

### WELCOME DAVID WRIGHT!



David Wright is the new Director of the Survey and Certification Group and a new member of the Senior Executive Service. He directs the work of 7,000 surveyors at the State and federal levels who perform quality of care inspections for more than 100,000 providers that participate in the Medicare or Medicaid programs, or that provide laboratory services under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA).

At the CMS Dallas Regional Office, David served as the Associate Consortium Administrator for the Consortium for Quality Improvement and Survey and Certification Operations, where he was responsible for national field operations related to healthcare quality enforcement, certification and compliance of Medicare institutional providers.

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## FLORIDA'S CLEARINGHOUSE IS AWARD WINNER

The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) received a State IT Recognition Award from the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO). AHCA's Florida Care Provider Screening Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse) was selected in the Government to Business category out of a field of 17 nominees from around the country. The Clearinghouse serves as a host to multiple state agencies that work with vulnerable individuals and streamlines the background screening process by allowing employees and employers to use one screening across multiple agencies.

Elizabeth Dudek, previous Secretary of AHCA, said, "The Clearinghouse has become a vital tool that ensures only the most qualified individuals are serving our vulnerable individuals. I want to thank our dedicated staff in the Background Screening Unit and our sister agencies who have worked for more than three years on this project. It is our job to protect those who cannot protect themselves, and the Clearinghouse helps us accomplish this while also helping government run more efficiently. Thank you to NASCIO for this incredible honor."

In addition to the streamlining of screenings across agencies, the Clearinghouse uses a rap back notification system that alerts participating agencies if a previously qualified individual is arrested after passing their initial screening. Previously, this arrest may not have been discovered for up to five years, the maximum amount of time between required screenings.

To date, the Clearinghouse has processed more than 1.4 million screenings and has saved health care providers and licensees more than \$12.6 million.

## GRANTEE STATE HIGHLIGHTS

### CONNECTICUT

The phase-in implementation date of the Applicant Background Check Management System (ABCMS) for Assisted Living Service Agencies and Hospice Care Agencies will be Monday, January 9, 2017. Hands-on, in-person training to providers will be held at Connecticut Department of Public Health on November 28, 29, 30, and December 5 and 6, 2016. Providers will have the opportunity to use the staging environment as a training platform from December 7 – 21, 2016. Provider users have reported that this training opportunity has led to a better understanding of the system.

### MAINE

The Maine Background Check Center is staffed and ready to go live in October. The statute is on the books and the rules are currently being promulgated. Staff training was held in September 2016, and provider training will begin in October 2016, with a pilot program offered to a group of more than 40 nursing homes. Once the system goes live, Maine will have a continuous program rollout until all the statutorily-mandated entities have been enrolled. Maine has many remote rural areas, so they will set up an online training portal for the convenience of their providers.

### MICHIGAN

Michigan completed the new release for the system interface to enhance efficacy for the analyst user interface and reduce cost. In addition, Michigan finalized the automation of the electronic delivery of the Criminal History Records from the State police system to the background check system. Criminal history rap-sheets are delivered through automated, encrypted, and secure interface.

### NEVADA

Nevada received its final no cost extension and will be graduating in September 2017. With one year left, NV plans on completing development of the Nevada Automated Background Check System (NABS) including incorporating a child abuse registry check process, an online certified nurse aide (CNA) registry check process, and completing the development of a State rap back system.



## HOT TOPICS:

### NATIONAL FORUM FOR BACKGROUND CHECK PROGRAMS



The NFBCP members working together in a team-building exercise.

The National Forum for Background Check Programs (NFBCP) held its third in-person meeting on August 24–25, 2016, in Austin, TX. The NFBCP welcomed its newest members: District of Columbia, Kentucky, and Oregon. The purpose of the in-person meeting was to review the initiatives that States voted on and ranked during the 6th Annual Training Meeting in May 2016. The NFBCP members worked cohesively to create a work-plan to efficiently implement the highest priority initiatives.

The NFBCP 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](mailto: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](mailto:backgroundcheckforum@google.com). For more information about the NFBCP, please visit the [Forum's website](#).

## SUMMER 2016 SPECIAL PROJECTS

This past summer, the CNA team, with the assistance of grantee States, worked on several special projects including case studies and research reports. The Implementation Case Study on Connecticut focuses on the beginning-to-end process of establishing a new program. The CNA team also developed a Florida case study on how to consolidate the NBCP program with other State programs.

CNA did an analysis and report on the determination process using State data that has been received to determine how to increase statewide eligibility determinations. These special projects will be posted on the [BGCheckInfo](#) website soon! Also, on the website, videos will be posted of your fellow State representatives discussing their experience of implementing the NBCP program.

## NBCP TRAVELS ACROSS THE COUNTRY!



From the left: David Lovin, CT Department of Health (DPH); Beth Myers, Innovative Architects (IA); Allison Dudziak, IA; Matthew Antonetti, CT DPH; Wendy Furniss, CT DPH; Surjit Sethuraman, CT DPH; Patricia Trella, CT DPH; Elizabeth Raistrick, CNA

The CNA team traveled to Honolulu, HI, in August 2016 to prepare for Phase 1 of the State's NBCP Background Check System (BCS) implementation. The team gave an overview of the NBCP and provided a demonstration of HI's proposed system to three stakeholder groups and met with DHS, DOH and HI Criminal Justice Data Center stakeholders among others to finalize plans and next steps.

CNA staff conducted a two-day technical assistance meeting in Hartford, CT in August 2016, to assist with knowledge transfer as the CT grant was nearing closeout.



From the left: Elizabeth Raistrick, CNA; Allison Dudziak, IA; Priscilla Thode, HI Department of Human Services (DHS); Nandita Ravishankar, CNA; Beth Myers, IA; Keith Ridley, HI Department of Health (DOH)

## QUARTERLY REPORTS DUE OCTOBER 28, 2016

Reports for the quarter ending September 30, 2016, are due by close of business on **October 28, 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 submitted to your CMS project officer at least **two weeks** before the due date.

### Reminder!

Graduating States must submit a final Quarterly Report to complete the closeout process!

## NBCP RESOURCES

The newly designed [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 the newest resources:

- 6th Annual Training Meeting [Summary Notes](#) and [Participation Evaluation](#)
- [Registry Use Study Report](#)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units Training Meetings, November 2016, New Orleans, LA and Atlanta GA