



HIV and Viral Hepatitis Policy Watch

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The *Policy Watch* provides timely updates and resources on Hill and Administration activities impacting HIV and viral hepatitis programs. Please go to NASTAD's website at www.NASTAD.org for more information.

SPECIAL ISSUE - NATIONAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY UPDATE

Even before the [National HIV/AIDS Strategy](#) (NHAS) was released, NASTAD weighed-in heavily, communicating with the Obama Administration around key recommendations that underscore the central role of state health departments in the nation's response to HIV/AIDS. NASTAD continues its leadership role, advocating on behalf of the diversity of states in implementation. Additionally, NASTAD is in regular communication with the White House [Office of National AIDS Policy](#) (ONAP), the Department of Health and Human Services and members around critical NHAS issues for consideration during the implementation phase. An updated NHAS presentation with a comprehensive timeline of priority NASTAD activities and federal agency updates during year-one of NHAS implementation can be found [here](#). This Policy Watch provides an update of Summer/Fall 2011 NHAS activities.

Recent Consultations and Meetings:

- *Priority Uses of Potential New Resources Consultation* – On June 21, 2011, HHS convened a partners meeting about the potential uses of NHAS implementation funds which may become available to the Office of the Secretary, HHS in FY2012. The President's FY2012 budget requests authority for the Secretary of HHS to transfer one (1) percent of HIV/AIDS program funding to support innovative, cross-agency collaboration. The consultation provided an opportunity to share perspectives on how best to use these funds, in the event that Congress approves the President's proposal in the FY2012 appropriations process. Please note that no language was included in the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill allowing the one percent transfer. It remains to be seen whether Congress will support this effort in the FY2012 budget process. NASTAD's Deputy Executive Director, Murray Penner, provided [recommendations](#), specifically around the NHAS goal of reducing new infections. A blog post on the subject by

Ron Valdiserri, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Infectious Diseases, HHS can be found [here](#).

- *Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Consultation* – On July 25-26, 2011, HHS convened a consultation to promote a central NHAS imperative to “affirm support for people living with HIV” and “promote public leadership of people living with HIV” through a dialogue between federal officials and leaders in the PLWHA community. The objective was to frame outcomes and expectations around the role of PLWHAs in the implementation of the NHAS in a way that is iterative and proves beneficial to the PLWHA community, the White House and the implementing agencies charged with achieving the goals of the NHAS. A blog post on the subject by Ron Valdiserri can be found [here](#).
- *Workshop on Modeling and Evidence-Based Decision Making* – On July 14–15, 2011, The Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) convened state and city public health department staff and researchers (all whom had worked together for year one of CDC’s ECHPP initiative) to develop models to best inform the direction of local HIV prevention programming. The event was co-sponsored by NASTAD, the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) and the Urban Coalition for HIV/ AIDS Prevention Services (UCHAPS). At the workshop, the pairs of health department and researchers presented to a larger audience including all the ECHPP/12 cities grantees, representatives from ONAP, HHS, CDC, and NIH as well as a cadre of other state health department representatives and community advocates. The subsequent discussion focused on technology transfer of modeling for HIV prevention activities, as well as mechanisms to more broadly disseminate the models and lessons-learned.
- *National HIV/AIDS Conference Opening Session – Panel 2: Implementing the NHAS- From Strategy to Impact-* On August 14, 2011 NASTAD’s Executive Director, Julie Scofield, participated in a panel discussion on NHAS implementation along with Jeffrey Crowley from the Office of National AIDS Policy, David Vos from the Office of HIV/ AIDS Housing at HUD and Dazon Dixon Diallo of SisterLove. Julie’s remarks can be found [here](#).
- *National HIV/AIDS Strategy Indicators Consultation* – On September 19, 2011 HHS convened a consultation with health department, community and national representation on both HIV core indicators for measuring progress towards the NHAS, data streamlining and federal reporting requirements. Prior to the consultation, through input from an inter-agency work group, five core indicators for HIV prevention, treatment and care services had been proposed for discussion. These include monitoring HIV testing, new infections, late HIV diagnosis, linkage to care, retention in care and viral suppression. Currently there is no consistency across the federal agencies as to how each of these areas is

measured or monitored. HHS plans to make final recommendations on the indicators as well as steps to streamline data and reporting requirements before the end of 2011. A presentation by Andrew D. Forsyth in the HHS Office of HIV/AIDS Policy can be found [here](#).

The White House Office of National AIDS Policy is conducting a series of regional dialogues on NHAS implementation. These five dialogues will focus on the following topics:

- ***Incorporating Prevention and Care Research Into HIV Programs:*** Birmingham, Alabama – September 27, 2011;
- ***Building Capacity within the HIV Workforce so that it Delivers What We Need Today and Tomorrow:*** Seattle, Washington – October 4, 2011;
- ***Sustaining the Community-Based Response to HIV:*** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – October 20, 2011;
- ***Fostering Collaboration Between all Public and Private Stakeholders at the State and Local Level:*** Baton Rouge, Louisiana (date not yet released), and;
- ***Maximizing Impact in Low-Prevalence Jurisdictions:*** Des Moines, Iowa (date not yet released).

Looking Ahead: 2012 and Beyond NASTAD Will Continue to:

- Work with HHS and partners to determine common metrics/indicators in measuring success of the NHAS.
- Monitor the impact of the CDC FOA, as state health departments begin implementation in January 2012.
- Reiterate the NHAS' call to achieve a more coordinated response, particularly around federal reporting requirements.
- Advocate for the protection of current funding and increases in resources (prevention and care and treatment) to carry out the goals of the NHAS.

NASTAD intends to continue its strong participation in NHAS implementation discussions and activities. We will further support ongoing and frequent communication with and from members in terms of key issues for consideration. For more information on NASTAD's NHAS response, please contact [Julie Scofield](#), [Terrance Moore](#) or [Natalie Cramer](#).