

HSFO *News*

NASHSFO Fall Planning Meeting

December 10-14, 2005

Charlotte, N.C.

Business Meeting

Monday, December 12, 2005

Mr. James Fredyma of New Hampshire and president of the Association called the meeting to order. In his opening remarks, Mr. Fredyma welcomed all



attendees and expressed appreciation to Mr. Allyn Guffey and the state of North Carolina for hosting the planning conference on short notice due to the hurricane situation. Mr. Fredyma also thanked Mr. Stan Mead and Mr. Jeff Roberts of Louisiana for their work in anticipation of the meeting and rescheduling the planning meeting to December 2006. Mr. Fredyma reviewed the conference agenda, made announcements, then called for committee reports.

Historian Report. Mr. Rick Brennan of West Virginia reported that the National Association of State Human Services Finance Officers (HSFO) held its

58th Annual Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia in the Crowne Plaza at Ft. Magruder from July 30 to August 5, 2005 with President Harry Roberts of Delaware presiding.

The meeting was hosted by the State of Virginia with a total of 268 attendees. The attendees consisted of 102 member registrants, 49 nonmember registrants, 22 speakers, 22 staff from the state of Virginia, 48 guests and 34 youth. The arrangements committee held a President's Reception on July 31st at the National Maritime Center at Norfolk, Virginia. All events were very successful and thoroughly enjoyed by

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Time to Go to Tennessee!

Conference Program Overview
by Dick Humiston (Idaho)

The Program Committee has developed the preliminary agenda for the 2006 conference in Nashville Tennessee. The program theme "Finding Strengths in Challenging Times", provides the backdrop of the major issues facing Human service agencies in the world today and how they have responded. Monday's theme of "A View from Washington" is highlighted with presentations of several of our partner organizations including APHSA, NCSL, and NGA. We also are planning updates from SAMHSA, CMS funding specialists, and finishing the day with an update on the status of Medicare Part D. These sessions will provide an up to date review of federal actions on programs and funding.

Tuesday's theme "State Challenges" includes discussions of some of the major events impacting human service programs. Topics include natural disasters like Katrina, with presentations by representatives from Louisiana and Texas, the increased growth in the aged populations, public health issues such as bio-terrorism and pandemic flu and finishing with a discussion of substance abuse and its impact on families. All these events stress the capacity of state and local agencies to handle increased needs of individuals to meet basic needs.

Wednesday's theme "State Solutions" builds on what states are doing to strengthen programs to meet the challenges. The day will begin with a motivational presentation designed to

place participants in the proper frame of mind. This will be followed by a presentation by Charles Miller and Alicia Smith reviewing legal and federal actions which impact financing of programs. The afternoon session will include panel discussion of Medicaid redesign and Child Welfare trends. The final breakout sessions of the day will deal with technical financing and reporting issues for Medicaid and Child Welfare.

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the conference participants.

The 58th annual conference theme was “Blending Tradition and Innovation” and included several sessions covering the views from Washington, thinking outside the box, and numerous sessions covering the current issues of the Medicaid program and children’s services. The conference program was well received and the organization received very positive evaluations from the participants. Overall, the 58th annual conference was a tremendous success, thus considered another successful conference for HSFO.

Medicaid II training was held in Raleigh, North Carolina at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley from October 3 - 5, 2005, there were 36 trainees and the training was performed by Public Consulting Group under a National contract with HSFO. Evaluations were very positive in terms of substance, quality and experience.

Mr. Brennan moved the report be accepted, Mr. Frank Danieli of New Hampshire seconded and the motion was passed.

Secretary Report. Ms. Mary Fernald of Ohio reported the minutes of the 58th annual conference have been posted on the HSFO website, no additions or corrections have been received. Mr. Fernald moved for suspension of the reading of the minutes and for adoption of the report. Ms. Nancy Haber of Illinois seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer Report. Ms. Suzi Ballinger of Ohio presented the Treasurer’s report of November 30, 2005.

Ms. Ballinger moved her report be accepted, Ms. Laura Baker of Alaska seconded and the motion passed.

Ms. Ballinger also shared a summary of the Accounting Services contract that HSFO released in request for pro-

posal (RFP) and she read the report. Report summary is as follows: “A committee was formed during the last year to outline the specifications that HSFO desired for procuring accounting services. An RFP was issued, proposals received and a contract was issued for a period of three years with an option to renew for a period no longer than three years. Ms. Ballinger moved her report be accepted. Ms. Deena Brown of Oklahoma seconded and the motion was passed.

Committee Reports

Federal Report. A Federal Issues Report was made by Simone Roy of New Hampshire addressing pending federal budget issues and regulations. It was accepted as presented to the organization.

Membership Report. Mr. Stuart Kettner of Oklahoma reported that currently the organization has 64 paid members, including one for 2006 - Kern County Department of Human Services in California. Mr. Frank Danieli, New Hampshire, moved the report be accepted. Ms. Mary Fernald, Ohio, seconded and it was passed.

Time and Place Report. Mr. Doug Robinson of West Virginia reported that the place of the next two conferences are set for Nashville, Tenn. and Reno, Nevada. The Executive Board and Past Presidents have done the Charlotte site selection. The 2009 conference is to be held in New Orleans HSFO has a 2010 proposal for North Dakota.

It was also reported that the 2006 spring planning meeting would be in Bismarck, North Dakota April 8 - 12, 2006. The fall planning meeting in New Orleans and Alaska has requested that the 2007 spring planning meeting be held in Juneau, Alaska. A motion was made to accept the report and seconded.

By Laws Report. Ms. Toni Pintavalle of Virginia reported that at this time there

have been no suggestions and is prepared to forward any communications received for consideration by the board. Mr. Rick Brennan, West Virginia, moved that the report be accepted. Ms. Mary Fernald, Ohio, seconded and the motion was passed.

Sponsor Development Report. Mr. Randy Sherrod of Virginia, presented this report Ms. Mary Fernald of Ohio moved that the report be accepted. Mr. Frank Danieli of New Hampshire seconded and the motion was passed.

Nominating Report. Mr. Harry Roberts of Delaware reported that he has two applications and is waiting for the remainder to come in. The application for the vacancy that we anticipate on the board (Historian) is available on the

Time to Go to Tennessee!!!

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Thursday’s theme “Implementation Strategy” will again be more technical in nature with presentations dealing with claiming funding under FEMA guidelines and an update on Fiscal Integrity projects and federal performance reporting. We plan three breakout topics dealing with the technical aspects of data warehousing, cash management, and cost allocation. The afternoon session will include a session on the ACF programs including Childcare, TANF, and Child support. The day will end with two open forum groups discussing the topics presented in the conference as well as other challenges organizations are facing.

The agenda has been heavily influenced by happenings over the last year and includes information on a wide range of topics. The program committee is still identifying speakers for the sessions and will finalize the agenda at the spring planning meeting in Bismarck. I want to thank the program committee for their hard work and look forward to the conference in Nashville.

Mark Your Calendar



April 8 - 12, 2006	Spring Planning Meeting, Bismark, ND Radisson Hotel
May 1-3, 2006	"Medicaid I" Training, Salt Lake City, Utah Radisson Hotel Downtown
May 22-24	"Cost Allocation" Training, Charleston, W.V. Charleston Marriott Town Center
July 30 - Aug. 4, 2006	Annual Conference, Nashville, Tennessee Embassy Suites Hotel (800) EMBASSY
July 31 - Aug. 6, 2007	Annual Conference, Reno, Nevada
Summer, 2008	Annual Conference, Charlotte, N.C.
July 25-31, 2009	Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA The Omni Royal Orleans

News From Our Old Friend, New Orleans

Pat O'Briens: We are very happy to welcome you back to our home. Our hours are a little different now. We'll "Have Fun" from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily.

Beignets Are Back - World famous Cafe du Monde reopened for business to much fanfare in October.

ALS Confirms 2006 Annual Conference - One of the largest conventions scheduled for New Orleans in 2006 has re-confirmed its commitment to holding its annual convention there in June.

Mardi Gras World Gets the Party Re-started. Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World in Algiers Point has reopened, offering a behind-the-scenes view of carnival's history and artistry.

Airlines Add More Flights to/from New Orleans. Several airlines have added new daily nonstop roundtrips between New Orleans and key cities.

President's Message Spring 2006

by Jim Fredyma

It is with great pride and honor that I write you in this President's message on behalf of my colleagues and friends of the National Association of State Human Services Finance Officers. Your colleagues and I are busy building upon a very successful 2005 to prepare the 2006 training program for delivery during the year and the National Conference in Nashville, TN, scheduled for July 30, 2006 to August 4, 2006.



We met recently in Charlotte, NC, hosted by Allyn Guffey and his staff. We discussed the many challenges faced by each of you as you work to recover from the devastating effects

of a record hurricane season throughout the southern part of our great nation, and other weather related events in the western states. All of us are now planning how to implement and accommodate the many program and funding changes that await final approval in the federal budget. One thing that is certain about being a financial officer; change is ever-present. All of us are skilled at providing solid assessment, analysis and recommendations to our fellow human services professionals on how to best manage these increasingly complicated businesses at the state and county level. Your program staff depends upon your expertise to make the changes seamless.

Dick Humiston and his program committee, along with Allyn Guffey and his training committee, and Jeff Roberts

and his arrangements committee are all making sure that what you need to be successful in this extraordinary 2006 is available through your Human Services Finance Officers Association.

On to the Spring and our planning meeting in Bismarck, ND, April 8, 2006 to April 12, 2006, hosted by Brenda Weisz. I invite you to attend a planning meeting if you have not done so previously. It is an opportune time to help shape the future of the Human Services Finance Officers, and gain greater insights in a less formal setting about how change is being managed by the states. If you cannot join us in April, then please accept this invitation to attend the National Conference in Nashville. Announcements will be available at our website, www.hsfo.com, shortly.

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website. Mr. Frank Danieli of New Hampshire moved that the report be accepted. Mr. Rick Brennan, West Virginia, seconded and the motion was passed.

Meeting was adjourned for the day.

Tuesday, December 13, 2006

Mr. James Fredyma of New Hampshire and President of the Association called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone back.

Audit Committee Report. The audit report was postponed as the auditor was not present.

Newsletter Report. Ms. Nancy Haber of Illinois reported that the recently published newsletter was sent to about 950 recipients. Some discussion ensued re: the value of the newsletter, its availability to the website and use as a good communication vehicle for the organization. The report was approved.

Arrangements Report. Reports were made by Tennessee, Nevada, North Carolina and Louisiana re: arrangements for upcoming conferences. The reports were approved as presented.

Program Committee Presentation. Mr. Dick Humiston of Idaho presented the program structure. Discussion of topics, speakers and themes were discussed related to the program. Mr. Frank Danieli of New Hampshire moved that the report be accepted. Ms. Nancy Haber, Illinois, seconded and the motion was passed. (See articles on the program in this issue, pages 1,2 and 4).

Charlotte Site Visits: The Executive Board and Past Presidents visited several hotels and will make a decision for the Charlotte conference location.

Conclusion: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by President Fredyma and seconded by all. Motion carried.

Leisure Time in Tennessee

By Ruth Cooksey, Tennessee

If you were unable to attend the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece, plan to attend the 59th annual HSFO conference in the "Athens of the South," Nashville, Tennessee.

The conference dates are July 30 – August 4, 2006 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Franklin. The hotel is convenient to I-65 south of Nashville. Room rates are \$125 per night (plus tax) and may be extended two days prior and after the conference, based on availability.

A program has been designed to provide information about dealing with challenging times at the state level. There will be special functions for spouses/guests, as well as activities for youth.

Plans for the conference event include a cruise on the General Jackson Showboat (a paddlewheel riverboat) together with a buffet lunch. After arriving back at the dock, you will have ample time to tour the facilities at the Gaylord Opryland complex:

- The Opryland Resort Hotel, including the Conservatory (a climate-controlled glass atrium where you'll be surrounded by lush indoor gardens, winding rivers, sparkling waterfalls, and pathways); you can unwind, explore, shop, dine, and be entertained.
- Opry Mills Mall, where you may enjoy shopping, a movie at the Imax Theater, or eating dinner at one of the many restaurants.

We will gather at the Opry House (also in the Opryland complex) for the Tuesday Night Opry from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., before returning to our conference hotel.

Since Tennessee is comprised of three distinct divisions, you may want to extend your stay to visit East Tennessee, the home of the Great Smoky Mountains, Dollywood, Chattanooga, and Knoxville.

After your stay in the Nashville area and other points of interest in the rolling hills of Middle Tennessee, you may wish to visit the plains of West Tennessee, including Memphis, where you will find Beale Street, the home of the blues, as well as Graceland.

We look forward to the opportunity of showing you a good time in Tennessee. Ya'll come!

President Jim Fredyma presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Past President Ted Martin for recovering the President's Gavel.



MEMBER PROFILE

Brenda M. Weisz



Current Position / Agency

Chief Financial Officer for the North Dakota Department of Human Services. The department provides for the administration of the following programs: Medicaid, Older Americans Act Title III programs; Child Support, the welfare programs (LIHEAP, Food Stamps); Mental Health / Substance Abuse; Vocational Rehabilitation; and Child Welfare Services. The Department of Human Services also has responsibility for the State Hospital serving the state's individuals who are chronically mentally ill and/or addicted, the State Developmental Center serving those with developmental disabilities who are unable to live in the community and eight Regional Human Service Centers, which provide services for those with serious mental illness and addiction issues along with case management services for those who are seriously mentally ill or developmentally disabled.

Offices / Committee Chair

I started attending HSFO conferences and training sessions in 2004 and have yet to take on the challenges of a committee chair. I have a feeling that is about to change with North Dakota hosting the Spring 2006 Planning meeting and recently being awarded the 2010 Conference.

What I like Most About HSFO

I appreciate the ability to network with individuals from the different states. The high degree of expertise and intelligence is abundant and benefits me as I work through ND issues. It is always beneficial to hear what other states are working on or dealing with so the approaches that are used by other states can be considered by ND.

Background

I joined the ND Department of Human Services in 1994 after working for the Office of the State Auditor for 6 years where I was an Audit Senior prior to leaving. I am responsible for the development and monitoring of the Department's biennial budget, the accounting functions within the agency, along with responsibility for Provider Audit, which audits and sets rates for the direct service providers of the department.

After a management restructure within the Department in January 2006, I have also been assigned oversight responsibility of the Human Resources and Information Technology Services Divisions. I graduated with a bachelors degree in Accounting and thankfully passed my CPA exam shortly thereafter, since I am sure CPA does stand for "can't pass again." Every once in awhile I entertain the thought of law school.

Interests Outside of Work

I enjoy spending time with my husband Dan and our 2 children - daughter Danielle (14) and son Dalton (12) - and then scrap booking the memories we create and the activities they are involved in. I also enjoy spending family time at the lake over the summer, which has really taught me to relax and leave work at the office (at least during the summer months.) Rollerblading, exercising and walking our dogs are top on my lists of interests.

Five Years From Now

Recovering from hosting the 2010 Conference! In all seriousness I hope to be part of the continuous shift of services from an institutional focus to more home and community based services in the state of North Dakota.

The Biggest Challenge

The Department's has a few challenges ahead. The first being the struggle with the Medicaid reductions made at the Federal level and how to balance those federal reductions while still maintaining or providing a respectable level of services to the state's most vulnerable citizens. In ND we are also faced with capacity issues for those with serious mental illness and addiction issues. Housing along with addiction services have not kept pace with the demand presenting itself across the state. Succession planning is another challenge faced by the Department with many of the key program administrators becoming eligible for retirement in the very near future.



Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsors

The following is a list of HSFO corporate sponsors. More detailed contact information can be found on the HSFO website at <http://www.hsfo.com> Look in future issues of this newsletter for information regarding sponsors' work with member agencies.

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Schrafft Building, 529 Main Street, Suite 1M2A, Charlestown, MA 02129

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4461 Cox Road, Suite 210, Glen Allen, VA 23060

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EDS, U.S. Government Marketing Communications

13600 EDS Dr. A4N-B48, Herndon, VA 20171

Sequoia Consulting Group

698 Pro-Med, Carmel, IN 46032



HSFO News is published by the National Association of State Human Services Finance Officers as a service to members and others interested in the goals of our group. Member involvement in this publication is welcomed and encouraged.

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