

NASCSP Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday June 11, 2020

Thursday June 11, 2020 | 2:00- 3:58 (EST)

Via Webinar

Attendees Present: Willie Fobbs, Beverly Buchanan, Melanie Sanford, Matt Fitzgerald, Bruce Hagen, Ditzah Wooden-Wade, Bill Brand, Mark Adams, Stuart Campbell, Brad Carpenter, Gayla Delgado, Karen Dunn, Robert Garber, Ryan Harry, Jeff Heino, Gwen Howe, Josh Larose, Shawna Pena, Amanda Rains, Laura Saintey, Rhoda Talley, Leslie Taylor, Trent Williams, Shelly Woda

NASCSP Staff Present: Jenae Bjelland, Amy Klusmeier, Katy Kujawski, Eric Behna, Andrea Schroer, Maribeth Schneber-Rhemrev, Hugh Poole

Absent: Britt Pomush

Called to order 2:00--Willie Fobbs

- **Welcome/Roll Call – Willie Fobbs**
- **Executive Director's Update – Jenae Bjelland**

Current Affairs—Racial Equality:

- ✓ What is NASCSP's role? Support and affirm the statement made by the Community Action Partnership. A statement has not been issued because it is not the intention to send something informative, rather, issue a statement that includes action steps. What are the next steps? Options include a webinar with CAP, have CAPLAW present their equality and engagement session at the conference or through a series of webinars (racial equality, what CSBG/WAP funds can or cannot do), create a workgroup, etc.
 - Willie: As state employees, what can we do? Support the partnership? Have an independent voice?
 - Bill: Particularly with the CSBG portion of our work, it is important to act. It is important to stay true to the roots of Community Action. To pull a group together soon would be helpful.
 - Josh: You cannot have social and economic justice without advocating for racial justice at the same time and we should be bold.
 - Stuart: HUD created tools to promote racial equities, can NASCSP do something similar? State employees may be limited with what they can do, but NASCSP isn't.
 - Leslie: Has opened this up for discussion with her staff and encourages active engagement. Any statement that comes out must have an action that results in a solution.
 - Jenae will take volunteers from the board to work on a statement and ensure it is tied to the strategic plan.

Legislative Update

- ✓ NASCSP submitted FY 2021 Appropriations testimony this spring for both CSBG and WAP to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Please provide any success stories that can be shared to help move this forward.
- ✓ NASCSP continues to monitor COVID related legislative efforts that impact CSBG and WAP.
- ✓ NASCSP continues to participate in coalition calls/meetings and build relationships to help achieve legislative goals.



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- ✓ NASCSP is researching securing a lawyer for the association as well as states to assist with future legislative work as well as provide support interpreting federal regulations. Someone with a combination of advocacy/law/Community Action is needed.
- ✓ It has been discussed with the National Governor's Association on what happens when CSBG and Weatherization offices at the state level are split. It has been observed that the relationship between the two is severed when this happens.

National Partner Update

- ✓ NASCSP continues to work with our National Partners to further the work in our Strategic Plan.
 - Weekly National Partner Town Hall calls during COVID 19.
 - Work with NEADA and NEUAC, follow up on EPC.
 - Continued work on WAP issues with CAP, NASEO, the EE work group and the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition.
 - Reengaged work with National Governor's Association.

Staffing Update:

- ✓ Khari Grant will start June 16 as the Program Support Associate.
- ✓ Eric is leaving July 2 to pursue his master's degree and will transition to a role as a contractor through September 30.

○ **General Announcements – Willie Fobbs**

- ✓ 2020 NASCSP Annual Conference will be virtual. Calls for presentations has gone out.
- ✓ The activities in our bylaws that are scheduled to take place at the Annual Conference that will need to be reformatted to a virtual setting or be taken into consideration for bylaw amendments are:
 - Annual Business Meeting.
 - Elections for Executive Committee and CSBG Rep and Alts.
- ✓ 2021 NASCSP Winter Conference: Currently contracted with the Marriott Gateway (same as the 2020 conference) and will need to make the decision to move forward or not soon.
- ✓ Conferences are very important to NASCSP, particularly for the funding.
 - Registration for the virtual conference is important and is currently being explored.
 - Full board support is essential. If any board members are able to provide trainings or sessions, please reach out.

○ **Program Updates – Ditzah Wooden-Wade, Bruce Hagen**

CSBG – Ditzah Wooden-Wade

- ✓ COVID-19
 - NASCSP has worked diligently to develop tools & resources, provide relevant training and support, and work with OCS to meet the needs of the network.
 - CSBG received a \$1 billion supplemental appropriation via the CARES Act to respond to the impacts of COVID-19.
 - OCS implementation of CARES has been challenging.
 - Guidance and information from OCS have been limited and untimely.
 - OCS released award letters with incorrect dates; states still do not have corrected award letters.



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- States are now in the thick of getting funds out to local entities. States have been creative and responsive to get funds to the local levels as quickly as possible, finding innovative ways to work through administrative requirements and maintain accountability.
 - NASCSP expects to receive supplemental funding to support states. OCS requested NASCSP to provide detail of what sorts of supports it would provide with supplemental funding. No amount or timeline has been shared yet for these funds.
 - NASCSP met with OCS & national partners 3x to review network needs and coordinate response to COVID-19.
- ✓ Performance Management Technical Assistance Funding Opportunity
- This funding opportunity is the most recent iteration of the current grant.
 - The work in this opportunity is an extension of current Annual Report work, and expansion of focus to include state management technical assistance.
 - \$750 million over 3 years- this is a reduction of \$150k a year.
 - Sign the Letter of Support sent to you and return to Hugh (hpoole@NASCSP.org).
- ✓ CSBG Annual Report
- OCS has pushed back the deadline (again) to July 17, 2020. This is to report 2019 data. This is creating new challenges for administrators, as they will now be submitting the AR in a remote environment and collecting data from agencies in the midst of CARES funding roll out, COVID-19 response, as well as preparing the state plan. This delay is further stretching states.
 - NASCSP has worked to advocate for states and support states through finalizing 2018 data and preparing to submit 2019 data. NASCSP has fully supported states through this very challenging and complex time.
 - The AR received OMB Clearance February 28th—There are changes in the module where states report their activities. These changes will take effect next year.
- ✓ OCS/NASCSP Partnership
- Board met with OCS at the winter conference & in May to strengthen partnership & encourage more frequent communication and coordination with NASCSP. OCS has agreed to meet with the board on an as-needed basis.
- ✓ Conference
- Successful winter conference! Thank you to the CSBG Conference Planning Committee who made our CSBG track relevant and timely for our state members.
 - Planning underway for fall virtual conference.

WAP – Bruce Hagen

- ✓ The annual funding report was published in early May and shows funding for WAP continues to increase, with a total of \$1.1 B available to the network in 2018. The largest share of this funding is LIHEAP, followed by Other non-federal funds (state and utility dollars, primarily) and DOE comprising 22% of the total. For the 2019 report NASCSP will be expanding the data collection for this project to include information about TTA allocations and workforce development.



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- ✓ DOE WAP continues to struggle to fill vacant positions. The most recent hire for three project officer positions only resulted in one accepted offer. This is expected to be re-posted but we're seeing more delays in that process. Application period closed for the supervisory position (Erica's old position) but no word on if/when the hiring process will move forward, or when they will refill Josh Olsen's old position which has been vacant for years. Despite these challenges DOE has done a good job of moving plans through the approval process – as of 5/19 all April 1 states had their 2020 awards, and 4 July 1 states had approved awards.
- ✓ NASCSP WAP staff responded to the COVID crisis with resources that set the stage for DOE FAQs and provided the basis for many states to begin modifying H&S plans and going back to work. We continue to update our COVID resources webpage and inform the guidance being developed by DOE.
- ✓ The first meeting of the Workforce Development working group was held May 27. This working group was formed based on feedback from the network during Member Planning and Action sessions and our February Board Meeting. Nine states are participating and there is general agreement that a wage study or survey is needed, but that barriers in addition to wages need to be explored also. We look forward to exploring these barriers and creating resources that will aid in recruitment and retention of WAP workers.
- **Ad Hoc Committee Updates**
 - ✓ Additional Members will be solicited in the coming weeks. Participation is not limited to board members, any NASCSP member can join.
 - Legislative - has reached out and added additional members.
 - Election – will be reaching out soon to add additional members.
- **Adjourn**
 - ✓ Motion: Beverly Buchanan, Second: Ditzah Wooden-Wade. Unanimous Voice vote.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 2020 and will be virtual.

Adjourned at 3:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Melanie Sanford
NASCSP Board Secretary