



Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

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ADVANCING EXCELLENCE IN FEDERAL STATISTICS

This is the January 2018 COPAFS stakeholder update.

1. New Members – We welcome the following new members to COPAFS:

Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory in the Biocomplexity Institute of Virginia Tech.
Professor Andrew Reamer, George Washington University

2. New COPAFS team member – We are extremely pleased to welcome Ms. Corinna Turbes as the Associate Director for Strategic Communication and Policy Analysis. Corinna is a recent graduate of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Corinna will start on February 5, 2018 and we will be setting up a number of meetings to introduce her to our members and stakeholders.

3. Federal Statistical Agency appropriations and budgets – Currently there is no additional information regarding the FY2018 appropriations. The current continuing resolution expires February 8, 2018. We anticipate the release of the President’s budget for FY 2019 around February 12, 2018. COPAFS will circulate an analysis of the 2019 budget funding for the 13 primary Federal Statistical Agencies upon receipt. We will also host Chief Statistician Nancy Potok at the March 2 Quarterly meeting to provide her insights.

4. March 2, 2018 Quarterly Meeting – The preliminary agenda for the meeting will be available at the COPAFS website [here](#). The meeting will include the following topics:

- Nancy Potok, Chief Statistician of the United States, update on the Federal Statistical System
- John Eltinge, U.S. Census Bureau and Chair of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM), preliminary discussion of the results of the three WSS/FCSM workshops on blended data (a preview before the FCSM Research and Policy Conference)
- Brian Harris-Kojetin, Executive Director, Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT), discussion of the recently released CNSTAT report *Federal Statistics, Multiple Data Sources, and Privacy Protection Next Steps*
- Steve Pierson, American Statistical Association, Mary Jo Hoeksema, Population Association of America, and John Thompson, COPAFS, discussion of initiatives to support Statistical Agencies
- Business meeting including a discussion of proposed Bylaw changes

5. U. S. Census Bureau –

Collection of Race and Hispanic data – The Census Bureau announced that it will not change the approach to collecting data on Race and Ethnicity for the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau had conducted research on using a combined question to collect these data but decided to use methods similar to those employed in the 2010 and 2000 censuses. The decision memorandum can be found [here](#).

January 2020 Census Quarterly Program Management Review – The Census Bureau held this meeting on January 26, 2018. The supporting materials can be found [here](#). In particular, Associate Director Albert Fontenot clearly stated that the Census Bureau was on track for a successful 2020 Census.

Citizenship Question – As reported in the December stakeholder update, the Census Bureau received a request from the Department of Justice to include a question on Citizenship on the 2020 Census. Internal processes are underway at the Census Bureau and the Department of Commerce to consider and assess this request. Ultimately, OMB will also be involved given their responsibilities under the Paperwork Reduction Act. A decision will most likely be reached to support the submission of the 2020 proposed questions to Congress by March 31.

6. Bureau of Labor Statistics – As reported last month, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions sent the nomination for William Beach to be Commissioner of BLS back to the President. We are pleased to report that his nomination was resubmitted to the Senate on January 8, 2018 and that the Committee has moved his nomination to the full Senate for a confirmation vote.
7. Energy Information Administration – Dr. Linda Capuano has been both confirmed by the Senate and appointed by the President as the Administrator of the Energy Information. Executive Director John Thompson had the privilege of meeting with Dr. Capuano to discuss COPAFS. It is likely that Dr. Capuano will speak to COPAFS stakeholders at a future Quarterly Meeting.
8. Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Research and Policy Conference – Planning continues for this important and exciting conference. There is still ample time to register for the conference, and COPAFS stakeholders are encouraged to share the link to registration with their colleagues. The COPAFS [website](#) contains the preliminary program and registration instructions.
9. Chief Statistician of the United States -- In conjunction with the American Statistical Association and the Population Association of America, COPAFS continues to host monthly updates with Nancy Potok. At the January meeting, Nancy discussed a number of topics relevant to the Federal Statistical System including the processes that would be followed with respect to considering the Citizenship question request for the 2020 Census. The next meeting will take place at the March 2, 2018 COPAFS Quarterly meeting when we will most likely be in a position to discuss the FY 2019 President's budget. COPAFS members were also notified of the publication of a Request for Information by the Office of the Chief Statistician priority on using new techniques and methodologies based on combining data from multiple sources. Responses are due by March 13, 2018. You can find the notice [here](#).
10. Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking – COPAFS continues to work with the Bipartisan Policy Center to supporting efforts in advancing the Commission recommendations. In particular, the FCSM Research and Policy Conference will include a panel discussion focused on the status of the Commission recommendations.
11. COPAFS activities – COPAFS Executive Director presented an AAPOR Distinguished Lecture on Challenges and Opportunities for Federal Statistics on January 17, 2018. COPAFS was also pleased support the American Statistical Association as a cosponsor of Count on Stats which launched January 30, 2018. You can find more information [here](#).
12. New COPAFS logo. As you may have noticed COPAFS has a new logo that we are in the process of rolling out. We thank NORC at the University of Chicago for helping in the process of selecting a new logo.