



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – DIANNA UMIDON

Hello Members!

I am always impressed at how much we accomplish, both individually and collectively. Well, actually I am impressed but not surprised. ACPs are notoriously known for being an underfunded and malnourished system of government. Yet, we somehow manage to consistently provide a much needed service to citizens in need. Many ACPs do not have a sufficient budget. Many have inadequate staffing. And, many lack proper attention and acknowledgement from their upper administration or legislature, being somehow treated as an inconsequential state program. These problems are all too common. But, we continue to move forward, not letting these obstacles deter us.

As individuals and as colleagues, when we work together we are efficient. We get a lot done in a short amount of time. Think about it. Even our conference events involve so much discussion and information sharing, we walk away feeling overloaded but in a good way. I think we are able to operate this way because we are used to doing without. We have learned to operate in spite of our malnourishment. And, when we lean on each other and put our efforts together we can move small mountains. We've seen it happen.

To keep this momentum, I encourage you to get involved in NACAP by serving on a committee. Many hands make light work and we all have talents and skills that are beneficial to the collective ACP body. It's also a great way to get to know your colleagues better.

I also encourage you to seriously consider hosting a future conference event. To date, we have not secured a location for the 2018 Annual Conference. Please consider being a host state for this conference or for a future conference. It would be wonderful to secure locations for our 2018, 2019, and 2020 conference events. Your time and effort would be so greatly appreciated.

I hope that your 2018 is off to a great start!

Dianna Umidon

Dianna Umidon, NACAP President and
Director of Safe at Home in Minnesota
Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, Steve Simon

Committee Updates

New NACAP Committee to Track Federal Legislation

The NACAP Board of Directors recently created a Public Policy committee to evaluate legislation or other policy changes that could affect member programs, as well as provide information and education about ACPs. The Public Policy committee will serve as a central point of contact for entities or agencies requesting information from NACAP that could affect new laws or policies. Anyone interested in serving on this committee may contact Committee Chair Betty McEntire at bmcentire@azsos.gov.

As announced in the Autumn 2017 newsletter, through the efforts and initiative of the Missouri Secretary of State's Office, federal legislation was introduced in September 2017. The legislation would require federal agencies to accept the substitute address of ACP participants. Bills [S. 1889](#) and [H.R. 3887](#) have both been referred to congressional committees. The Public Policy committee has already had the opportunity to provide information about ACPs to congressional committee personnel and will continue to track any further action.

Members may also sign up on www.congress.gov to receive alerts about any actions on the bills. If members have any feedback regarding the bill language, please contact Betty McEntire at bmcentire@azsos.gov.

Executive Committee

This committee consists of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The committee meets monthly and communicates frequently through email to discuss questions that need immediate attention. Most recent work has been focused on developing an interest sheet for states to complete and submit if they are interested in hosting a future NACAP conference.

Stakeholder Solutions Committee

A top priority for this committee is working with the Department of State to create a document regarding a passport process for participants. A draft of the proposed guidance will be submitted to the Department by the end of January in the hopes that a process will be in place sometime in March. Potential rule-making opportunities may also be discussed at a later date.

This committee is also excited to be meeting with representatives from the United States Postal Service in January. They hope to begin a collaborative relationship that will benefit participants nationwide.

Bylaws & Membership Committee

This committee meets via teleconference every other Friday at 10:30am Central Time. Currently, committee work is focused on expanding the bylaws to include other levels of NACAP membership so that non-ACP organizations can be NACAP members (for example, state DV coalitions), not with the same full benefits of an ACP but with some benefits - such as a possible conference rate discount. Exactly how this should all happen will be determined by the committee over the next several months and then suggestions will go to the full Board for approval. This committee currently has four members and could use one or two more people. Please contact committee chair, Dianna Umidon if you are interested in joining this committee. Dianna.umidon@state.mn.us.

Been There, Done That

This column highlights program process questions submitted to NACAP and summarizes the answers provided by member states in an effort to share best practices and service delivery possibilities. If you would like to know how other states have handled a certain issue, please submit your question to info@nacap.org.

Brittany Luzader, Human Trafficking Program Specialist at the Maryland Address Confidentiality Program, sent in the following question:

“Do any of you have training material you have found to be particularly helpful or any tips when it comes to talking to judges/getting them on board with the ACP?”

Arizona shared a PowerPoint used when conducting trainings for judges and court staff as well as a Court FAQ, Court Bulletin provided to the courts, and a Family Court handout provided to participants. Colorado provided a court and law enforcement handout and suggested looking in to presenting at a judicial conference.

If you would like to view the training materials, please contact us at info@nacap.org. If you have suggestions for managing this issue, please send them to Brittany at brittany.luzader@maryland.gov and consider sharing with the group. We can all learn from each other!

Member Updates

Washington ACP Partners with Stakeholders to Better Protect Families

With the help of key stakeholders, the country's first Address Confidentiality Program is laying the groundwork to strengthen services and keep families safe. Washington's innovative substitute address and mail-forwarding service began in 1991 and currently helps protect more than 4,500 survivors and children who are targets of stalking, domestic violence, sexual assault and trafficking. In 2011, the ACP expanded to include criminal justice employees who have been threatened or harassed because of their work.

Washington's ACP recently held a statewide summit sponsored by Secretary of State Kim Wyman. More than 45 local, community and state leaders explored many aspects of family life impacted by the ACP-- like buying a home, raising children and educating youth about social media. After 25 years with the program, one participant emphasized the continued value of ACP and the need to develop services that allow children enrolled in ACP to lead full lives.

Program managers are currently evaluating recommendations and innovative ways to educate families while keeping their addresses secure and out of the hands of perpetrators.

Washington's ACP recently celebrated more than 25 years of public service. In 2002, the program won the Susan Laurence Memorial Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services and was honored by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Maine ACP Office Donates to Shelter

The Maine Address Confidentiality Program and co-workers from the Office of the Secretary of State donated supplies for the *Adopt-a-Shelter Christmas Program* supporting a local DV agency this holiday season. Program manager, Nicole Ladner, shares, “Some days can be difficult in this field and you wish you could do more. It is good for the soul to give to the shelters and the people they support. My colleagues and I are pleased to help out.”

Suggestion Box

The Communications Committee would like to hear from you! If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions for the next newsletter, be sure to drop us a line at

info@nacap.org.

Melissa McMenemy (VA), Chair

Kim Reynolds (CO)

Melanie Shellenberger (IA)

Corey Ann Howard Jackson (KY)

Nicole Ladner (ME)

Brenda Sites (MO)

Melanie Poole (OH)

Colleen Overton (WA)