

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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NEAL LANE NAMED DIRECTOR OF NSF *HS*

On July 13, the White House announced its intention to nominate Neal F. Lane, Provost of Rice University, as the next Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF). He would succeed Walter Massey, who left the Foundation in April to become Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of California.

Lane has spent almost his entire professional career at Rice, having joined the physics department there in 1966 following a NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Lane became full professor in 1972 and chair of the Department from 1977-82. During those years, he left Rice to spend two years as the Director of the Division of Physics at NSF (1969-70). In 1984 he moved to the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and for two years served as Chancellor. In 1986 he moved back to Houston to become Provost of Rice.

Aside from many activities, publications, honors, and memberships related to physics, Lane also served as the Chair of the NSF Advisory Panel on Advanced Scientific Computing from 1984-86 and is currently on the NSF Blue Ribbon Panel on High Performance Computing and the NSF Mathematics and Physical Science Directorate Advisory Committee. From 1986-88 he chaired a panel on Science Engineering and Manpower for the Office of Technology Assessment, where the present Presidential Science Advisor, John Gibbons, served as Director.

Lane has served as a member of the University Research Association's Overseer Board for the superconducting supercollider. The association helps manage the SSC project for the government. He is the president-elect of Sigma Xi, the National Scientific Honorary Society, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

According to present and former Rice colleagues, as Provost, Lane had plenty of exposure

to, a real understanding of, and appreciation for the social and behavioral sciences.

The winner of a number of teaching awards early in his career, Lane received his PhD, MS, and BS from the University of Oklahoma.

Given the time-consuming nature of the nomination process, NSF officials do not expect Senate confirmation hearings until September. They hope that Lane will be confirmed by the start of Fiscal Year 1994 on October 1, 1993.

HOUSE PASSES COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE FUNDING; CENSUS FUNDS SLASHED *MB*

On July 20 the House passed the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1994 by a 327-98 vote. The legislation affects several programs, outlined below, of importance to social and behavioral scientists.

At the Census Bureau, funds for research and design efforts to plan the 2000 Census were dramatically cut, with \$15 million of the

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Administration's \$23 million request eliminated. As discussed in greater detail in the July 12 *Update*, the drastic reduction reflects the growing frustration on Capitol Hill over the cost and quality of the 1990 census, as well as Census Bureau efforts to redress these issues for 2000.

The Economic and Statistics Administration at the Commerce Department, which includes the Bureau of Economic Analysis, was appropriated \$45.2 million, \$4.5 million less than the President's request, but \$5.9 million over current funding.

At the Justice Department, the House voted \$23.0 million for the National Institute of Justice and \$21.4 million for the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Funding for both of these agencies was kept at the FY 1993 levels and was identical to the President's budget request. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention received an increase from \$72.3 million in FY 1993 to \$123.0 million for 1994, with the bulk of the increase supporting new delinquency prevention training and technical assistance programs.

Voting \$217.7 million for educational and cultural exchanges supported by the United States Information Agency (USIA), the House reduced the Administration request by \$25.2 million and current funding by \$5.8 million. The report accompanying the appropriations bill notes that the FY 1994 funding level was based in part on the anticipation that USIA will receive a large portion of the Agency for International Development's support for exchanges to aid the former Soviet Union. The report also urges USIA to reduce or replace

traditional USIA programs with initiatives to help the newly emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

HOUSE PASSES INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES FUNDING BILL MB

On July 15 the House passed, 278-138, the Fiscal Year 1994 Interior and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Included in the legislation was \$177.5 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). That figure is identical to both the FY93 level and the President's request. The House adopted an amendment by Rep. Clifford Stearns (R-FL) to reduce funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) by five percent. After years of NEA funding being higher than NEH, the roles are now reversed.

The bill increases total funding for the Smithsonian Institution from \$295.6 million in FY93 to \$299.7 million. Sciences and Arts and Humanities programs were level-funded.

SENATE AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: SMALL INCREASE FOR NRI; ERS CUT AS

The Senate Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-AR), marked up its FY 1994 bill on July 19. Full committee approval followed on July 20. The allocations reflect the appropriations committees' prerogative to "bring home the bacon" by funding over 100 special grants within the Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS).

Programs of interest to social, behavioral and economic scientists received mixed news. The Committee allocated \$171.3 million for Hatch Act payments, the same as the House and the administration, and a \$3 million increase over FY 1993.

The Senate Committee funded the National Research Initiative Competitive Grants (NRI) program at \$102.5 million, a slight \$5 million increase over FY 1993, and \$26 million under the request. The House had granted \$114 million, but this included \$2.5 million for Global Change research and \$9 million for Water Quality research.

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations represents more than 185,000 American scientists across the full range of the social and behavioral sciences, functioning as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community. Update is published fortnightly. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$60; institutional subscriptions, \$120, overseas mail, \$120. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: (202) 842-3525, Fax: (202) 842-2788

The Senate moved these two back into the Special Grants program, which it funded at \$71.1 million compared to the House at \$50.1 million, the administration request of \$34 million, and the FY 1993 level of \$73.4 million. The Markets, Trade and Policy component of the NRI received \$4 million from the Senate, the same as the House and last year's appropriation, but \$3.5 million under the administration's request. The Rural Policies Institute Special Grant at the Universities of Arkansas, Missouri and Nebraska, zero-funded in the House bill, was appropriated \$595,000, slightly under the FY 1993 level of \$692,000. The committee report language reiterates the House view that recipients of Special Grants be allowed to compete in the NRI program.

The Senate committee, as the House did, also recommended slightly over \$1 million for a geographic information system for land use management purposes. The pilot project begun in 1990 in Arkansas, Georgia, and the Chesapeake Bay, now includes Wisconsin, Washington, and North Dakota as well.

The Senate committee recommended \$51.2 million for the Economic Research Service (ERS), \$7.5 million less than FY 1993, \$6.5 million less than the House, and slightly above the request from the administration which argued "much of [ERS's] work duplicates that of other USDA bureaus." The Senate did not suggest it accepted the administration's view, but simply cut the funding.

The National Agricultural Statistical Service received \$81.5 million from the Senate, the same as the request, slightly (\$611,000) under the House appropriation, and slightly (\$454,000) over the FY 1993 level.

The bill is expected to go to the Senate floor before the August recess.

ROBINSON CONFIRMED AS HEAD OF OERI

HS

Sharon Porter Robinson, former head of the National Center for Innovation at the National Education Association, was confirmed by the Senate on June 24 as the new Assistant Secretary of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI).

CORRECTION

In the June 28 issue of *Update*, the first name of Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) was misidentified. We apologize for the error.

Robinson takes over an office in the midst of reauthorization and whose reputation has suffered over the years from politicization and revolving door leadership. The reauthorization process is moving in the House, where a bill has emerged from the Subcommittee on Select Education and Civil Rights chaired by Rep. Major Owens (D-NY). The bill would create five research institutes, increase authorized funding for Field Initiated Studies, improve dissemination efforts, and create a policy board that would oversee OERI. The administration has some problems with the bill and negotiations are in progress. The Senate has yet to begin the reauthorization process yet.

Robinson has embraced the worlds of research, development, dissemination, and practice during her years as a classroom teacher in Kentucky, an evaluation specialist for the Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, and as Associate Director of the Jefferson County Education Consortium. At the National Education Association, where she has been since 1979, Robinson has been involved in developing desegregation strategies and teachers' rights efforts, directed the instructional and professional development program, and, since 1990, led the National Center for Innovation, where she focused on school restructuring and professionalization of teaching.

She has been a member of the Chapter 1 Study Commission, a staff consultant to the National Board for Professional Teaching, and a visiting research fellow at the Educational Testing Service. Robinson is a member of the American Education Research Association and received her EdD, MA, and BS from the University of Kentucky.

GAO REPORT FINDS INADEQUATE EVALUATION OF HEALTH PROGRAMS

SB

According to a recent report by the General Accounting Office (GAO), Congress could be better informed on the efficacy of federal health programs through greater use of evaluation programs. The report, *Evaluation Set-Aside Has Not Realized Its Potential to Inform the Congress*, examines the use of

monies set-aside for Public Health Service program evaluation projects. The set-aside was intended to research the effectiveness of federal health programs.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is allowed to use up to one percent of the appropriations for Public Health Service (PHS) programs for evaluation, which amounts to over \$500 million over the last five fiscal years that could have been used to help Congress determine if it is spending money on effective programs. According to the GAO, PHS allocated less than 60 percent of this figure for evaluations.

The GAO found several reasons for the limited use of the set-aside: competition with program needs for funding; competition with program needs for staff; uncertainty about total funds available due to Congressional earmarking; and constraints on funding for consulting services. The study found that the majority of evaluation set-aside funds in the last five years were directed by Congress to support national health surveys.

Recommendations proposed by GAO for more effective use of the set-aside are: 1) take steps to ensure that funds set aside for evaluation are in fact used to support evaluations of PHS programs; and 2) ensure that evaluation results are synthesized by program area (regardless of how the evaluation was funded) and communicated to the Congress. The study also advised that because the legislative language authorizing the set-aside is broad and discretionary, parameters on the permissible uses of evaluation set-aside funds should be provided.

Copies of the report (#GAO/PEMD-93-13) are available by calling GAO at 202/275-6241.

NRC AND IOM ESTABLISH BOARD ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES *HS*

The Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (CBASSE) of the National Research Council (NRC) and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) have established a 15 member Board on Children and Families to develop strategies for the effective application of an increasingly rich body of research and practice knowledge to the development and implementation of policy decisions for children and families.

The Board, chaired by Harvard Psychology Professor Sheldon White, held its first meeting on

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Sheldon White, Psychology, Harvard, Chair

Jack Shonkoff, Pediatrics, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Vice-Chair

Jomills Braddock, Sociology, University of Miami

Larry Bumpass, Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Fernando Guerra, Director of Health, San Antonio Health District

Bernard Guyer, Maternal & Child Health, Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene

Aletha Huston, Human Development & Family Life, Univ. of Kansas

Robert Michael, Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago

Paul Newacheck, Health Policy, University of California, San Francisco.

Julius B. Richmond, Social Medicine, Harvard School of Medicine

Lisbeth Schorr, Social Medicine, Harvard University

Carole Simpson, ABC News

Deborah Stipek, Education, UCLA

Diana Taylor, Family Health Care Nursing, University of California, San Francisco

Gail Wilensky, Project Hope, Bethesda (former HCFA Administrator)

July 20 and 21. Deborah Phillips, Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia, has been named Project Director. For a complete list of the Board see Box.

At the meeting, the Board heard presentations on child abuse and family violence, cultural influences on the success on early childhood education, head start, and federal databases on children. Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-CO), who was chair of the now defunct House Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, spoke to the group about the importance of influencing the Joint Committee on Congressional Reform to include a permanent committee to address the needs of children and families, becoming more effective advocates for children by publicizing anti-child votes by members of Congress, and ending gun violence against and by children and families.

The Board is an outgrowth of a long history of activity by the NRC and IOM concerning research and policies affecting children. A series of studies published during the 1980s discussed topics including: evaluations of early childhood demonstration projects; adolescent sexuality, pregnancy, and childbearing; child care policies; and deinstitutionalization of status offenders.

In addition, for the past 5 years a National Forum on the Future of Children and their Families convened scholars, high level federal, state and local policymakers, corporate executives, labor leaders, community leaders, philanthropists, and media members, to engage in open discussion of value-laden and politically controversial issues such as family violence, the working poor, children and parental illicit drug use, and children's needs in health care reform.

In 1993, CBASSE has published five studies related to children and family issues, and the IOM has contributed two. These include: Losing Generations: Adolescents in High Risk Settings (see below); Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect: Understanding and Preventing Violence; Family and Development: Summary of An Expert Meeting; Social Dynamics of Adolescent Fertility in Sub-Saharan Africa; Emergency Medical Services for Children; and The Children's Vaccine Initiative: Achieving the Vision.

For further information about the reports and the work of the Board contact: Deborah Phillips, Project Director, Board on Children and Families, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20418; 202/334-1935.

NAS REPORT LINKS DETERIORATING SETTINGS TO HIGH-RISK BEHAVIOR *MS*

A new report by the National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academy of Sciences concludes that the environments in which many of America's youth are living have failed to provide the resources, support, and opportunities to adequately prepare them for productive adulthood.

The study, *Losing Generations: Adolescents in High-Risk Settings*, notes that most research on adolescent behavior has focused on the individual characteristics of teen-agers and their families to explain causes of risky behavior, but that little attention has been paid to what the NRC calls the

profound influence of settings on adolescents' behavior and development. One study that would have attempted this kind of research, the American Teenage Study, was cancelled by the Bush Administration because some of the questions related to teen sexual behavior.

The NRC panel studied families, neighborhoods, the transition from school to work, health care, education, child welfare, and juvenile and criminal justice systems. The study particularly notes structural and demographic changes in the U.S. economy and society that have caused a deterioration in the economic position of young adults. To obtain a copy of the report, contact the NRC at (202) 334-3313 or (800) 624-6242.

NIH LOOKS AT SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN CLINICAL STUDIES *SP*

The Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) convened meetings on July 12 and 13 to examine issues affecting the recruitment and retention of women from diverse racial and ethnic groups and socioeconomic strata in clinical research. At the meeting, ORWH Deputy Director Judith H. LaRosa stated that the "Recommendations from this meeting will be used by the ORWH and the institutes and centers of the NIH to increase the awareness of how study investigators and their staff can appropriately and sensitively engage communities and the women in them into clinical studies."

This was the second meeting of the ORWH Task Force, which was created in February to confront the lack of participation of women in clinical studies. The Task Force first convened a public hearing in March at which COSSA testified (see *Update*, April 5) The summary of the hearing provided at the July meeting cited COSSA's testimony regarding two barriers to the participation of women in clinical studies: 1) that women are often unaware of planned clinical trials or their eligibility to participate; and 2) that many women encounter a "gatekeeper" mentality from their physicians, in which they are not given information about a condition, therapy, or clinical study because it is deemed "too complex" or "unnecessary." COSSA's recommendations that research be conducted on the social and psychological barriers to women's participation and strategies to overcome them were also included in the summary.

FDA Exclusion Highlighted

Also highlighted as a barrier at both the hearing and the scientific meeting was the FDA's 16-year-old general exclusion of women of "childbearing potential" from the earliest phases of clinical trials. Ostensibly, that exclusion was to minimize unnecessary risk to a fetus in the event that a female subject became pregnant during exposure to an investigational agent. The FDA has been reconsidering their guidelines on this issue, as evidenced by the statement of Dianne Murphy, M.D., Assistant Director for Medical Affairs of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the FDA at the ORWH hearing:

"As we speak today in 1993, protecting a fetus from unanticipated exposure to potentially harmful drugs remains a principle of paramount importance in designing clinical trials. However, it is also important to consider the potential scientific benefits of including women of childbearing potential in earlier phases of clinical trials. Identifying important gender differences during the early phases of clinical studies may facilitate the appropriate design of critical later studies that in turn further clinical understanding of the appropriate use of drugs in women. It should also be noted that we now have available a number of options to utilize in preventing and in quickly and accurately diagnosing pregnancy. These technical advances can be put to use in providing assurance that we are not unknowingly exposing fetuses to experimental therapies."

In a related development, guidelines lifting the restrictions on drug companies including women of childbearing age in early clinical trials of drugs were announced on July 22. The new policy also calls for drug companies to observe the differences in the way men and women react to experimental drugs. Whether drug companies will actually comply with the guidelines remains to be seen.

Research on HIV-infected Women

Melanie A. Thompson, M.D. of the AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta discussed further barriers to the recruitment and retention of women in AIDS clinical trials, and offered strategies to overcome them. She stressed the urgent need for research among HIV infected women as AIDS is dramatically increasing among women--especially among African American and Latino women. She estimated that 75% of HIV infected women are African American or Latino.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER JOINS COSSA

COSSA is pleased to announce that the Criminal Justice Center at Sam Houston State University has joined the Consortium as a Contributor. We look forward to working with the Center on issues of common concern.

Thompson identified cultural and economic barriers as the most problematic. She stated that early interventions are not helpful when basic concerns such as the need for food and housing are more pressing. Provider insensitivity and the tremendous distrust of minority populations for the medical establishment also are critical factors. She and several other presenters at the meeting reported that the legacy of the controversial Tuskegee experiment is very strong--distrust of therapies, concern about side effects, and fear of the disclosure of HIV status are impediments to participation in studies. Thompson identified additional psychological barriers for women that include: 1) alienation and isolation among HIV positive women; 2) women's fear for personal safety--eg., spousal abuse if their HIV status was revealed; and 3) women's caretaking responsibilities for children and elderly relatives. Logistical barriers cited by Thompson consist of: 1) scheduling too many clinic visits for participants; 2) requiring clinic visits during work hours; 3) exclusive eligibility requirements; and 4) the need for reimbursement for participant transportation costs.

Several strategies to overcome the above barriers were offered by Thompson. She stressed the necessity of acknowledging the mistrust of the medical establishment by minority populations--that discounting it only widens the gap--and that researchers need to be educated in cultural sensitivity. She urged community-based research, use of focus groups, a liaison to social services, an increase in interagency collaboration, and use of appropriate language in education materials. She suggested that marketing strategies for contacting women include beauty parlors, laundry facilities, and grocery markets as well as the traditional sites of hospitals and clinics. Lastly, regarding study designs, she proposed streamlining study lines, stopping unnecessary clinic visits, using non-placebo controls whenever possible, including patient participation in designing the protocol, allowing adequate time for informed consent, broadening ineligibility requirements, and having research

centers match the demographics of the area in which they are located.

An Issue of Trust

John C. Fletcher, Ph.D., professor of biomedical ethics at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, concurred with Thompson regarding the issue of trust, stating that researchers need to earn the trust of participants, that there was no technological fix, and that he counted 25 times that the issue was raised at the meeting. After summarizing the evolution of research ethics since the early 1950's, he discussed two major concerns of the current bioethics movement. The first is an emphasis on sharing power on making decisions that affect one's life, and Fletcher noted that in the past it was the researchers who had all the power. Second, is the public's desire to look at new technology and procedures before a crisis develops.

One example of this would be anticipating ethical problems that would evolve regarding the Human Genome Project.

The role, effect and importance of advocacy for women's health issues was discussed by Leslie R. Wolfe, Ph.D. of the Center for Women Policy Studies. She stated that "scientists must respect and value the knowledge and expertise that advocates bring to the discussion." She also stressed the need to acknowledge socio/economic and cultural factors that are critical to redefining a system inclusive of women.

This issue will be addressed further by the Institute of Medicine when it releases in the fall of 1994 its study of the legal and ethical issues pertaining to the recruitment and retention of women in clinical studies.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM *ke*

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.

The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) invites research grant applications that advance understanding of the biological and psychosocial mechanisms underlying associations between alcohol consumption and interpersonal violence and that identify and test interventions to reduce and/or prevent alcohol related violence and the alcohol-related sequelae of such violence. Of primary interest are studies that identify: (1) individual and environmental conditions, situations, populations, and circumstances under which alcohol and violence are causally connected; (2) sequential processes by which alcohol intake may lead to violent behavior and vice versa; (3) physiological and neural mechanisms that mediate the relationship between alcohol and violence; (4) behavioral consequences of alcohol-related violence, including subsequent alcohol abuse and violent behavior; and (5) interventions that may effectively reduce alcohol-related violence.

Application Procedure: Application kits are available from most institutional offices of sponsored research and from the Office of Grants Inquiries, Division of Research Grants, National Institutes of Health, Westwood Building, Room 449, Bethesda, MD 20892, phone (301) 594-7248.

Budget: The budget for this program announcement depends on the funding received and the number of grants that are awarded.

Deadlines: The deadlines for applications are October 1, 1993, February 1, 1994 and June 1, 1994.

Contact: For general information contact: Susan E. Martin, Ph.D., Prevention Research Branch, NIAAA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 13C23, Rockville, MD 20857, (301) 443-1677.

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