

# COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## SBE ADVISORY COMMITTEE LOOKS TO FUTURE OF NSF DIRECTORATE

On May 23-24, the Advisory Committee to the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate pondered how to support new and exciting ideas under development in the face of budgetary constraints at the National Science Foundation. The 14 member committee chaired by Marta Tienda, Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago, heard SBE Assistant Director Cora Marrett describe the planning process for the FY 1996 budget cycle currently underway at the Foundation. Following the National Science Board meeting in June, the NSF expects to submit its new strategic plan to Congress in early July. The NSF's FY 1996 budget proposal goes to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in September 1994 for administration review.

NSF faces a tough situation, since the current planning assumes no increase in funds in FY 1996 over the FY 1995 allocation (determined by the congressional appropriations process). The planning process also occurs within priorities for science and technology laid down by the Clinton administration through OMB and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). These priorities reflect general considerations such as a "healthy and educated citizenry," but as these are refined further, fitting social, behavioral and economic science research interests into them will require persistence and ingenuity.

The administration has favored SBE in its proposed FY 1995 budget by supporting increased resources for research on the human dimensions of global change. However, the question facing SBE is how to convince OSTP and the hierarchy of the NSF, its director and the National Science Board, to include new SBE initiatives as part of the nation's science and technology agenda. One way is to convince Congress to provide support for these research agendas and thus compel compliance. Sometimes this strategy creates difficulties, especially in eras of scarce resources where funds are easily manipulated and shifted. In addition, federal agencies are not happy when they are micromanaged by Congress. The other way is to build as strong a case as possible within the Foundation with help

from the outside community. Both strategies are currently underway.

For the Advisory Committee, the program officers of the directorate provided a show and tell about 8 areas of research where SBE would like enhanced support. These included: democratization, human capital, violence, high performance computing and communications, cognitive science, human dimensions of global change, human genome diversity, and science and technology studies. Of these, Allan Kornberg, Director of the Division of Social, Behavioral and Economic Research, argued that the Advisory Committee should endorse democratization, human capital (with violence folded into it), high performance computing and communications, and cognitive science. Although generally supportive of these initiatives, the Committee did not take any formal action.

The panel also discussed the need to enhance NSF's efforts to recruit more women and minorities into science. Committee member Jacquelynne Eccles of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, argued that we know "what works," but the resources and sometimes the will are

### INSIDE UPDATE...

- ◆ Varmus Addresses Advocacy Groups
- ◆ Aging Research Report in Final Stages
- ◆ COSSA Testifies Before Congress on NSF Appropriations
- ◆ NSF Human Capital Initiative Document Available
- ◆ EDA Reauthorized with Research and Information Collection Components
- ◆ NSEP Program Officially Begins; Exchange Scholarships Awarded
- ◆ Congressman, APA Hold Forum on Youth Violence
- ◆ Urban Institute Provides Factual Baseline on Immigration
- ◆ COSSA Adds Two: Clark Joins, Santa Barbara Rejoins
- ◆ Sources of Research Support: Dept. of Health and Human Services

lacking. The Committee decided, at its next meeting, to confer with leaders of the Education and Human Resources Directorate to discuss this topic. Brief presentations were also made to the Committee by Marcel Bardon, Director of the International Division, and Ken Brown, Director of the Science Resource Studies Division. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will occur in the late Fall.

## VARMUS ADDRESSES ADVOCACY GROUPS

Harold Varmus, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) expressed his appreciation to the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding for its efforts to increase funding for the NIH. "You are the best spokespersons for NIH," he stated, citing his approval of the most recent Ad Hoc Group document written to address FY 1995 funding by Congress. The Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding, of which COSSA is a member, is a diverse coalition of more than 130 medical and scientific societies, voluntary health groups, and academic and research organizations.

Varmus met with the advocacy community to discuss the status of FY 1995 funding for the NIH. He felt that it was extremely unlikely that NIH will get the 4.7 percent increase the President has requested, and believes a 3 percent overall increase is more realistic. This is not a true "increase" because it is still below the biomedical inflation

rate. In contrast to the Clinton administration's theme of striving "to do more with less," Varmus expressed his desire to increase NIH's share of the pie by creating new initiatives and therefore, new excitement for NIH in Congress. The political dilemma for increasing NIH funding is that "health care reform is more important to the President," according to Varmus. Research may be seen as a necessary component to health care reform, but keeping down costs makes it more difficult to include money for research in the package, he reported. Although he mentioned the Harkin-Hatfield bill, a proposal that would create additional funding for medical research by setting aside a portion of the health insurance premiums collected by regional alliances, Varmus did not express a position on the legislation. He did cite the importance of industry cosponsorship with government of new research efforts.

Varmus described one strategy he will use to make research more appealing to the public and Congress--a retreat for institute directors. At the retreat directors would be asked what they would do with an increase in funding if they received it, and how they could be more effective in promoting spinoffs from existing research. This Varmus anticipates, will yield new and exciting initiatives that he hopes will improve the funding status of NIH. He also discussed NIH's review of the intramural program as well as the ongoing efforts to improve the peer review system.

When asked if NIH would be better off if it were a separate agency like the National Science Foundation (NSF), independent from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Varmus said that he was "happy with our location in HHS, I have direct contact with Secretary Donna Shalala, and I believe Shalala is a very good advocate for NIH." He also added that NIH pays for 40 percent of all basic research done in the U.S., and that it spends more on chemistry than NSF.

Responding to Varmus' statement that he would like to see increased collaboration of research initiatives across the institutes, COSSA staffer, Susan Persons, asked how effective such entities as the Office of Disease Prevention, the Office of AIDS Research, the Office of Research on Women's Health, and the Office of Minority Health are in fostering collaborative research efforts. All of these are located in the office of the director. Varmus stated that he did not need these offices to encourage collaboration across the institutes, that he could do that directly by talking with the institute

### CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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directors. He added that these offices did have the ability to supplement research initiated by the institutes, but that "pooling money does not create more money." This might not bode well for the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR) which, once fully established, will also be located in the office of the director. As stated in the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993, one of the major functions of the OBSSR will be to: "With respect to research on the relationship between human behavior and the development, treatment, and prevention of medical conditions,...shall--(A) coordinate research conducted or supported by the agencies of the NIH; and (B) identify projects of behavioral and social sciences research that should be conducted or supported by the national research institutes, and develop such projects in cooperation with such institutes." When asked by another member of the coalition what "carrots" he would offer to encourage collaboration, Varmus did not cite any specific strategy.

## AGING RESEARCH REPORT IN FINAL STAGES

The Task Force on Aging Research of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) met recently to approve its final report. The Task Force, established in late 1991 in response to the Home Health Care and Alzheimer's Disease Amendment Act of 1990, is composed of four Members of Congress, three public members, the HHS Assistant Secretaries for Health and for Planning and Evaluation, the Surgeon General, the Director of the National Institute on Aging, who serves as chair, and Directors of the other NIH institutes, and the directors of several additional federal agencies concerned with aging research. Charged by Congress to develop recommendations to the HHS Secretary on: 1) the types of research or the specific research projects that should be conducted or supported, 2) the projects that should be given priority in the provision of funds, and 3) the amount of funds that should be appropriated for such research, the Task Force's report will be delivered late this summer to the HHS Secretary and two congressional committees.

Ron Abeles, Associate Director for Behavioral and Social Research at NIA and the Executive Secretary, and Frank Whittington, Senior Research Policy Advisor to the NIA and Professor of Sociology at Georgia State University presented the draft of the report for review by the Task Force.

NIA Director Richard Hodes praised the report as an "historical accomplishment." The document presents a comprehensive overview of aging research, and contains ten chapters including: Biological Processes, Diseases and Disabilities, Mental Disorders, Health Care, Social and Behavioral Functioning, Aging Society, Economic Security, Social and Supportive Services, Special Populations, and Research and Data Resources. Introductions to each chapter define the particular area of research, explain its rationale, and outline recurrent themes.

As requested by Congress, the Task Force includes a professional judgment budget (PJB) for each relevant government agency. A PJB represents what the agencies would consider optimal funding levels for aging research, but are not actual budget request levels. Current estimated government-wide spending for aging research totals \$841 million. The Task Force recommends increasing the base amount by \$1.1 billion over the next five years. Research deemed an "immediate priority" by the Task Force would receive heavier funding at the beginning of the five year period, while research of "high priority" would receive less initially and gradually increase over the five year span. Task Force members emphasized that all of the recommendations in the report were vital to the health of the nation, and that much was not included in order to be as cost efficient as possible.

Although the report received unanimous approval by the Task Force, the vote was preceded by a lengthy discussion of whether to revise the introduction to reflect more enthusiasm and urgency for the research, rather than a scholarly, objective tone. The debate appeared to center on a conceptual definition of the report--was it an "advocacy document in itself" or a "tool" to be used by the advocacy community. Of those Task Force members expressing their opinions, those in favor of revising the introduction were nearly all women, those who preferred a less rhetorical "scientific" approach were men. Since the vote to decide the issue was very close (13-11), Hodes suggested that the final version incorporate, at least in part, some advocacy language.

The Task Force is anticipating momentarily the release of its interim report, *Historical Summary of Federal Recommendations for Research on Aging: 1980-1992*. It presents a summary of over 2,500 separate research recommendations proposed in prior federal aging policy reports and represents a unique compilation of what the report calls the

"invisible agenda" that has guided federal aging research. For more information, contact Ronald Abeles at (301) 496-3136.

## COSSA TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS ON NSF APPROPRIATIONS

Arguing for full funding for NSF's requested 8 percent increase for research, Executive Director Howard J. Silver presented COSSA's testimony to the House VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriation subcommittee on May 5. Similar testimony was submitted to the Senate subcommittee a week later.

Silver told the House panel, chaired by Rep. Louis Stokes (D-OH), that the President's requested overall increase for NSF of 6 percent was disappointing, following many years of double-digit requests from the White House. Silver echoed the arguments of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), on whose steering committee he sits, that NSF, in presenting its budget, "has made tough decisions and trade-offs in setting priorities among research, instrumentation and facilities, and education and human resources." He urged the subcommittees to accept those decisions, including giving priority to research, in making its allocations among NSF's appropriation categories.

Looking at the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate, Silver acknowledged the large percentage increase proposed (14.5 percent), but pointed out the increase grew from a small base and only amounted to \$14 million. He made the case for continuing support for core funding of individual investigator non-directed research and for maintaining the key social and economic data bases funded by NSF.

Reiterating arguments he has made elsewhere, Silver stressed the need to support more research on "people" issues when dealing with technological change, particularly in the area of advanced manufacturing. He informed the subcommittee of SBE's program, partially funded by industry, on quality in organizations. He emphasized the importance of including support for research on the social, legal and ethical implications of the National Information Infrastructure.

In addition, COSSA advocated new funding for a Center for Violence Research, which the House subcommittee seems quite interested in adding to NSF's portfolio. Silver also spoke about the

Human Capital and Democratization initiatives, asserting their importance to the multidisciplinary research projects SBE would like to fund.

Subsequent discussions with House and Senate appropriations staff indicate clear interest in the violence center, and the Human Capital and Democratization initiatives. The problem remains constraints on resources and where funds for new items will be found.

## NSF HUMAN CAPITAL INITIATIVE DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

In response to the Senate Appropriations Committee's call to pay attention to the Human Capital Initiative developed by behavioral science groups, NSF has released a document, *Investing in Human Resources: A Strategic Plan for the Human Capital Initiative*. The eighteen-page report is the result of work done by researchers in social and behavioral sciences.

The document, drafted by Rebecca Blank, Professor of Economics at Northwestern University, is a synthesis of reports of working groups convened in March to produce research agendas on human resource issues. The agendas are built around six key areas: 1) employing a productive workforce; 2) education for the future; 3) fostering successful families; 4) building strong neighborhoods; 5) reducing disadvantage in a diverse society; and 6) overcoming poverty and deprivation. The report argues that "further research, particularly a major coordinated research effort that engages leading scientists in a wide variety of questions relating to the development of human skills and human resources, promises large future rewards."

For copies of the report and the reports of the individual working groups contact Dan Newlon, Economics Program, NSF at 703/306-1753 or on e-mail: [dnewlon@nsf.gov](mailto:dnewlon@nsf.gov).

## EDA REAUTHORIZED WITH RESEARCH AND INFORMATION COLLECTION COMPONENTS

On May 12, the House passed an authorization for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), an agency that provides grants and loans to economically distressed areas for economic development planning purposes. Over the years a

## COSSA ADDS TWO: CLARK JOINS, SANTA BARBARA RETURNS

COSSA is pleased to announce the arrival of Clark University and the return of the University of California, Santa Barbara to the Consortium. Both will be Contributors. We look forward to working with them on issues of common concern.

small portion of the EDA budget has gone to support research and evaluation (The President's FY 1995 budget asks for \$500,000 for these activities). The new authorization contains two new offices aimed at enhancing EDA's research and information collection capabilities. If the Senate passes its bill, the EDA will have an authorization for the first time since 1980. Republican administrations have wanted to eliminate the office.

The bill establishes an Office of Strategic Economic Development Planning and Policy, whose functions include the "support of research, evaluation, and demonstration projects to study and assess best practices in economic development and to examine trends and changes in economic conditions that affect regional development." Among the research topics the office should focus on, according to the bill, are: determining the causes of unemployment, underemployment, underdevelopment and chronic regional depression. The office may provide grants and contracts for this research.

The legislation also encourages the development of a computerized geographic information analysis tool that all Federal department agencies and grant recipients may use to evaluate the success of these programs.

A new Office of Economic Development Information is established within the larger office described above. This office shall develop information data bases on economic development, economic adjustment, disaster recovery, industrial retention, and defense conversion programs of the Federal government and State and local governments. The data bases should provide compilations of relevant and available economic data and trends, including information about the national, regional and local impacts of trade agreements, defense spending and downsizing, technological changes and other sources of substantial economic dislocation. Case studies and published works, including selected texts of such

works, should become part of the data base. The public would have easy access to the data bases through toll free nationwide telephone numbers and on-line electronic networks by direct call in or at repository libraries.

## NSEP PROGRAM OFFICIALLY BEGINS; EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The National Security Education Program (NSEP), which seeks to convert up to \$150 million in intelligence funds into a trust fund to support international exchanges and area studies, is officially underway after several years of political and bureaucratic roadblocks. The National Security Education Board met for the first time on May 9 in Washington to approve 317 undergraduate and 173 graduate and doctoral awards.

The Board is comprised of seven government representatives and five non-governmental members. The federal members are: the chair, Assistant Secretary of Defense Edward L. Warner, Assistant Secretary of Education David A. Longanecker, James B. Steinberg of the Policy Planning Staff at the State Department, Commerce Department Chief of Staff Robert J. Stein, National Intelligence Council Chairman Joseph S. Nye of the CIA, U.S. Information Agency Director Joseph Duffey, and National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman Sheldon Hackney.

From outside the government, the Board includes: Roger Hilsman of Columbia University, Tulane University President Eamon Kelly, University of Arizona President Manuel Pacheco, and former Congressman Robert Shamansky. The nomination of economist Stanley Sheinbaum is still pending Senate confirmation.

NSEP is housed within the Department of Defense, a fact that has raised concern among some over the independence of the program and the safety of those studying abroad. To address this, the program is administered through two private organizations, the Institute for International Education and the Academy for Educational Development. The Clinton administration has expressed its intent to move the program to the Education Department.

For more information on NSEP, contact (703) 696-1991.

## CONGRESSMAN, APA HOLD FORUM ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

Congressman Robert Scott (D-VA) and the American Psychological Association (APA) co-sponsored a May 17 briefing, *Stopping the Madness: Initiatives in Juvenile Violence Prevention*, which highlighted research findings and programs aimed at curbing youth violence.

Scott opened the meeting by saying that through research on promoting pro-social behavior we know how to prevent violence, but that policymakers pass over adequate funding for programs such as Head Start and job training in favor of stricter sentencing and building more jails. He noted that in the United States youth are incarcerated at a higher rate than in any other nation. Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ) echoed Scott's remarks, saying that in the area of medicine when our nation has made a strong commitment to solving a problem it has usually been successful, but that a similar effort has not been made toward stopping violence.

Dewey G. Cornell of the University of Virginia discussed his research on preventing youth violence. He gave data on the rise in the number of juveniles prosecuted as adults and the increase in the number of juveniles incarcerated. Saying "the threat of punishment works with healthy, normal children raised in good families," Cornell stated that many children who commit violent crimes are psychologically deficient to the point where they do not see the consequences of their actions or are unable to consider alternative actions. He called for strengthening families, identifying and treating children with mild behavior problems who are at-risk for more serious problems, and improving the juvenile justice system so that courts are not forced to choose between public safety and treatment for juvenile offenders.

Courtland C. Lee of the University of Virginia reviewed the findings of major studies on empowering young black males and offered a guideline for school counsellors to foster success among this group. He suggested four general guidelines for school-based empowerment strategies: 1) they should be developmental in nature, aiming for youth to meet challenges in a proactive manner, 2) strategies should provide for competent adult black male leaders, noting that it is not unusual for black youth to have little or no interaction with a black male teacher, counselor, or administrator, 3) empowerment efforts should incorporate

African/American culture, and 4) strategies should include some type of "Rite-of-Passage" ceremony.

Patrick Tolan of the University of Illinois at Chicago discussed early intervention strategies, contending that they should be guided by three points. First, violence and criminal behavior can be prevented. He said that the solutions required are not exotic but also may not be obvious. He added, "even if our hearts are in the right place, we may still be wrong," saying that without research and evaluation, policymakers can pursue wrong paths. Second, research-based approaches can answer stymied situations. He gave a list of proposals that need more evaluation and research: manhood development, mentoring, peer mediation, and recruiting out of gangs. Third, he presented data showing that the cost of running a successful prevention program is significantly lower than not running them.

For more information, contact APA's Public Interest Directorate at (202) 336-5500.

## URBAN INSTITUTE PROVIDES FACTUAL BASELINE ON IMMIGRATION

A new report by the Urban Institute seeks to provide a factual baseline to inform the intensifying debate over immigration issues. The report, *Immigration and Immigrants: Setting the Record Straight*, was written by Michael Fix and Jeffrey S. Passel and released at a May 24 press briefing in Washington, D.C.

In examining the policy context of immigration, the authors note the social, economic, moral, and national and economic security goals of immigration policy. They comment that while immigration policy -- who comes in and in what numbers -- is set by the federal government in an inclusive and well defined manner, policies influencing the integration of immigrants after their arrival are unlinked and set by state and local governments.

The report provides a comprehensive statistical portrait of the nation's immigrant population. With almost one-half of the immigrant population arriving in the past 10 years and the number of countries sending immigrants doubling in the past 20 years, the pace and diversity of immigration complicate efforts of local communities to integrate newcomers, the authors state.

In addressing the effects on labor markets, the study shows no overall effect. It says that there are small negative effects on low-skilled workers in stagnant local economies with high concentrations of immigrants, but not other types of economies. According to the report, in growing economies immigration increases the labor market of opportunities of low-skilled, native workers; in declining or stagnant economies, immigration diminishes them. The study also says that immigrants, with a high rate of self-employment, create more jobs than they take.

According to the authors, the public sector costs and benefits of immigrants vary by level of government. To the federal government, they represent a net gain; state-level impact varies by state. At the local level, the costs of immigrants -- and of the native born -- exceed taxes paid. The major "cost" of immigration is education of immigrant children. To obtain a copy of the study, contact the Urban Institute at (202) 857-8687.

## CONGRESSIONAL PANEL ON ENTITLEMENTS SEEKS COMMENTS

The Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform, chaired by Senators Robert Kerrey (D-NE) and John Danforth (R-MO), requests written comments with respect to its mandates to: 1) recommend long term budget saving measures involving statutory entitlements and other mandatory programs; and 2) recommend alternative tax reform proposals.

The Commission, a byproduct of the 1993 budget agreement between the president and Congress, was established by Executive Order in November 1993. It consists of 32 members; 22 members of Congress and 10 presidential appointees. Its report is due to the President and Congress by December 15, 1994.

For more information contact Mark Weinberger 202/224-2300.

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## SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency for further information or application materials. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

### Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

The Department wishes to conduct research to provide a clearer understanding of the policy issues pertaining to children's disability. Research conducted under grants awarded through this announcement will advance the state of knowledge regarding children with disabilities in the following issue areas: 1) definitions and measurement, 2) demographic and socio-economic characteristics, 3) service use, expenditures, and effectiveness, 4) private cost of care, 5) financing of services and supports, and 6) system organization. The Department encourages secondary data analysis. Given the dearth of national data, the applicant is encouraged to select information from states, school systems, clinical-level data, or other available data sets, which could contain the relevant analytic variables. Other methodologies may be appropriate.

**Application Procedure:** Copies of applications should be requested from and submitted to: Grants Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, room 405-F, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20201. Phone: (202) 401-3951.

**Budget:** A total of \$600,000 in FY 1994 funds has been set aside for this announcement. Awards will range from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

**Review Process:** Applications will be reviewed by government personnel, augmented by outside experts where appropriate.

**Deadlines:** July 18, 1994

**Contact:** above address and phone number

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