President **Katherine Ellis (CA)** chairs the conference committee which includes **Teresa**

Anderson (ID), Glen Kimura (HI), and Dave Hopkins (KY).



Alliance/Brandeis Providing Assistance

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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In the past several months, the Alliance/Brandeis Training and Technical Assistance Team has provided assistance to at least 18 members and affiliated organizations.

Requests included information on pharmacists' access to the

internet, costs to implement an online reporting system, and grant funding sources.

If you are looking for information, training, or assistance, feel free to contact us. We will provide you with the

information you need and even contact other states to provide nationwide information.

We can help with: evaluation, costs, laws, regulations, vendors, advisory groups, education, and more.



Alliance 2009 Contact List is posted at:
<http://www.nascsa.org/monitoring.htm>

ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER...



We hope you have enjoyed this second bi-monthly newsletter. Our intent is to provide our members and federal partners with the news and information important to PDMPs.

We very much want to hear from you and any suggestions you may have as to the information or reports you would like to see in the newsletter.

Our next newsletter will spotlight another existing or newly implemented PDMP.

Also, if your PDMP is doing something new or different, please let us know and we will include it in future issues.

The newsletter is a great place to share information and news about PDMPs and the people involved in their operations. Keep the Alliance community informed by submitting information to us. Contact any of the Executive Board members.

