



2019 CHAIR'S REPORT

Highlight of activities September 2018 – July 2019



West

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Table of Contents

Legislative Service Agency & Research Directors Annual Meeting	1
Officers Gathering in Sacramento	1
International Visitor Leadership Program visits CSG West.....	3
Participation at the Western Regional Partnership Principal's Meeting.....	3
Western Legislative Academy	4
Westrain.....	5
Western Governors' Association Winter Meeting	6
Rotation of Leadership	6
State Visits.....	6
California Assembly's California – Mexico Dialogue	7
CSG Leadership Council Meeting	7
2019 Annual Meeting	7
Fiscal Year 18-19 Highlights	8
Advocacy on Behalf of Western Legislatures	9
California – Mexico Advocacy Day	10
Border Legislative Programs	11
Legislative Council on River Governance.....	11
Communications Efforts	12
CSG National Policy Academies and Task Forces.....	12
Work of the CSG Justice Center in the West.....	13
Partnership with the State & Local Legal Center	15

Note: The Chair's Report highlights activities conducted since the last Executive Committee meeting in September 2018 in Snowbird, Utah

Legislative Service Agency & Research Directors Annual Meeting

The Legislative Service Agency & Research Directors Committee (LSA/RD) convened its 2018 seminar September 25-27 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The LSA/RD Committee provides nonpartisan legislative staff leaders from the western states the opportunity to gather, share best practices, and advance their skills through professional development sessions. The meeting was led by Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, Director of the Hawai'i Legislative Reference Bureau, and Rick Combs, Director of the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau, then chair and vice chair of the Committee, respectively.

With a focus on learning from one another through the sharing of best practices, the committee spent considerable time reviewing information related to legislator orientation programs, anti-harassment policies, interim committees, ways to improve employee performance, and protocols related to public record requests. Members presented information on how their states' currently address these topic areas and invited questions from others. Ensuing conversation led to a rich discussion of lessons learned.

Members also participated in professional skills trainings. Mark Quiner, certified TRACOM SOCIAL STYLE and Versatility Facilitator, hosted an interactive session on understanding social styles focused on how individuals are perceived by others, and how to work with diverse social styles. Additional training was provided by Dr. Danny Miller of New Heights Learning engaging members in a review of conflict styles and how they impact interpersonal interactions. After a quick assessment to identify personal styles, Dr. Miller reviewed methods to navigate conflict, emphasizing that while managed conflict is healthy- mismanagement leads to dysfunction.

During the meeting, the Committee elected Raul Burciaga, Director of the New Mexico Legislative Council Services, and Joe Kolman, Director of Legislative Environmental Policy for the Montana Legislative Services, as the 2019 LSA/RD chair and vice chair, respectively. The LSA/RD Committee meeting rotates annually among the thirteen Western states with the 2019 meeting scheduled to convene October 13-15 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Officers Gathering in Sacramento

The CSG West officers gathered at the CSG West office in Sacramento October 3-5. The attending officers were Representative Kimberly Dudik, Wyoming Senator Michael Von Flatern, Utah Senator Stuart Adams, and Colorado Representative Jeni Arndt. The purpose of the officers gathering was to determine the policy committees and programs for the 2019-20 biennium and identify committee chairs and vice chairs for the biennium consistent with the requirements of the CSG West Rules.

For the 2019-20 biennium, the officers established the following committees and selected the following members to lead them:

- Health Committee – Rep. Eric Barlow (Chair) and WY Rep. Deborah Armstrong (Vice Chair)
- Education Committee – WY Rep. David Northrup (Chair) and NM Sen. Mo Denis (Vice Chair)
- Canada Relations – ID Sen. Michelle Stennett (Co-Chair) and Co-Chair from Canadian Province
- Public Safety – WA Rep. Sherry Appleton (Chair) and AK Rep. Chuck Kopp (Vice Chair)

- Water & Environment – MT Rep. Zach Brown (Chair) and OR Sen. Bill Hansell (Vice Chair)
- Agriculture – HI Rep. Lynn DeCoitte (Chair) and ID Sen. Lee Heider (Vice Chair)
- Economic Development – UT Rep. Bradley Last (Chair) and CA Sen. Ben Allen (Vice Chair)
- Energy – MT Rep. Geraldine Custer (Chair) and CO Rep. Chris Hansen (Vice Chair)
- Westrend Board – NV Sen. Pat Spearman (Chair) and WA Sen. Randi Becker (Vice Chair)
- Legislative Oversight Working Group – UT Sen. Deidre Henderson (Co-Chair) and CA Assemblymember Ken Cooley (Co-Chair)

During the gathering, CSG West staff shared analysis of member feedback from the last annual meeting, as well as from previous targeted surveys regarding programming and logistics. As a result of this feedback, the officers agreed to a set of recommendations aimed at responding to member needs and enhance the overall experience for attending lawmakers to the CSG West annual meeting. These recommendations, which are being implemented during the 2019-20 biennium, include the following:

- Reducing the time of the policy committee and the Westrend Board sessions during the annual meeting from three to two hours;
- Reducing the total number of days of the annual meeting from four to three full-days. The 2020 Annual Meeting will apply this change.
- Incorporating into the annual meeting schedule free-standing policy sessions on key issues and trends affecting the region that may not be necessarily linked to existing policy committees. For the 2019 Annual Meeting, this includes a day-long session on occupational licensing, a half-day session on foster care (Chair's Initiative), a U.S. Supreme Court update, a session on Census 2020, a half-day session on forest and rangeland management (Chair's Initiative), and opportunities to engage on issues such as suicide prevention and daylight savings time.

As CSG West staff implement these changes to the annual meeting programming, the officers will be soliciting feedback from committee leads and members.

State Liaison Roles

As part of CSG West's efforts to enhance awareness about the organization's programs and resources available to western state legislators and legislative staff, the officers established CSG West Liaisons. CSG West liaisons serve as key contacts and interlocutors within western legislative institutions served by the organization. They share information and operate as go-to contacts for their peers in their legislatures.

Among the roles of the state liaisons is the following:

- Serving as a CSG West resource to peers for questions related to CSG West programs and services applicable to their state;
- Supporting CSG West staff in the planning of state visits during sessions;
- Collaborating with CSG West Officers and staff to identify organizational and programmatic opportunities for their state;
- Communicating feedback with CSG West Officers and staff that is conducive towards strengthening CSG West programs and services; and
- Representing the West with professional excellence, the highest standards of ethical conduct, and bi-partisan inclusiveness

The 2019-20 state liaisons are the following:

- Alaska – Senator Gary Stevens
- California – Assemblymember Ken Cooley
- Colorado – Senator Nancy Todd
- Hawaii – Senator Brian Taniguchi
- Idaho – Representative Clark Kauffman
- Montana – Senator Jim Keane
- Nevada – Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
- New Mexico – Senator Bill Soules
- Oregon – Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
- Utah – Senator Ralph Okerlund
- Washington – Representative Jake Fey
- Wyoming – Senator Stephan Pappas

CSG West is honored to work with select state liaisons and is grateful for their engagement, commitment and support to achieve CSG West's values, mission, and goals.

International Visitor Leadership Program visits CSG West

On November 8, CSG West staff hosted a meeting with seven professionals from East Asia and the Pacific Region. The visitors were invited under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State on a three-week International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) that examined U.S. federalism and democracy.

The meeting, which convened at the CSG West office in Sacramento, was requested by the Northern California World Trade Center (NorCal WTC). NorCal WTC's mission is focused on growing trade and connecting leaders across the globe. They help companies develop their international business through education, resources and fostering international diplomacy by connecting leaders from around the world with their counterparts in Northern California.

CSG West staff provided a general overview of the organization and examples of how it facilitates cooperation among member states. Information was shared on the thirteen Western states and Pacific Islands comprising the CSG West membership, as well as associate member Canadian provinces, policy committees, programs, resolutions, and special projects. The collaboration with other regional organizations was also highlighted. The meeting included an opportunity to answer questions from the delegates, including the basic tenets of federalism.

Participation at the Western Regional Partnership Principal's Meeting

CSG West's director, Edgar Ruiz, participated in the Western Regional Partnership (WRP) Principal's Meeting that convened November 14-15 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. WRP serves as a mechanism to improve coordination among federal, state and tribal leaders to address common concerns and identify emerging issues in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. The WRP is co-chaired by Utah Governor Gary Herbert; Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment Robert McMahon; and the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Lands and Minerals Management.

Director Ruiz was invited to participate as a panelist for a plenary session focused on effective partnerships and best practices for coordinated planning. The panel, which was moderated by Mr. Astor Boozer, Regional Conservationist West for U.S. Department of Agriculture, included

Lee dePalo, Regional Administrator for FEMA Region VIII, and Gareth Smythe, Associate Policy Advisor and Military Land Use Planner of the California Governor's Office.

For his part, director Ruiz provided an overview of the evolution and ongoing efforts of the Western Policy Network that serves as an informal, information-sharing working group focusing on furthering the state - federal relationship. The Western Governors' Association (WGA) was a catalyst for the formation of the Western Policy Network that initially comprised regional associations such as WGA, CSG West, the Conference of Western Attorneys General, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, and the Western Region of the National Association of Counties. The Network has now grown to include other regional and national state and local government associations, including the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Council of Western State Foresters, Environmental Council of States, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, National Governors' Association, Western Interstate Energy Board, Western States Land Commissioners Association, and the Western States Water Council.

Director Ruiz stated that through the Network, regional and national associations have exchanged information and collaborated to improve the state consultation process pursuant to federal agency and Congressional actions. This has included summits in Washington, D.C. over the last two years to meet with relevant federal officials, adoption of joint federalism principles, and correspondence to Congressional leaders and federal agency heads offering recommendations. Most recently, the Western Policy Network has focused its efforts to preserving state authority pursuant to Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act.

Participation in the WRP Principles' Meeting afforded CSG West an opportunity to showcase the efforts of the Western Policy Network, and to also learn about national defense strategies, Southwest border security initiatives, and trends in public lands, species, energy and water in the region.

Western Legislative Academy

The 2018 Western Legislative Academy (WLA) convened November 29– December 3 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The class was comprised of 36 legislators representing eleven western states.

The WLA, which is limited to lawmakers within their first four years of service, is designed to assist legislators in becoming more effective leaders and to strengthen legislative institutions. The program sessions focus on skills related to communications, leadership, the art of governing, ethics, consensus building, and a half-day at the U.S. Air Force Academy working on personnel assessment and leadership skills. CSG West's 2018 Chair, Utah Senate President Stuart Adams, facilitated the 2018 Academy.

During the program, Hawaii Senator Kaiulani Kahele was selected by his peers as the Class President. In this capacity, Senator Kahele will represent WLA Alumni throughout 2019 and will serve as a member of the CSG West Executive Committee until the selection of the 2019 WLA Class President. Additionally, he has assisted in the planning of the Annual Legislative Training Assembly (ALTA) sessions to be hosted during the CSG West Annual Meeting in Big Sky, Montana.

2019 Class

CSG West staff is in the planning stages of this year's WLA scheduled for December 9-12 in Colorado Springs. The application period began in January and closed on April 19. As of this

writing 128 applications were received for up to thirty-nine slots. The 2019 class of the WLA will be confirmed by the Executive Committee during the CSG West Annual Meeting in Big Sky, Montana.

This year the WLA will be celebrating its 20th anniversary, a significant milestone for a program that has become a flagship for the organization. The idea of establishing the WLA in the late 1990's was borne in response to term limits and the high turn-over among legislators at the time, necessitating a program that would provide lawmakers with critical skills and a better appreciation of the role of legislative institutions. The WLA has produced 716 alumni, of which 335 are still serving in their respective states.

Westrain

The Westrain program provides the opportunity state legislatures to host tailored in-state training on a variety of topics for both legislators and legislative staff. Requested trainings are customized to meet the needs of participants and are offered with the approval legislative leadership. Current training options are available on the CSG West website with additional materials provided to legislative leadership during annual state visits. Funding for the program services is covered by CSG West allowing member states to offer professional training at no cost.

During the 2018-19 fiscal year, the Westrain program hosted three in-state trainings. Two trainings were provided to legislative staff members in Oregon and Washington, and the third was conducted in partnership with the National Institute on Civil Discourse (NICD) for members of the Oregon Legislature. Below is a short summary of these trainings:

- *Oregon (October 2018)* –Pam Vaccaro hosted a half-day training session with the Oregon Legislative Policy and Research Office staff to discuss best practices for successful meeting management. Addressing the unique position of the staff attending, conversation included a review of skills from the dual perspectives of running a meeting directly, as well as providing support to a committee chair in the preparation, coordination and execution of a meeting.
- *Washington (December 2018)* –Scott Raecker hosted a training session with legislative staff addressing best practices for identifying and managing stress. An interactive training, the conversations included a review of the new science of stress management focusing on areas of awareness, mindset, actions, and reflection to develop a personal stress management plan. Because the participants were all legislative staff in manager positions, the training also covered best practices in coaching others in stressful environments.
- *Oregon (January 2019)* – In cooperation with the National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD) and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), CSG West provided sponsor support for a full-day training of legislators from both chambers. During the training, legislators engaged with one another to address the current state of civility in their statehouse, as well as envision what they would like their environment to reflect. A combination of collective and breakout conversations offered varied opportunities for the exchange of ideas. Member conversations were in-depth and resulted in a collectively agreed upon action plan to move from current to desired state of civility.

Based on evaluation feedback received, participants found significant value in the trainings offered and would recommend them to others. In the coming weeks CSG West staff will share with the officers detailed program assessments as well as program funding recommendations for the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Western Governors' Association Winter Meeting

CSG West's director attended the Western Governors Association (WGA) 2018 Winter Meeting in the Big Island of Hawaii on December 11-13. WGA Chair and Hawaii Governor David Ige hosted ten western governors' as well key federal officials and regional stakeholders. The meeting included roundtable discussions on biosecurity and invasive species, outdoor recreation, skills development for veterans, renewable energy integration, and social determinants and health care. Moreover, western governors engaged with federal administration officials, including Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Veteran Affairs Robert Wilkie, and Small Business Administration Administrator Linda McMahon.

The participating governors also adopted four policy resolutions. The resolutions covered a variety of issues, including foreign visitor preclearance, cybersecurity, compensatory mitigation, and health care in the western states. Furthermore, the WGA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a framework to allow the U.S. Forest Service and WGA to work collaboratively to accomplish mutual goals, further common interests and effectively respond to the increasing challenges facing regional landscapes.

Rotation of Leadership

The start of 2019 brought change in the leadership of CSG West. Montana Representative Kimberly Dudik became the new CSG West Chair and is leading the organization throughout 2019. Representative Dudik, along with the Montana Host State Committee, will be hosting the 72nd CSG West Annual Meeting in Big Sky, Montana. Wyoming Senator Michael Von Flatern rotated to the position of CSG West Chair-Elect, Colorado Representative Jeni Arndt commenced her duties as vice chair, and Utah Senate President Stuart Adams rotated to the role of immediate past chair.

State Visits

From January thru April, CSG West staff conducted state visits to all western states including Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. State visits provide CSG West staff valuable opportunities to conduct in-person meetings with state lawmakers, including leadership, to inform them about our organization's programs, services and events. Additionally, they allow CSG West staff to connect with policy committee leads and members of the Executive Committee, as well as conduct gatherings with alumni of the WLA aimed at soliciting their assistance to recruit eligible members for the upcoming Academy.

The state visits for 2019 were particularly important because it's the first year of the biennium, which provides CSG West staff an opportunity to connect with and establish rapport with freshman lawmakers. Moreover, CSG West staff solicited legislative leaders' appointments to the organization's policy committees and programs.

This year CSG West worked closely with state liaisons in each state who served as ambassadors for the organization and assisted in the planning and coordination of state visits, including the distribution of invitations and information, as well as offering their offices to CSG West staff. CSG West provided recaps of state visits, including issue highlights, in the Regional Roundup, our biweekly electronic newsletter.

California Assembly's California – Mexico Dialogue

On April 5, CSG West staff attended the first forum of the California State Assembly's California – Mexico Dialogue in Imperial Beach, California. The forum focused on cross-border water pollution in the Tijuana River Watershed. Pollution along the Tijuana River Watershed has affected citizens on both sides of the border for decades. This has caused significant health concerns for communities in the border region and inflicted economic damages to businesses, especially those involved in coastal tourism. The primary goals for the discussion were to assess progress to date on the issue, highlight efforts already undertaken by key stakeholders, and explore practical next steps in helping to address this long-standing challenge. The speakers included representatives from government and nongovernment institutions from the U.S. and Mexico.

The California-Mexico Dialogue, launched by California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, is aimed at offering leaders and stakeholders a sustained, coordinated, and productive platform to carry out a more structured approach to enhancing bilateral relations and find solutions to common concerns. Mexico and California have a longstanding relationship that cannot be understated. Trade with Mexico has created over 560,000 jobs in California and Mexico is a top importer of California goods having purchased \$26.7 billion worth of products in 2017- a 300 percent increase since 1993. Beyond trade, historical ties bind California and Mexico.

CSG Leadership Council Meeting

On May 17-18, CSG West Chair-Elect, Wyoming Senator Michael Von Flatern, and Immediate Past Chair, Utah Senate President Stuart Adams, along with the CSG West Director, attended the CSG Leadership Council Spring Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. The western region was also represented by CSG West Past Chair, and current National Vice Chair, Washington Senator Sam Hunt, and past CSG National Chair, Alaska Senator Gary Stevens.

The Leadership Council meeting, which was presided by CSG's National Chair, New Hampshire Senator Lou D'Allesandro, included an update on the headquarters budget, national programming and organizational issues. Among the items of discussion was the status of the Kentucky Employee Retirement System and its implications on the CSG headquarters budget. A budget overview was provided by CSG's Executive Director/CEO. Each of the regions of CSG provided reports on their respective activities and budget.

2019 Annual Meeting

CSG West staff, along with Montana Representative Kimberly Dudik, staff from the Montana Legislative Services Office and the Montana Host Committee have been working on the planning for the 72nd CSG West Annual Meeting that will convene July 16-20 in Big Sky, Montana.

Since the late fall and winter of 2018 much progress was made in the planning of the Annual Meeting. This includes opening online registration, drafting the meeting schedule and confirming keynote speakers such as Presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize winning author Jon Meacham; history-making polar explorer, mountaineer, and author Alison Levine; and attorney, professor and author Shon Hopwood who has a compelling life story to share with the annual meeting attendees.

CSG West staff has worked with policy committee leaders to identify topics of discussion and relevant speakers, as well as finalize program agendas. Finally, in conjunction with the host state staff, CSG West staff has been actively fundraising for the meeting.

Fiscal Year 18-19 Highlights

The CSG West budget for FY 18-19, which was approved by the Officers in July/August 2018, totaled \$1,212,618. The budget included projected revenues, as well as an expenditure plan to support the region's operations and funding of key organizational programs/initiatives. These programs/initiatives include the Western Legislative Academy, Legislative Service Agency & Research Directors, Legislative Council on River Governance, Westrain, Border Legislative Academy and the Border Legislative Conference. The approved budget by the Officers was subsequently submitted to CSG Headquarter for accounting purposes.

The closing figures for FY 18-19, which just ended June 30, are not complete as of this writing. CSG West staff will be presenting the closing figures, as well as a proposed budget for FY 19-20, for the officers' consideration in the coming weeks. Below are some highlights of FY 18-19 budget:

Revenue:

- CSG West received dues payments from twelve of the region's 13 states, totaling \$1,062,355. Arizona was the only state that did not pay dues. Nine states paid full/invoiced amounts. There were reductions in dues, ranging from 18-22 percent, from Wyoming, Colorado and Alaska.
- There will be slightly higher than expected earnings in operating interest income, equity & bond index.
- Revenue from CSG Associates Program is expected near the \$130,000 goal (although CSG West budgeted conservatively at \$110,000).
- Dues reflected 3% increase to population portion of dues per CSG National Executive Committee.

Expenditures

- Expenditures will be below what was budgeted, which will result in revenue over expenditures. Several factors contributed to these savings, including not filling a vacant position until near the middle of the fiscal year; savings in salaries and benefits, rent, meeting expenses; and other minor savings in other line items.

CSG West continues to maintain healthy operation reserves in excess of \$800,000 as well as a transfer account that includes funds allocated over the years for contingencies and programming.

Fundraising

CSG West staff, working closely with the officers, program/committee leads and others key stakeholders, raise funds from private sector partners to help support organizational programming and events. The financial support from private sector partners, as well as from foundations and other grants, are critical to the financial health of the organization. The following amounts were raised from private sector sources:

- \$462,500 raised jointly by CSG West and Utah Host State Committee for the 2018 Annual Meeting in Snowbird, Utah
- \$66,500 raised for the 2018 Western Legislative Academy
- \$6,000 raised for the 2018 Legislative Service Agency & Research Directors Committee meeting
- \$1,000 raised for the 2018 meeting of the Legislative Council on River Governance
- \$6,250 raised, along with grant support from the CSG 21st Century Foundation, for the 2018 Border Legislative Academy
- \$2,500 raised for the 2018 Border Legislative Conference

A total of \$544,750 in sponsorship support for CSG West programs and events during FY 18-19.

Update on Arizona

The Arizona Legislature wrapped up its legislative session in late May. The adopted appropriations bill (HB 2747) did not alter language in the Appropriations Act relative to CSG dues – maintaining Arizona as a CSG non-dues paying state for FY 19-20. The text, “Dues for the council of state governments may be expended only on an affirmative vote of the legislative council,” appears in the Act. Until this language is stricken or modified from the annual Appropriations Act, or until the Legislative Council meets and approves CSG’s dues, the Legislative Council Director cannot pay the CSG dues. The latter approach of having the Legislative Council meet for the sole purpose of addressing CSG dues is unlikely, particularly since it generally does not meet.

The CSG West officers and staff felt greater momentum and an opportunity to address the dues issue in Arizona than in recent years. CSG West Immediate Past Chair, Utah Senate President Adams, made personal calls to the newly elected Senate President and Speaker last December and staff made two visits to the Capitol during the session, including one with the leaders to discuss the dues issue which they agreed to discuss internally with their caucuses. Moreover, a few Arizona members are scheduled to attend the upcoming Annual Meeting based on special invites to a couple of sessions (occupational licensing and foster care).

CSG West staff and officers will continue working with Arizona’s legislative leadership to highlight opportunities of engagement and returning the state as a dues paying member.

Advocacy on Behalf of Western Legislatures

Advocating for Invasive Species Funding on the Columbia River Basin

On November 26, CSG West’s Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG) submitted a letter to Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) urging continued funding that supports regional coordination to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species in the Columbia River system. The letter stems from lawmakers’ concerns about BPA’s across-the-board budget reductions and the threat of quagga and zebra mussels to hydroelectric dams and fish passage

facilities. A letter was also submitted to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council urging this policy-making body to expand its strategy to prevent aquatic invasive species as part of its Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

The letters were submitted by LCRG Chair, Washington Representative Bruce Chandler, on behalf of the LCRG membership.

CSG West Joined Coalition Letter Regarding Clean Water Act

On December 3, CSG West joined a coalition letter to the Honorable David Ross, Assistant Administrator of the Office of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), related to proposed changes to the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401. The letter urged the rejection of any changes that may diminish, impair or subordinate state's authorities related to water protection within their respective boundaries.

CSG West Joined Letter & Recommendations to U.S. EPA and Army Corp of Engineers

On February 20, CSG West joined a group of state associations in sending the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers a list of process recommendations aimed at improving the Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification process while preserving states' well-established legal authority over water resources. The letter was co-signed by several regional organizations. The Western Governors' presented these proposed improvements to federal officials and legislators while in Washington, D.C. in late February and were used as a starting point to engage with federal agencies on this important issue.

CSG West Joined Letter to U.S. EPA Reinforcing Concerns Regarding Section 401 of the Clean Water Act

On May 24, CSG West joined a group of regional and state associations in sending a letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator expressing continued concerns about its plans to revise its guidance governing the implementation and administration of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The agency's constrained timelines to review, revise and replace longstanding guidance has heightened concerns about EPA's ability to consult states in a meaningful and collaborative manner.

Regional Coalition Efforts to Further State – Federal Cooperation

CSG West has maintained its engagement with a coalition of regional, multi-branch and bipartisan associations representing western legislators, governors, attorneys general and county officials to promote a stronger state-federal relationship. This coalition includes the following regional associations: CSG West, Western Governors' Association (WGA), Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG), the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER), and the Western Interstate Region of the National Association of Counties (NACO). Staff from national associations, such as the National Governors Association, have also been involved in the work of the coalition, including participation in several conference calls and providing support of the coalition's efforts.

California – Mexico Advocacy Day

On May 7, the Consulate General of Mexico in Sacramento convened the 10th Annual California – Mexico Advocacy Day. CSG West provided financial support for the event as part of an effort to further U.S. – Mexico relations. The California – Mexico Advocacy Day included a hearing before the California Senate Select Committee on California – Mexico Cooperation, a luncheon

program at the California Chamber of Commerce, and a social function at the Stanford Mansion which was attended by CSG West staff.

Border Legislative Programs

2019 Border Legislative Academy & Border Legislative Conference in Mexico City

In 2019, CSG West's Border Legislative Academy (BLA) and Border Legislative Conference (BLC) will convene consecutively September 18-21 in Mexico City. The BLA is a binational capacity training program for U.S. – Mexico state legislators that incorporates a mix of practical skills building and informational sessions geared to improve mutual understanding, cooperation and enable policy-makers to better understand the complexities of governing along the border region. The BLC, on the other hand, serves as a long-standing mechanism of cooperation among state policy-makers of the U.S. – Mexico border region that provides an opportunity to discuss and exchange information about relevant, binational policy issues.

The purpose of convening both programs in Mexico City this year is to engage with newly elected members of Mexico's federal congress, particularly from relevant international or border affairs committees. Moreover, it is the aim to engage with officials of Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as from the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City.

CSG West staff conducted a site visit to Mexico City during the spring to identify and confirm meeting site. Additionally, CSG West staff conducted visits to the Mexican border states of Nuevo Leon and Coahuila to meet with legislative leaders and members of these state to inform them about the upcoming meetings in Mexico City, as well as to encourage their engagement.

New Border Legislative Conference Leadership

Diputado Marco Antonio Gonzalez Valdez of the Nuevo Leon Legislature has agreed to serve as interim chair of the BLC. Members of the BLC will have an opportunity to confirm his chairmanship for the remainder of the year during their upcoming meeting in Mexico City. Participating members will also elect a U.S. vice chair, to rotate to the position of chair in 2020, as well consider proposed modifications to the BLC Organizational Framework aimed at codifying leadership rotation and meetings among the U.S. – Mexico border states.

Legislative Council on River Governance

The Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG) serves as a mechanism of cooperation among legislators of the Columbia River Basin states of Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho. This year's LCRG meeting will convene in Stevenson, Washington August 20-22. It will be hosted by LCRG Chair, Washington Representative Bruce Chandler.

CSG West staff has been working with Representative Chandler on the planning of the 2019 LCRG meeting. This includes a site visit by staff this spring to the Skamania Lodge, which will be the host property for the event, as well as multiple communications with officials from Oregon and Washington about a possible tour of the Bonneville Dam. The agenda will include an overview of the Columbia River Treaty and status of negotiations, aquatic invasive species, international trade and the implications for the river basin, perspectives on dam removal and fisheries management, among others.

Communications Efforts

To build upon outreach efforts from prior years, the CSG West staff has continued to streamline member communications ensuring useful content is provided in accessible formats. These efforts include the development of cohesive program branding for all CSG West programs and events, as well as the coordination of content presented through the digital newsletter and social media platforms.

The CSG West website has also received updates making it easier for visitors to access information, including the incorporation of the Border Legislative Conference (BLC) program information. Previously the BLC maintained a separate website. Through these efforts we have experienced a 2% increase in open rate of digital communications via Constant Contact, the highest number of WLA applications to date, and an increased awareness of programs such as the Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG), Border Legislative Academy (BLA), and BLC for both members and sponsors.

CSG National Policy Academies and Task Forces

CSG National Policy Series

The CSG Policy Academy Series provide state leaders customized training and a “deeper dig” on critical policy topics facing the states. During the CSG National Conference in Northern Kentucky in December, CSG hosted four policy academies that address the following topics:

- Promising approaches for America’s addiction crisis;
- States place their bets (legalized sports wagering);
- The intersection of innovation and transportation; and
- Using science to inform policy-making

CSG West staff coordinated with CSG National staff to ensure western participation in the above-mentioned policy academies.

CSG National Task Forces

During the CSG National Conference in Northern Kentucky last December, the CSG National Executive Committee established two task forces for the 2019-20 biennium – the Healthy States Task Force and the Future of Work Task Force - aimed at bringing together policy-makers from across the country to exchange ideas and identify possible solutions. Each Task Force has four subcommittees that are focused on different policy areas. The subcommittees are the following:

- I. Healthy States National Task Force
 - a. What’s Next? Leveraging Innovation Subcommittee
 - b. State Health Systems Return on Investment Subcommittee
 - c. Capacity, Preparedness and Resiliency Subcommittee
 - d. Interventions to Save Lives Subcommittee
- II. The Future of Work National Task Force
 - a. The Workforce of Tomorrow Subcommittee
 - b. Smart Government Subcommittee
 - c. What’s Next? Embracing the Future Subcommittee
 - d. Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee

Several Western lawmakers have leadership roles in the work of the National Task Force and subcommittees. This includes New Mexico Representative Liz Thompson as co-chair of the What's Next? Leveraging Innovation Subcommittee; Utah Representative Steve Eliason as co-chair of the Interventions to Save Lives Subcommittee; and Colorado Senator and Past CSG West Chair Nancy Todd as co-chair of the Future of Work Force Task Force.

CSG West staff assisted CSG headquarters staff in identifying potential western lawmakers to participate in the National Task Forces and subcommittees, as well as soliciting from legislative leaders, such as Senate Presidents and Speakers, their recommendations/appointments to these task forces and subcommittees.

The National Task Forces and subcommittees convened for their first meeting June 21-23 in Lexington, Kentucky. They will meet again December 5th during the CSG National Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Work of the CSG Justice Center in the West

The CSG Justice Center combines the power of a membership association, representing state officials in all three branches of government, with the expertise of a policy and research team focused on assisting others to attain measurable results. Working directly with states, the Justice Center staff have assisted in providing data driven recommendations to improve policy and services related to justice reform.

The Justice Center staff has worked closely with CSG West to further their work in the Western region. A staff member from the Justice Center currently works out of the CSG West office in Sacramento. The following are some recent efforts that states have made in collaboration with the CSG Justice Center:

Updated 50-State Report on Public Safety

In October, the CSG Justice Center released an updated version of the 50-State Report on Public Safety that includes 2017 crime and arrest data. The report couples this data with the latest research on strategies that work to improve public safety in addition to more than 100 examples of public safety innovations drawn from every state in the country. With three core goals, 12 strategies, and 37 action items, the report provides a playbook that policymakers can customize to tackle the issues most relevant to their communities.

Oregon

Without access to effective community-based health care for substance addictions and mental illnesses, too many Oregonians wind up in crisis and then in emergency rooms or jail, leading to high costs and poor health and public safety outcomes. Oregon's state and county leaders are now working together to expand community-based resources that the health and justice systems can use to improve health outcomes and reduce recidivism for people who have these behavioral health conditions and are often in contact with the criminal justice system.

During the summer of 2018, state and county leadership requested and received support for a behavioral health Justice Reinvestment (BHJR) approach from the public-private partners in the federal Justice Reinvestment Initiative, the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and The Pew Charitable Trusts. The BHJR approach will focus on developing a statewide policy framework to help support tribal government, county, and local systems in improving recidivism and health outcomes for the small but important group of people who repeatedly cycle through both the public safety and health systems.

To facilitate the BHJR effort, state leaders have established the bipartisan, interbranch Behavioral Health Justice Reinvestment Steering Committee. The 28-member committee includes designees from all three branches of government as well as state, tribal nation, and county criminal justice and health stakeholders. The CSG Justice Center is providing analytical support and health and justice system expertise to the state. Using the findings from the quantitative and qualitative analyses of the project, the steering committee will develop a statewide policy framework and related policy options to recommend to the 2019 legislature for consideration.

Wyoming

In February, Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon signed a package of Justice Reinvestment legislation into law. House Enrolled Act (HEA) 15, Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 19, HEA 53, and SEA 50 aim to reduce recidivism 25 percent by fiscal year 2024 and avert up to \$18.1 million in costs that can be reinvested in increasing the availability and effectiveness of community-based behavioral health treatment for people on probation and parole.

New Mexico

In April, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed House Bill (HB) 342 into law, a Justice Reinvestment bill that ensures crime victims will have more avenues by which to receive support. Another Justice Reinvestment bill, HB 564, was vetoed. Had it been enacted, it would have strengthened probation and parole supervision and adopted new strategies to handle technical violations of supervision. Governor Lujan Grisham indicated that the bill was “predicated on sound policy considerations” but cited the need for additional stakeholder engagement as her basis for the veto. She announced her intention to continue working on probation and parole reforms leading up to the next legislative session.

Colorado

In April, the Colorado legislature passed comprehensive juvenile justice legislation, SB 19-108, which includes key provisions to expand the availability and use of diversion, reserve detention for only those youth who are identified as posing a risk to the community, require that supervision and service decisions are based on validated screening and assessment tools, and improve data collection. The bill was informed by findings from in-depth assessment of Colorado’s juvenile justice system from referral to reentry conducted by the CSG Justice Center. The bill was signed by Governor Polis.

California

On May 7, the Sonoma County Probation Department in California launched a comprehensive review of its juvenile justice system to determine how well department policies and practices align with what research shows works to improve outcomes for youth while using resources efficiently. The review will be conducted under the direction of the Sonoma County Improving Outcomes for Youth (IOYouth) Task Force, a group established by the probation department and composed of probation leadership, district attorney and public defender representatives, the presiding juvenile court judge, and leaders from the education and behavioral health departments, among others. The review will be conducted by the CSG Justice Center, and the findings and recommendations will be presented to the Task Force over the next year.

Idaho

In May, the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators Western Region Summit convened in Sun Valley, Idaho to focus on *Improving the Court and Community Responses to those with Mental Illness*. Interagency state and local teams from the West

participated in a day and a half event structured to promote collaborative, data-informed planning and peer learning that features policymakers and practitioners from throughout the region. The event was organized by the National Center for State Courts with support from the CSG Justice Center and its Judges' and Psychiatrists' Leadership Initiative, a partnership with the American Psychiatric Association Foundation.

Face-to-Face Initiative

Fifteen governors from both major political parties — including governors from Colorado, Montana, Nevada, and Utah — have participated in the ongoing Face to Face initiative, which challenges elected officials to engage in meaningful interactions with people who have firsthand experience with the criminal justice system.

Record Clearances

For the more than 70 million adults in the U.S. who have a criminal record, and the more than one million youth who acquire juvenile court records each year, collateral consequences exist that hinder their attempts at gaining employment, housing, and even returning to school. Record clearance enables a person's criminal history information to be removed from easy public access, most often with the goal of improving employment and other outcomes for the affected person. Recently, the National Reentry Resource Center, with funding support from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration and the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, launched the Clean Slate Clearinghouse, which helps support juvenile and adult criminal record clearance around the country.

Report on the Cost of Supervision Violations

Probation and parole are meant to help people avoid crime and succeed in the community while keeping them out of prison. Instead, new data reveal a harsh reality. *Confined and Costly: How Supervision Violations are Filling Prisons and Burdening Budgets*, a new report from The CSG Justice Center developed in partnership with Arnold Ventures and the Association of State Correctional Administrators, shows the startling extent to which probation and parole violations contribute to states' high prison admissions and populations, as well as the subsequent cost to taxpayers.

Partnership with the State & Local Legal Center

The State and Local Legal Center (SLLC) files *amicus curiae* briefs in support of states and local governments in the U.S. Supreme Court, conducts moot courts for attorneys arguing before the Supreme Court, and is a resource to states and local governments on the Supreme Court. Since 1983 the SLLC has filed over 350 *amicus* briefs in the Supreme Court. CSG is a member of SLLC, along with other national organizations representing state and local elected officials including the National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the United States Conference of Mayors, and the International City/County Management Association.

As part of this partnership, CSG West has advertised to Western lawmakers' several of the SLLC's U.S. Supreme Court webinars throughout the year, as well as disseminating information and analysis of relevant cases by the SLLC. Moreover, SLLC's executive director, Lisa Soronen, will again host a U.S. Supreme Court seminar during this year's CSG West Annual Meeting in Big Sky.