



## NATIONAL SPRING CONFERENCE

March 15 – 17, 2008

*Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC*

### AGENDA

(3/7/08)

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 15

*(sessions are open to all participants unless otherwise noted)*

- 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM **APHSA Board of Directors Meeting**  
*(Capitol Room A)*
- 1:00 – 3:00 PM **Plenary Session—Election Outlook 2008**  
*(Ticonderoga/Yorktown/Valley Forge)*  
Experts share their views on the 2008 presidential and congressional elections and how the elections may change the face of federalism. The outcome of the elections is likely to significantly affect human services and the way governments serve the most vulnerable people in this country.  
**Richard Nathan**, Co-Director, Rockefeller Institute of Government  
**Ray Scheppach**, Executive Director, National Governors Association
- 3:00 – 3:30 PM **Networking Break—Meet and Greet Fellow APHSA Members**
- 3:30 – 5:30 PM **Legislative and Policy Update**  
*(open to state and local agency members only)*  
*(Ticonderoga/Yorktown/Valley Forge)*  
A shared discussion of legislative activity and prospects across all of APHSA's interest areas; Discussion will also cover important administrative developments, including certain recent federal regulations and auditing activities
- 6:30 PM **Policy Council Executive Committee Dinner Meeting**  
*(open to members of the Policy Council Executive Committee only)*  
*(Olympic)*

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 16

- 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM **Registration** *(Columbia Foyer)*
- 7:30 – 8:30 AM **Continental Breakfast** *(Regency Foyer)*
- 8:45 – 10:00 AM **Opening Plenary: Economic Volatility Issues**  
*(Regency A)*  
State and local agency directors will share their experiences in dealing with economic downturns, weakening housing markets, and declining state revenues in the face of growing human service needs. Panelists will discuss the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead as economic conditions continue to affect agencies' ability to effectively serve people in their communities.

**Robin Arnold-Williams**, Secretary, Washington Department of Social and Health Services

**Doug Howard**, Senior Vice President, Policy Studies, Inc.

**Elliott Robinson**, Director of Social Services, Monterey County Department of Social and Employment Services

**Carol Steckel**, Commissioner, Alabama Medicaid Agency

10:00 - 10:15 AM

**Break**

10:15 AM - NOON

**Breakout Sessions (Round 1)**

**Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data: Technical Assistance Session  
(open to all NAPCWA and APHSA registrants)**

*(Columbia B)*

In keeping with the conference theme of shared responsibility, the session will provide an in-depth look into how the web tool is used to create longitudinal reports and linkages, provide advanced outcome measurement reports for broad-level analysis, and support proven theory about the need for a central repository of states' data for more comprehensive, collective and integrated information management.

**Christina Crayton**, Program Analyst, APHSA

**Britany Orlebeke**, Senior Researcher, Chapin Hall Center for Children

**Fred Wulczyn**, Director, Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data/  
Research Fellow, Chapin Hall Center for Children

**Influencing the Next Generation of Self-Sufficiency Demonstration Projects**

*(Columbia A)*

In this round-table session, participants will be given an opportunity to provide state input for a path-breaking self-sufficiency demonstration project funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services— Innovative Strategies for Increasing Self-sufficiency (ISIS). This unique project was designed to gather contributions from state TANF administrators and other stakeholders prior to framing the actual fields of research and selecting the populations and programs of study. By including practitioners and policymakers in its design, researchers hope to increase the likelihood that the results will be relevant to programs in the field. Everyone is welcome, and TANF administrators and staff are especially encouraged to attend this important session and express their thoughts about the most needed areas/populations/programs of research.

**System Transformation: The Role of a Training System**

*(Yorktown)*

Organizations must look beyond the “traditional classroom” when developing their training systems if the desired outcome is to support practice improvement. Traditional classroom training can provide knowledge for competency development or for highly routine or procedural tasks; however, the agency must also be operating effectively to support the use of new knowledge that leads to practice improvement. See how one state uses a continuous improvement model, within the training program and with child welfare agencies, to promote organizational effectiveness. Panel members will discuss how the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program utilized APHSA OE models to transform their training system from the traditional training focused on competency development of front-line staff to a training system that focuses on organizational effectiveness through training, transfer of learning and technical assistance. The challenges faced and solutions implemented will be shared as well as what steps will be taken next.

**Cathy Utz**, Bureau Director, Office of Children, Youth and Families, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

**Kathy Jones Kelley**, Organizational Effectiveness Consultant, APHSA

NOON - 1:30 PM

***Lunch on Your Own***

12:00 - 1:30 PM

**State CEO and APHSA Board of Directors Luncheon  
(open to CEOs and the APHSA Board of Directors only)  
(Concord/Lexington)**

NOON - 4:00 PM

**Local Agency Session and Meeting of the National Council of Local Human Service Administrators  
(Valley Forge)**

All local administrators and staff are invited to a light working lunch and to participate in a full-afternoon session, including continuing discussion about how local agencies can best work with APHSA in supporting policy initiatives and sharing best practices, including using online communication and virtual “calls to action;” a facilitated lively session, “Effective Supervision: Turning the Key to Organizational Performance;” and brief presentations on two exciting child welfare initiatives: Positioning Public Child Welfare: Strengthening Families in the 21st Century and the Center for State Foster Care and Adoption Data.

**Elliott Robinson**, Chair (Monterey County, California)

**Phil Basso**, Director, Organizational Effectiveness Department, APHSA

**Christina Crayton**, Program Analyst, APHSA

**Melissa Kanaya**, Senior Program Associate, APHSA

**Anita Light**, Director, Children and Family Services Department, APHSA

1:30 - 3:15 PM

**Breakout Sessions (Round 2)**

**Child and Family Services: Medicaid and Mental Health Services for Children  
(Regency A)**

The session will examine how states have been able to leverage Medicaid to provide critical mental health services to children. Speakers will also explore the potential impact that recent federal regulations may have on the ability of states to serve children, drawing parallels to challenges states are facing in other areas of services to children.

**Moderator: Ken Deibert**, Arizona Deputy Director of Department of Economic Security, Division of Children

**Andrea Maresca**, Senior Legislative Associate, National Governors Association

**Ann Kohler**, Deputy Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Human Services

**Sheila Pires**, Partner, Human Services Collaborative

**Bruce Kamradt**, Director, Wraparound Milwaukee

**Deb Huskins**, Director, Hennepin County Child Welfare

**Operations and Administration—Part 1**

*(Columbia B)*

The Operations and Administration session provides deputy commissioners, program administrators, and others with an overview of priority issues affecting state budgets and operations. The agenda focuses on current operations issues and updates, including the cross-program impact of legislation and policy; state eligibility redesign efforts; federal audits and sanctions; compliance issues; improper payment issues; and other issues requiring state awareness of federal mandates, timetables and consequences. The agenda will feature a panel of state administrators who will report on call centers they have put into operation recently, and compare the various models used to implement them. The session will also review several major cross-cutting regulatory actions, particularly the TCM and Departmental Appeals Board regulations. Also planned is a discussion of the 2010 census and its recruitment of public assistance recipients as census employees. The session will cover updates on improper payments initiatives in Medicaid, TANF, child care, and food stamps, including current issues in PERM implementation; GAO reports and studies; eligibility redesign updates; and

automated system concerns. The committee will hear from state administrators, APHSA staff, and federal agency staff.

### **Child Support**

*(Yorktown)*

The session will provide an overview of recent developments in the Child Support Program, particularly current efforts to secure legislation that will repeal the Deficit Reduction Act's prohibition against using child support incentive funds to match federal funds. A panel of program experts will share their perspectives and take questions.

2:00 - 5:00 PM

### **Meeting of National Council of State Human Service Administrators**

*(open to state CEOs only)*

*(Congressional A)*

The session will identify priority policy issues for APHSA.

3:15 - 3:30 PM

### **Break**

3:30 - 5:00 PM

### **Breakout Sessions (Round 3)**

#### **Child and Family Services: How to Work Effectively with Your Congressional Representatives *(open to state and local agency members only)***

*(Regency A)*

Enhance your understanding of how to contact and communicate effectively with federal representatives, both here in Washington and in your home district. This session will offer tips on educating and lobbying members of Congress and their staff about child welfare issues. Panelists will include congressional staff and NAPCWA members. The session will be open only to state and local human service administrators. Following the formal session, there will be time allocated for an open forum for questions and answers regarding child welfare.

**Moderator: James W. Payne**, Director, Indiana Department of Child Services

**Ken Deibert**, Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Children

**Crystal Ward-Allen**, Executive Director, Public Children Services Association of Ohio

**Barbara Pryor**, Legislative Assistant to Senator John Rockefeller IV

**Matt Salo**, Director, Human Services Committee, National Governors Association

#### **Transforming Health Information Technology**

*(Yorktown)*

The session will examine how states are using new information technology strategies to improve the operation and effectiveness of state Medicaid programs. States will share how Transformation Grants are being used as a catalyst to change, as well as how Medicaid programs are collaborating with other health and human service programs in the use of advanced information technology.

**Jessica Kahn**, Transformation Grant Project Officer, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**Patricia MacTaggart**, Lead Research Scientist, George Washington University

**Anthony Rodgers**, Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

**Carol Steckel**, Commissioner, Alabama Medicaid Agency

#### **Establishing an Executable Strategy**

*(Columbia A)*

The term "strategic plan" can send shivers down the spine. Rarely does an APHSA Council Meeting pass without members swapping campfire tales of days, weeks, months spent in toil, only to see resulting plans languish on dusty shelves.

It doesn't have to be that way. Strategic "play books" can be "living, breathing" documents that guide day-to-day work throughout an organization and remain relevant over the course of years. Join us and your peers for a discussion of how you can make strategy "sing" in your agency and walk away with a tool that can help you get from "here" to "there."

### **Operations and Administration—Part 2**

*(Columbia B)*

This session is a continuation of Part 1, covering priority issues that affect state budgets and operations. Part 2 will concentrate on updates on federal efforts to impose payment error rates in various programs, including TANF and child care.

6:00 – 7:30 PM

**Welcome Reception (*open to all APHSA and NAPCWA participants*)**

*(Ticonderoga/Yorktown)*

## **MONDAY, MARCH 17**

7:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Registration** *(Ticonderoga Wall)*

7:30 – 8:30 AM

**Continental Breakfast** *(Hall of Battles)*

8:45 – 10:00 AM

**Plenary Session: Critical Issues Facing Children and Youth**

*(Regency A)*

### **2007 “For Keeps: Families for All Virginia Teens” Initiative**

The First Lady’s initiative was created to identify and develop ways to find and strengthen permanent families for older children who are in foster care, or who might be at risk for coming into foster care.

**Anne Holton**, Virginia First Lady and Founder of 2007 “For Keeps: Families for All Virginia Teens” Initiative

### **The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy**

Teen and unplanned pregnancy is closely linked to a number of other critical issues, including overall child and family well-being. Simply put, if more children in this country were born to parents who are ready and able to care for them, we would see a significant reduction in a host of social problems in the United States, from school failure and crime to child abuse and neglect.

**Andrea Kane**, Senior Director of Policy and Partnerships, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

10:00 – 10:15 AM

**Break**

10:15 AM – NOON

**Breakout Sessions (Round 4)**

### **Food Stamp Program—Part 1**

*(Regency A)*

The Food Stamp Program session is directed toward state and local program administrators who need a detailed overview of FSP legislative, regulatory and administrative developments. The session will begin by reviewing the status of and outlook for program reauthorization as part of the farm bill. Speakers will review the likely outcome of final legislation; implications of new provisions for state administration of the program; and implementation dates and impact. Speakers will include a panel of federal policymakers and other program stakeholders. Topics of special focus will include benefit improvements; a new program name; food choice issues; administrative funding and expenditures; and changes in penalties and state administrative restrictions, including the proposal currently in the House bill to require merit system employees to perform nearly all FSP functions and the consequences for state operations.

The session will also report on the status of possible FSP benefit increases as part of an economic stimulus package. The session will also review other FSP issues and updates, including error rates; recent regulatory and administrative issues; and outreach. FNS officials and other speakers will address these issues.

### **Disaster Preparations**

*(Concord)*

From long-term pandemic flu preparations to immediate emergency responses to natural disasters, disaster planning has become an integral part of human service programming. The panel will examine successful collaborations between human service agencies and emergency response systems, effective documentation and training protocols, and funding resources available to support disaster planning.

**Stan Rosenstein**, Chief Deputy Director, Health Care Programs, California Department of Health Care Services

**Linda Smith**, Executive Director, National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

**Ashley Musselman**, Manager, Federal Public Policy and Advocacy, Save the Children

**Nanette Poston DeFoe**, Assistant Program Director, Office of Family Support, Louisiana Department of Social Services

### **Congressional Update on Health Policy**

*(Columbia B)*

The session will review activities on Capitol Hill. Will congressional leaders intervene in new federal regulations that limit the use of Medicaid for vulnerable populations? Will long-term care reform efforts begin in earnest? What is the prognosis for universal health care coverage? The session will cover these questions and more.

**Moderator: David Parrella**, Chair, NASMD Executive Committee, and Member, APHSA Board of Directors

**Jocelyn Moore**, Legislative Assistant to Senator John Rockefeller IV (D-W.Va.)

**Rodney Whitlock**, Health Policy Advisor, U.S. Senate Finance Committee

**Brandon Clark**, Professional Staff Member, U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee

**Andy Schneider**, Chief Health Council, U.S. House of Representatives Oversight and Government Reform Committee

**Bridgett Taylor**, Chief Health Finance Advisor, U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee

### **TANF Final Rules—Implementing the Changes**

*(Open to state and local agency members only)*

**NOTE: THIS SESSION WILL RUN FROM 10:15 AM TO 12:30 PM**

*(Columbia A)*

The National Association of State TANF Administrators (NASTA) will gather for a dialogue on changes made in the TANF final rule and how they will affect state program administration and work participation rates. We will also discuss and explore programmatic and internal control strategies states are implementing. Officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families will join the latter part of the session to answer states' questions and assist with implementation strategies.

**Linda Lawson**, Senior Legislative Associate, APHSA

**Charr Lee Metsker**, NASTA Executive Committee and Deputy Director, Welfare to Work Division, California Department of Social Services

**Paul Lefkowitz**, NASTA Vice Chair and Director, Tennessee Families First Program

**Sidonie Squier**, Director, Office of Family Assistance, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Russell Sykes**, NASTA Chair and Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment and Economic Supports, New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

NOON - 1:30 PM

***Lunch on Your Own***

1:30 - 3:00 PM

**Breakout Sessions (Round 5)**

**Food Stamp Program—Part 2 (Regency A)**

This session is a continuation of Part 1, offering an overview of FSP legislative, regulatory, and administrative developments. Part 2 will concentrate on recent state administrative innovations and on administrative updates from FNS.

**Managing Medicaid in a Tough Economy**

***(open to state and local agency members only)*** (Columbia A)

The session will examine the unique challenges that states face regarding Medicaid during difficult financial times for state budgets. State human service administrators will hear from other state leaders about measures they have taken that have proven successful and some that have come back to haunt them. What are the programs that states can scale back on during tough times? What are the programs that shouldn't be touched? This session will attempt to address some of the most difficult questions for the Medicaid program.

**Moderator: Barbara Edwards**, Interim Director, National Association of State Medicaid Directors

**Paul Reinhart**, Medicaid Director/Senior Deputy Director, Medical Services Administration, Michigan Department of Community Health

**Carol Steckel**, Commissioner, Alabama Medicaid Agency

**Stan Rosenstein**, Chief Deputy Director of Health Care Programs, California Department of Health Care Services

**Positioning Public Child Welfare Initiative—Setting Standards for the Field**

***(Yellowstone/Everglades)***

A discussion of a new joint initiative undertaken by APHSA, under the auspices of its affiliate, the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators, and Casey Family Programs, to examine how to strengthen public child welfare as a recognized field. The goals include being able to speak with one voice about its purpose and role in improving outcomes; the principles and standards that should guide its work and its professionals; and the ways in which the field evaluates itself and continuously innovates.

**Fostering Economic Independence through Housing Supports (Concord)**

Across the nation, state governments face the challenge of ensuring that services foster independence and offer the hope of cost savings through effective management of state programs and resources. Access to human services linked with affordable, stable housing can provide comprehensive improvements in the lives of vulnerable populations. Recent studies indicate that stable housing can enhance the overall health of adults, children and elders. In addition, holistic planning and linkages between affordable housing and human services can create stronger communities and meet state goals of fostering independence and achieving cost savings. The panel will discuss trends in affordable housing that foster economic independence; strategies for housing with supports to address needs of multiple populations such as low-income families, as well as long-term care populations; and a strategic vision coordinating services and housing.

**Moderator: Candace Baldwin**, Senior Policy Advisor, NCB Capital Impact

**Jeffrey Lubell**, Executive Director, Center for Housing Policy

**Jim Gray**, Director, Together We Can, NCB Capital Impact

**Carla Pope**, Director, Affordable Rental Production, Iowa Finance Authority

1:30 - 5:00 PM

**Congressional Visits**

The Spring Conference has been structured to allow time for participants to visit Capitol Hill and engage in congressional work on Monday afternoon. Whether paying a courtesy call to your delegation or making a targeted legislative visit, nothing takes the place of your presence on the Hill. APHSA has organized several visits on critical issues pending in Congress at this time. APHSA staff will also be glad to work with you or your staff to facilitate your own visits. Conference packets will provide written information about APHSA's legislative priorities. Preliminary plans for organized visits include the following:

**Food Stamp Program**—*Staff contact: Larry Goolsby*

**Child Welfare**—*Staff contacts: Rachel Demma and Jody Grutza*

**TANF**—*Staff contact: Linda Lawson*

**SSBG**—*Staff contact: Linda Lawson*

**Medicaid/SCHIP**—*Staff contact: Beth Powell*