

**State Comprehensive Planning Group
Conference Call and Webinar Summary
Thursday, April 17, 2008**

Participants:

AZ

Randy Scott
Lynn Larson

FL

Sylvia Cohen
Laurie Koburger
Mi Jung

IN

KY

MN

NC

Heather Burkhardt

NJ

Gerry Mackenzie
David Burdick

PA

AoA

Bob Hornyak
Jim Varpness
Amy Wiatr

TASC/NASUA

Martha Roherty
Barbara Kelley

NASUA TASC Welcome and Update:

Martha Roherty, NASUA Executive Director, thanked all the grantees for their patience during the transition period at NASUA and apologized for the interruption in the monthly Comprehensive Planning Grant conference calls. She reported that NASUA is ready to get back on schedule. Also she apologized for some recent difficulties on the TASC website indicating there had been some problems from the technical side. All but four links were working as of today. Work is being done on the new website and she looks forward to introducing it in the near future.

Martha introduced Barbara Kelley, a consultant for NASUA who is working on this project. Barbara recently retired from her position as Deputy Director of the state office on aging in South Carolina. Please contact her with any questions, concerns or suggestions related to the State Planning Grant project. She can be reached by e-mail at bkelly@nasua.org. For telephone contact, call the NASUA office (202-898-2583) and they will connect you or forward your message.

State Updates:**NJ**

The planning project in NJ focuses on nutrition programs. The project includes integrating nutrition programs with the ADRCs. They are working on developing new software and on a uniform budget process for nutrition programs. A grant product, a report on enhancing service to diverse populations should be ready for distribution in the next 4-6 weeks. Martha Roherty requested that they forward a copy to post on the TASC website for sharing with the planning group.

NC

NC has developed a new format for the state and area plans which utilizes language and terms consistent with the Livable and Senior Friendly Community Initiative. AAAs are preparing their area plans now. Since December the state office has been providing studies for the General Assembly for six high growth areas. A study commission has prepared a set of recommendations for a larger statewide aging study. At an April 10 meeting they will present the 16 priorities recommended by the study commission based upon a comprehensive study, surveys and planning at the county level. In another initiative which ties in with the POMP grant, NC will connect their Aging Resource Management (ARM) Database to a larger state data system which includes the Medicaid database. Their recent move to a web-based system has made it possible to connect with the data warehouse in the future. This is a blended outcome for the planning grant and the POMP grant and will expand the ability to evaluate outcomes.

AZ

AZ held a workshop with AAAs to address change and change agents. Area plans have been approved or are in the process of approval. AZ is developing a database to capture *outcomes* from the comprehensive plans. They presented a session with the Arizona University at the ASA/NCOA meeting in Washington, DC. The presentation focused on their process for development of the new database and on the ways that others could apply lessons learned from their experience.

FL

Florida has been holding advisory group meetings and inviting guest speakers to stimulate new thinking. They are revising area plan directions to streamline the plans.

Presentation by Florida on the use of GIS as a Planning Tool

Florida has used a Geographic Information System (GIS) as a valuable visual tool for planning. Sylvia Cohen and Mi Jung provided a webinar showing their work in progress using GIS to show data from Arizona. A sample map showed geo mapping by age groups, 60-69, 70-79, and 80 and older and the location of hospitals. This illustrates how GIS can be helpful to policymakers in seeing where the population is and where current resources are located in relation to the elderly population. Sylvia stated that these maps don't show streets, but they can.

A template of 185 tables will be provided to NASUA to distribute. She commented that initially it looks overwhelming. She asked that states look at the tables and think about what kind of factors they would like to be able to show through mapping. Remember it is limited by the information available. For example, North Carolina sent street locations for all senior centers in the state so they can be mapped.

A question was raised about whether states would need to purchase GIS software. Sylvia said it should not be necessary unless the state wants to create their own maps. Free software is available for viewing maps (ArcView or ArcExplorer).

Lynn Larson, AZ, responded that it is so nice to be able to see data displayed in the form of a picture. Florida has more maps in process for Arizona – this was just shown as a sample. David Burdick shared that NJ has some GIS information available through the Department of Environmental Protection. Bob Hornyak noted that GIS mapping can also be a helpful tool for emergency preparedness for planning evacuation routes, shelter sites, and seeing hospital locations. He remarked that a recent look at which counties in the US have had emergency status declared by the President reminds us that emergencies can happen anywhere.

Bob Hornyak asked if there would be an opportunity for the group to take a further look at Florida's GIS mapping. Martha Roherty suggested that it be posted on the TASC website with access limited to comprehensive planning grantees. She will explore setting up a portion of the website that limits access to approved log-in users. Since some of the GIS mapping work is still in development and not in final form, it is not ready for open public access.

Sylvia Cohen offered to do a demonstration for states that were not able to participate in today's webinar. Today's webinar presentation will be saved on a disc and can be shared.

Date and Time for Future Monthly Conference Calls:

Martha asked the group what day of the week and what time would work for future monthly conference calls. The group consensus was that Thursdays are good and that 2:00 PM Eastern Time works for all. The **3rd Thursday** of the month was proposed as the regular scheduled time for monthly conference calls. However, **for May the call will be scheduled for May 8 at 2:00 PM EDT**. No suggestions were made for topics for conference calls. Suggestions are always welcome.

AoA Update:

Bob Hornyak reminded the group that the semi-annual grant progress report for the October through March period is due the end of April. The draft guidance on state plans went out through the regional offices. The official version of the guidelines will go out in the next couple of days.