

**Summary of NACo Human Services Committee Presentations and Activity
at the
2015 Legislative Conference
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Full Human Services Committee Meeting

Resolutions

We began our full committee meeting with consideration of two interim policy resolutions. Both resolutions were passed by our committee in the form linked below. The “Maintenance of Effort” resolution was also approved by the Health committee and adopted by the NACo Board of Directors in identical form, while the “Military Service” resolution was postponed indefinitely by the Board, meaning it was not adopted.

- [Resolution](#) on Maintenance of Effort for Essential Support Services for Persons with Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (adopted by NACo)
- [Resolution](#) Urging and Requesting Congress to Consider Reinstating Universal Military Service (not adopted by NACo)
- [Complete list](#) of interim resolutions adopted by NACo at the Legislative Conference.

Speakers

Speakers at our full committee meeting addressed issues that can negatively impact children, and how counties can work to address these issues.

- **On childhood poverty in rural areas:** Doug O’Brien (White House) discussed troubling trends of poverty among rural children – one out of every four such children live in poverty, with one out of every eight rural children living in “deep poverty.” He discussed the importance of addressing issues facing adults in rural areas as a means of dealing with issues faced by children, and mentioned the utility of bundled services in this regard.
- **On nutritious meals for low-income children when schools are not in session:** Scott Carter and Angela Tagtow (USDA) discussed the 15 nutrition assistance programs administered by the Food and Nutrition Service of USDA, focusing on the Summer Food Service Program, which was established to ensure that low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when schools are not in session.
 - USDA’s [video](#) on the “Cops N Kids” summer meals program, a partnership between USDA and Southbridge, Mass.

- **On childhood trauma and creating trauma informed counties:** Dr. David Murphey of Child Trend began this discussion by outlining the research surrounding childhood trauma, its implications, and how communities can work to become “trauma informed.” Committee member Glenn Osborne (Wilson County, N.C.) followed by outlining the efforts of his county and others in North Carolina to address childhood trauma.
 - Dr. Murphey’s [slides](#) on childhood trauma.

Aging Subcommittee Meeting

Our meeting on aging featured two organizations that partner with local governments to improve the quality of the lives of senior citizens.

- **On promoting intergenerational communities:** Donna Butts (Generations United) spoke about her organization’s work to engage all generations within a given community, including the recognition of 21 Best Intergenerational Communities. Councilmember Hans Riemer of Montgomery County, Md. Represented one of these award winning communities and discussed the efforts of his county to become “intergenerational.”
 - [Video](#) on Montgomery County, Md.’s recognition as a “Best Intergenerational Community.”
- **On aging with honor and dignity:** Jatrice Martel Gaiter (Volunteers of America) discussed the continuum of services Volunteers of America provides for America’s most vulnerable seniors and suggested actions that county officials can take to assure that older American in their communities can be safe and age with dignity.
 - [Slides](#) presented by Ms. Gaiter.
 - [Video](#) on Volunteers of America’s work.

Joint Meeting on Early Childhood Development

This meeting of our Education, Children and Families Subcommittee was held in conjunction with NACo’s Healthy Counties Advisory Board and its Health Steering Committee. **The session focused on early childhood development and its importance to communities** and featured presentations from Rachel Schumacher (Administration for Children and Families – Office of Child Care) and Dr. Joan Lombardi (Buffett Early Childhood Fund). Credit and thanks to my colleague Emmanuelle St. Jean, who works with the Advisory Board, for organizing this meeting from start to finish, including quite literally going to Joan’s house and picking her up in the midst of a snowstorm to make sure she made it to our meeting.

- [Materials](#) from the early childhood meeting, including both Rachel’s and Joan’s slides and handouts.
- [Webinars](#) by the Office of Child Care on Expulsion and Suspension Prevention
- [Information](#) on Early Childhood – Child Welfare projects
- [Information](#) on Birth to 5: Watch me Thrive! Initiative, which encourages universal developmental and behavioral screening for children
- If you would like to receive future announcements from the Office of Child Care (OCC), please send a message to ACFccb.announcements@acf.hhs.gov with Subscribe in the subject line

- **Lastly, Rachel has expressed interest in working directly with committee members from counties that administer Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). If you fit this description, please let me know!**

Welfare, Social Services and Immigration Subcommittee

This session featured a conversation about how to be “innovative” in the provision of county-level social services. Dr. Brian Knudsen of NACo’s Research Department joined the meeting and is credited with the following take-aways from the conversation.

- General themes taken from the conversation regarding improving social services provisions: (1) Starting from an identified goal (i.e. “longer lives and better well-being), and ensuring that the county social service apparatus focus entirely on attaining that goal; (2) Transcending “silos” and departmental barriers; (3) Achieving flexible funding so as to enable (1) and (2).
- Nick Macchione, Director of the Health & Human Services Agency of San Diego County, joined the meeting to discuss the “Human Services Value Curve.”
 - [More](#) on the value curve and Nick’s work in San Diego County.
- The need for increased collaboration between the NACo Health and Human Services committees was stressed.
- [Measure for America’s Portrait of Sonoma County](#), which measures how residents are faring in three areas: health, access to knowledge and living standards.
- [Performance Partnership Pilots \(P3\) hub](#), with information on a federal initiative to expand flexibility in how recipients, including counties, uses discretionary federal funds to implement evidence-informed practices while committing to achieve significant improvements for disconnected youth