

MVP OF THE ANNUAL TRAINING MEETING



The Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the 6th Annual Training Meeting is Mr. Jim Dube, Assistant Attorney General, Rhode Island NBCP.

Mr. Dube graciously accepted the role of timekeeper during the opening State Roll Call session. He kept other grantee State members on their feet with the aid of Mr. Chicken.

Thanks, Jim, for being a good sport!

NBCP 6TH ANNUAL TRAINING MEETING SUCCESS

The 6th Annual Training Meeting took place from May 2-4, 2016, in Annapolis, MD. The meeting was attended by 116 people, including 24 representatives from States, 16 representatives from CMS, four representatives from the FBI, and one representative from the Office of the Inspector General. Based on participant feedback, State representatives found the Annual Training Meeting provided a great opportunity for attendees to participate in engaging discussions about the NBCP with federal agencies and different States in the program. Participant feedback also showed that the two highest rated sessions of the meeting were FBI's presentation on Federal Rap back and Innovative Architects' presentation on BCS System Enhancements.

Our guest speakers included: Mr. Charles Thornton, Director of the DC Office of Returning Citizen Affairs; Ms. Lisa Tripp, Esq., Technical Director, Enforcement and Certification, CMS Division of Nursing Homes; and Dr. Jessica Neptune, Reentry Policy Analyst, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), HHS.

All presentations are now available on [BGCheckInfo!](#) Summary notes and evaluations will be posted soon.



From the Left: Alem Ghebregzghi, DC NBCP; Brian Ferguson, DC Office of Human Rights; Rebecca Ward, NBCP COR; Jan Tarantino, CMS Survey and Certification Group; Mr. Charles Thornton, DC Office of Returning Citizen Affairs

GRANTEE STATE HIGHLIGHTS

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut phased-in all Home Health Agencies on February 8, 2016. This involved successful in-person training to providers in January 2016, by the State of Connecticut Applicant Background Checks Management System (ABCMS) staff. On April 18, 2016, the Department's integration of online payment processing with a third-party vendor went live. This implementation allows facilities to pay their fingerprinting fees by establishing accounts or credit card transactions.

NEVADA

Nevada has made significant progress in moving forward with its Nevada Automated Background Check System (NABS). All provider types required to do background checks in accordance with the grant have been trained in the use of NABS and are now using it to conduct all applicant background checks. NV has also made progress in the development of State rap back, and developing web services for child abuse and certified nurse aide (CNA) registries within NABS.

OHIO

Ohio received its first no-cost grant extension from CMS in May. During the past three years, Ohio has successfully enacted legislation, launched an Automated Registry Check System (ARCS), and expanded rap back to include Medicaid providers. **ARCS received a 90 percent positive satisfaction rate from providers in a recent survey.** To date, 746 Medicaid provider/administrative agencies have enrolled nearly 25,000 applicants in rap back, and these agencies have received 232 hits. Ohio plans to expand its ARCS and rap back enrollment, enhance system capabilities, and join the NBCP Nurse Aide Registry (NNAR) later this year.

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma was granted Medicaid funding to cover 25 percent of its background check program. The request was based on the fact that approximately 50 percent of all screened applicants serve Medicaid recipients. The Medicaid administrative match will fund such services at a 50/50 match (i.e., 50 percent of the cost of 50 percent of applicant screenings are covered by Medicaid). The remaining background check program costs in the State of Oklahoma are covered by fees charged to applicants and non-Medicaid providers. The justification used in OK's Medicaid funding application will be available on BGCheckInfo soon. For further details please contact James Joslin at james@health.ok.gov.

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HOT TOPICS:

NATIONAL FORUM FOR BACKGROUND CHECK PROGRAMS

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The concept of a national collaboration forum arose in the 5th Annual Training Meeting during the Grant Closeout and World Café sessions. During these sessions, State representatives expressed their intent to stay connected to the NBCP program and continue to improve their States' background check programs through collaboration with other States after graduation. One year later at the 6th Annual Training Meeting, the National Forum for Background Check Programs (NFBCP) presented its mission, vision, and initiative list, inviting State representatives to join and participate in this collaborative effort.

The NFBCP (the Forum) will soon send out an invitation to join an email distribution list managed by the NFBCP. The list will be used to send updates on Forum activities, share resources produced by the Forum, and as a method for States to seek information from Forum members. Please check your email (or spam folders) for an email from backgroundchecks_forum@googlegroups.com, and accept the invitation to join the group if you wish. To join the group without responding to the invitation, send email to backgroundcheckforum@google.com. Also, the first product released by the Forum is a directory of online State court resources! The directory is on the [Forum website](#).

TELEMEDICINE GROWTH

On May 1, 2016, [McKnight's](#) reported that some healthcare providers are encouraging State lawmakers to loosen rules that require nurses to be licensed in each State they work or intend to work in. The nursing licensing compacts require States to implement fingerprint-based State and federal criminal background checks. If a nurse passes these checks, he or she would hold a multi-State license and would be permitted to provide care to patients in different States through phone or internet. The compacts may help the nursing industry grow and assist nurses with finding jobs with a little more ease.

However nurses' groups and unions are wary of this compact as it could, "put patients at risk and take away providers' bargaining powers." There are 25 States that currently belong to the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). Florida, Idaho, Oklahoma, Tennessee, South Dakota, Virginia, and Wyoming have drafted legislation to join the NLC.

INTERESTING LEGISLATION

In Oregon's 2015 Legislative Session, a bill was passed that is changing the entire landscape of employment-related background checks. Prior to this legislation, background checks were conducted on various provider types based on their respective program origin —Nursing Facilities, Home Care Workers, Hospice Providers, Assisted Living Facilities, etc. They all had their own different, yet somewhat similar, sets of regulations. These regulations include frequency of background checks, what registries are checked, and sometimes even the criteria to pass a background check. Some of these programs are even regulated by different agencies. Oregon's long term care providers, for example, are regulated by two and sometimes three different agencies. This has made standardization through the National Background Check Program quite a challenge.

The legislation passed in 2015 shifts the purpose and the criteria from program to population. Where a background check was conducted because someone applied for a position in an Assisted Living Facility, they are now subject to a background check due to their direct access to the elderly. This has paved the way for standardization of all aspects of the background check across program and agency lines. For Oregon, this will allow providers that are regulated by multiple agencies to adhere to a single, standardized process and criteria for background checks. Oregon intends to use this new landscape, in concert with other policy improvements, to maximize the benefits of its rap back system once that is implemented.

QUARTERLY REPORTS DUE JULY 29, 2016

Reports for the quarter ending June 30, 2016, are due by close of business on **July 29, 2016**. Please be sure to use the new Cost Report that includes your State's name. The report templates are available on the [NBCP BGCheckInfo](#) website. Requests for extensions should be made at least **two weeks** before the due date to your CMS project officer.

Shout out!

Kansas was the first State to submit their report last quarter!

NBCP RESOURCES

The [BGCheckInfo Website](#) provides access to a comprehensive collection of original resource documents written specifically for existing and anticipated NBCP States. These documents provide detailed information on a number of background check issues, including information on current standards of practice in the field of background checks. Check out these resources and the [presentations](#) from the 6th Annual Training Meeting from this past May!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies (AHFSA) 2016 Conference, August 22-24, 2016, Austin, TX