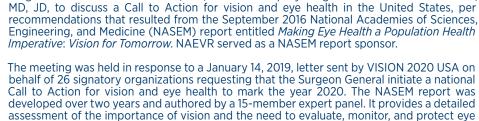
## NAEVR Meets with the Surgeon General to Advance Vision and Eye Health



From left: United States Surgeon General Jerome Adams, MD, MPH and Deputy Surgeon General Erica Schwartz, MD, JD



health to reduce vision impairment and achieve better health quality of life and equity for all Americans. It made nine specific recommendations for a national strategy to eliminate correctable and avoidable vison impairments in the U.S. by the year 2030, including four of

On June 13, vision community organization and federal agency representatives (see box left), including NAEVR's James Jorkasky, met under the auspices of VISION 2020 USA with Surgeon General Jerome Adams, MD, MPH and Deputy Surgeon General Erica Schwartz,

Highlights of the conversation included:

which are federally related (see box below).





At the end of the meeting, the vision community organization representatives discussed potential next steps and timing.



Representatives at the SG meeting included:

Federal Agency:

Kristina Beaugh, MPH NEI Maria Zacharias NEI Jinan B. Saaddine, MD, MPH CD0

**Vision Community Organization:**David Glasser, MD *American Academy of Ophthalmology* 

Lori Grover, OD, PhD American Optometric Association

Alan R. Morse, PhD, JD Lighthouse Guild

James Jorkasky, MBA National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research

Jeff Todd, JD Prevent Blindness

Sandra S. Block, OD, MPH Illinois College of Optometry

Mitchell Brinks, MD, MPH VISION 2020 USA

## **Federal Government-related NASEM Report recommendations:**

- The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) should issue a **Call to Action** to motivate nationwide action toward achieving a reduction in the burden of vision impairment across the lifespan of people in the United States.
- The DHHS Secretary should launch a coordinated **Public Awareness Campaign** in collaboration with other federal agencies and departments, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, professional organizations, employers, state and local health agencies, and the media.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) should develop a Coordinated Surveillance System for Eye and Vision Health in the U.S.
- The DHHS Secretary should create an Interagency Workgroup, including a wide range of public, private, and community stakeholders, to develop a common research agenda and coordinated eye and vision health research and demonstration grant programs that target the leading causes, consequences, and unmet need of vision impairment.

## **NAEVR Commends Dr. Sieving's Service to All Americans**



Paul Sieving, MD, PhD

On June 27, James Jorkasky issued the following statement after NIH Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD announced that NEI Director Paul Sieving, MD, PhD was leaving to create a new Center for Ocular Regenerative Therapy at the University of California at Davis:

"Since the NAEVR and AEVR Alliances serve as the privately funded "Friends of the NEI," on behalf of the Boards I commend Paul Sieving, MD, PhD for his 18 years of service as NEI's Director. Leading our nation's primary Institute for research to prevent blindness and restore vision, he managed the NEI during a period of unprecedented opportunity and advancement in both vision research breakthroughs and in commercialized treatments and therapies for blinding eye diseases. As an exemplary scientist and visionary, he initiated key programs aimed at restoring vision, including the Audacious Goals Initiative in Regenerative Medicine. NAEVR wishes Dr. Sieving much continued success in his new initiative in the private sector—which will undoubtedly lead to advancements that will ultimately benefit all Americans."

The Alliances will present a plaque to Dr. Sieving at a September 5 ceremony on the NIH campus.

On July 11, Mr. Jorkasky joined with ARVO Executive Director Iris Rush in meeting with then-NEI Deputy Director Santa Tumminia, PhD, who is now serving as Acting NEI Director.