

## **NASBLA Model Acts Review and Standardization Project 2005**

The NASBLA Model Acts Review and Standardization Project established format, style and process standards for model acts developed by the Association.

The NASBLA Model Act Standards cover three aspects of developing model acts: 1) the "style" to which the model acts should conform and the information that should be recorded as acts are drafted, amended and reviewed; 2) guidance and considerations in submitting ideas to the drafting process; and 3) a set of questions through which the NASBLA committees and membership can test the merits of a draft model act or amendment.

As part of the 2005 Review Project, the Model Act Standards were retroactively applied to all of NASBLA's existing model acts. The revisions were intended to make the existing portfolio of model acts more consistent; to make them more useful to states and other interested parties; and to create an historical record for future amendments and the development of new model acts.

### **NASBLA Model Acts as Revised – What was Done?**

Many of the changes to the existing model acts were "cosmetic" in nature. However, in the process of applying the Standards to individual model acts, problem areas were identified for resolution, clarification, or update. Those problem areas included inconsistencies in definitions; missing or outdated language or concepts; and difficulties with the logic or reasoning or clarity of some of the acts' provisions.

The appropriate NASBLA committees reviewed and accepted or rejected recommended changes made to each model act revision assigned to them; answered questions posed by the project consultant; identified and resolved other areas needing clarification or update; and recommended revised versions of the models to the full NASBLA membership at the Association's 2005 Annual Conference in Portland, Ore. On Sept. 21, 2005, the membership approved as revised all existing model acts and one new model act.