

# NAMPI NEWSLETTER

National Association for Medicaid Program Integrity (c/o Wood Consultants) 405 Westland Dr., Lebanon, TN 37087 nasosurs.org

## NAMPI Welcome

By Alan White, President

At last year’s conference, you – the members – voted to update the name of our organization to the National Association for Medicaid Program Integrity (NAMPI). There was broad agreement that this name better reflects the important work we do to combat fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicaid program across the country. Program Integrity includes functions like SURS, medical and hospital audit, provider enrollment, lock-in, etc... and varies in composition and make-up from state-to-state.

Together, we states - with our federal and contracted partners - save taxpayers millions of dollars that would otherwise be lost – preserving crucial budget dollars that support vital client services for our most vulnerable populations.

In keeping with our new name, our conference agenda has been updated to focus on “tracks” to better help our membership choose the best sessions to attend. The **State Tracks** focus on sharing ideas across states related to program integrity best practices, in hopes that best practices can become common practices. The **Federal Track** presents critical updates related to federal initiatives such as PERM and Medi-Medi. The **Vendor Track** provides an opportunity to research the latest in automated tools and services available to help states in their anti-fraud efforts. I’m confident that every attendee will find valuable sessions and presentations at the conference. So, on that note, let me be the first to welcome you to San Diego!

*“If everybody had an ocean - Across the U.S.A. Then everybody’d be surfin’ - Like Californ-i-a.”*

-- The Beach Boys (1963)

## Surf’s Up in San Diego

By Jan Inghish, 2007 NAMPI Host  
California Department of Health Services

Welcome to San Diego – California’s second largest city! California is known for fun in the sun and in beautiful San Diego, you’ll have it. With your NAMPI board members, the services of Wood Consulting, and the California Department of Health Services as your host; a wonderful conference has been planned for you in the Golden State. As part of your registration package, you will have the opportunity to experience San Diego’s great weather, sandy beaches, famous attractions, and a wonderful cruise on the Hornblower Fleet across the San Diego Bay. Downtown San Diego can be easily accessed from Coronado Island by taking a scenic drive across the infamous Coronado Bridge or via water shuttle from the Coronado Marriott to the San Diego Marriott. The shuttle will drop you off near the Gaslamp Quarter of San Diego, known for its art, music, live



Coronado Bridge  
San Diego, CA

entertainment, and fine dining.

For the baseball fans, the two-time defending National League West Champion San Diego Padres will be at home playing the Arizona Diamondbacks at PETCO Park in San Diego. See the team Web site at <http://sandiego.padres.mlb.com> for schedule and ticket information.

The San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park features more than 3,500 rare and exotic animals. See [www.sandiegozoo.org](http://www.sandiegozoo.org) for more information.

For those who attended the NASO conference in Kentucky – the Horse Capital of the World – welcome to the Del Mar Racetrack, where the turf meets the surf! ([www.dmtc.com](http://www.dmtc.com))

Great sightseeing attractions include the Maritime Museum of San Diego ([www.sdmaritime.com](http://www.sdmaritime.com)) and Balboa Park, the nation's largest urban cultural park, which is home to 15 major museums, renowned performing arts

Please see *Surf’s Up* on page 4

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## NAMPI – Working for You

By Heidi Robbins Brown

In addition to planning the 2007 NAMPI Conference each year, your NAMPI Executive Board works hard representing you on issues affecting program integrity. I've highlighted just a few of the examples below.

To foster strengthened relationships with our partners in the MFCU, President Alan White presented at the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units conference this March and met with CMS to identify additional ways to strengthen relationships.

Alan also presented information to the State Medicaid Director's fall conference to speak about PERM [*see link to Alan's presentation*].

Three of the NAMPI board members participate on an Advisory Committee as CMS initiates the new federal Medicaid Integrity Program. MIP was a concept at last year's conference and is now taking real shape and will be featured in a general session. With additional funding and focus on Medicaid program integrity, there is hope that the dream of a Program Integrity Training Academy may actually be funded.

We're your Board and we're working for you. If you're interested in more information, please talk with us at the Conference or email us (*contact information on page 4*)!

## Fraud and Abuse Technical Advisory Group - History

By Don Gregory, Former NASO President and Current FAD TAG Chair

I recently had an inquiry from a newly appointed program integrity manager asking about information on "the TAG" as its known – that's the Fraud and Abuse Detection Technical Advisory Group. The following background information may also be of interest to many of you.

There had been a long standing desire among some Medicaid directors, CMS and National Association for Medicaid Program Integrity officials to see a Fraud and Abuse TAG formed. In August 1997, a meeting was held between state and CMS representatives in Atlanta. This meeting came to be known as the "Atlanta Focus Group." Some of the questions raised by the Focus Group were (paraphrased):

1. Should there be developed an accurate estimate of Medicaid fraud and abuse?
2. How to facilitate interstate sharing?
3. What should be the role of a fraud and abuse control TAG?
4. How can CMS help the state by federal regulation changes?

5. What state fraud and abuse control legislation exists?

Please see *FAD TAG* on page 3

*"The work of the TAG and NAMPI is clearly intertwined."*



*Gaslamp District – San Diego*

6. How can CMS better facilitate the exchange of information between the Medicaid and Medicare programs?
7. Should the Internet be used to facilitate communication between the states, CMS and the Medicare contractors?
8. Should recommendations for changes in federal statutes (related to fraud and abuse control) be made?
9. How to address fraud and abuse in managed care?
10. What up front interventions can be made to reduce the risk of fraud and abuse?

The Atlanta Focus Group meeting led to the formation of the Fraud and Abuse Control TAG in February 1998. Significant achievements have been accomplished by the TAG and are highlighted below. The work of the TAG and NAMPI is clearly intertwined.

#### **Past TAG Accomplishments**

1. Surveyed states to identify best ways to share lessons learned across states. (1999)
2. Created Medicaid Fraud Statutes WebSite (1999) – <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/mfs/default.asp>
3. Created Health Care Sanctions Database
4. While paper on how to avoid FWA in the Pharmacy program. (2000)
5. Provider Enumeration under HIPAA
6. Medicaid Payment Accuracy Workgroup.

#### **Current TAG Activities...**

1. Involvement in the new federal **Medicaid Integrity Program**. The TAG developed and submitted position papers on MIP as it was under consideration by Congress. The TAG has continued to consult and advise CMS on the implementation of MIP.
2. Development and implementation of a TAG **workplan for 2007**. The TAG's workplan calls for focused workgroups to focus on MIP, PERM. Metrics, Medi-Medi, managed care, Part D implementation, NPI, coordination with NAMFCU and furtherance of a proposed legislative package (in include at a minimum changes to the 60-day rule).

#### **Under what authority does the FAD TAG exist?**

*NASMD official policy on technical advisory Groups*

TAGs are created by the National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD) to provide CMS technical assistance on behalf of NASMD. Members should be proactive in raising issues that are important to states to CMS – as well as – reactive in terms of advising NASMD and CMS on solving problems. TAG members will be responsible for gathering input from and providing feedback to states in their region that are not on the TAG.

APHSa staff both the National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD) and the TAGs; and they help provide the connection between the technical issues of the TAGs and the policy issue of NASMD. Whenever possible, a member of the NASMD Executive Committee attends TAG meetings.

#### **Membership of the TAG**

Regional representation is a priority for composition of the TAG. Representation will be based on two people from each of the four CMS regional consortia. When a vacancy occurs, all states in the affected region will be notified by APhSA of the vacancy, and recommendations will be forwarded to the NASMD Executive Committee liaison to the TAG. The Executive Committee liaison will make the final selection in consultation with the TAG chair, CMS and APhSA.

*Current Official FAD TAG Members:*

*Don Gregory – Chair – Louisiana*

*Doug Porter – NASMD EC Liaison - Washington*

*Western Region: Heidi Robbins Brown (Washington) and Alex Yei (Utah)*

*Midwest Region: Alan White (Wisconsin) and Ron Nail (Minnesota)*

*Southern Region: Tim Byrnes (Florida) and Sharon Thompson (Texas)*

*Northeast Region: Louis Elie (Virginia) and Joshua Ruminski (Massachusetts).*

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venues, and beautiful breath-taking gardens ( [www.balboapark.org](http://www.balboapark.org) ).

A word about your host for this year's event, the California Department of Health Services: CDHS administers California's unique and complex Medi-Cal (Medicaid) program serving 6.7 million beneficiaries an annual cost of \$35.1 billion. There are 130,000 health care providers enrolled in the Medi-Cal program who submit over 250 million claims for payment each year.

A systematic study of program payment accuracy, such as the Medi-Cal Payment Error Study (MPES), assist CDHS in determining where the Medi-Cal program is at greatest risk for payment errors and provides an estimate of the potential dollar loss to the program, including potential loss due to

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fraud. The primary goal of the MPES is to identify emerging fraud practices and help to ensure that CDHS' anti-fraud activities are focused in the areas of highest risk.

As the nature of Medi-Cal fraud, waste and abuse is constantly changing and becoming more complex, CDHS will continue the aggressive development and implementation of innovative fraud prevention tools and technologies. Through our internal and external partnerships we will continue to build on our success and overcome the challenges of today and the future. Visit us at [www.dhs.ca.gov](http://www.dhs.ca.gov).

nia; therefore, a tremendous amount of resources have been put forth to combat Medi-Cal fraud and uphold program integrity. To date, CDHS' anti-fraud program has resulted in 467 convictions of individuals who engaged in Medi-Cal fraud. Program savings of \$1.17 billion has been achieved as a result of anti-fraud and program integrity activities making significant strides toward detecting and preventing Medi-Cal fraud, waste and abuse. In 2004, the Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) conducted a program integrity review of Medi-Cal which resulted in California's anti-fraud efforts being cited as "Benchmark Practices" to provide other states examples of excellence.

The mission of the California Department of Health Services is to protect and improve the health of all Californians. As the nature of Medi-Cal fraud, waste and abuse is constantly changing and becoming more complex, CDHS will continue the aggressive development and implementation of innovative fraud prevention tools and technologies. Through our internal and external partnerships we will continue to build on our success and overcome the challenges of today and the future. Visit us at [www.dhs.ca.gov](http://www.dhs.ca.gov).

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