

**NCPI Advisory Council
Conference Call Summary Notes
August 19, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Beverly Nicholson, Chairperson

Introductions

Attending: Beverly Nicholson, May Sung, Kathe Kelly, Penney Cowan, Mark McGinn, Kathy Keller, Donna Kalauokalani, Judy Citko, Alecia Sanchez

Past Notes: Corrections

- Mark “Bloom” → Blum

New Business

- Introduced Mark McGinn—name given by Mary Bennett and Annie Borgenicht
 - New representative from Power Over Pain Action Network, joining Advisory council.
 - Will be attending P.O.P. conference in October, training meeting in MN.
- ASPI survey completed—asking about past activities, those involved (paid or volunteers)
 - Potentially adding on some sort of educational program, before or after ASPI meeting—will keep everyone informed.
 - Web-based questionnaire, Beverly took survey for council.
- Nominations: replace Mark Blum as Co-Chair in Advisory Council
 - Donna Kalauokalani (nominated by Kathy Keller)
 - Kathy Keller (nominated by Donna)—would prefer to retain current role as Sec.
 - Future nominations, due by August 29

Standing Agenda

- Kathe Kelly, SCCPI—
 - Pain Resource Nurse Course, 17th year at City of Hope (space still available), Sept. 15-17, 2008.
 - Gala being held this year, Nov. 8, 2008.
 - Dr. Mario Milch, MD (Kaiser) selected as award winner
 - New SCCPI board member: Janet Batt, Palliative Care Coordinator at Hoag Hospital
- National Patient Pain Care Policy Act
 - Website Update—link added to ACS Can information site, for people to express support for the Act, just introduced into the Senate
 - Penney says it may be a long-shot to pass, but to remain hopeful
- May Sung, clarification—
 - Pain Initiative is under The Alliance of State Pain Initiatives (University of Wisconsin Pain and Studies Group also involved). The American Pain Foundation is a separate organization focused on advocacy and education.
 - Links exist on NCPI website for other organizations, such as ACPA, ACS and SCCPI. The NCPI website is: www.norcalpain.org

- ASPI annual meeting (Austin, TX: October 30-November 1)
 - NCPI can offer some financial support to two Advisory Council members who may want to attend. Contact May or Beverly if interested.
 - Penney Cowan and Ben Rich are speaking
 - Kathy Keller attending—one additional person can go.
 - Donna will let Beverly know if she can attend
 - Beverly will be attending.

Old Business

- Stakeholders Meeting
 - Kathy, proposition: Using an intermediary in contacting people about attending meeting—designed to protect professional and personal associations and information
 - All attending council agree
 - Officially: **December 5, 2008—Sacramento, CA.** NCPI received permission to have one meeting instead of 2 as originally planned in the proposal. May's ACS staff is looking into locations (likely a hotel), but as of yet is undecided. Funding for approx. 80 participants—free for them, travel and lodging.
 - Dr. Aaron Gilson—agreed to be Keynote Speaker (contacted by May Sung). He is also interested in helping plan. May will keep contact him about specifics regarding his keynote address.
 - The group then discussed topics and agenda for the meeting. The following topics and ideas were addressed
 - Kathy expressed concerns regarding perspective: Addressing items that were presented in 1994 meeting for implementing change, and then seriously discussing what has been done as a result of suggestions. Need people like Kathy Ellis, giving the medical / pharmacist's perspective on what they have done and what changes need to take place in the immediate future.
 - Past perspectives have been bland, considering the subject matter. What new areas can be addressed in order to solve this problem?
 - Patient Rights: Plan of Action: What are the steps that are going to be taken to improve, not just the pain grade, but Pain Care *overall*? Financial and emotional support, along with education and ethical understanding.
 - Problems facing doctors/physicians who fear criminal charges of “over-prescribing”—focusing on *rights* of people to get the care and medicine they need.
 - Diane Hoffman, lawyer who wrote *The Girl Who Cried Pain*, from University of Maryland. Made past presentations on legal issues, along with other areas.
 - Need to focus on California—try and find a lawyer from this state who understands California's specific needs.
 - Kathy: suggested Mary Agnus Matejewski, Asst. District Attorney (San Diego?)—Given an award for her advocacy in pain by American

Academy of Pain Medicine; she might be a good person to talk to about legal issues.

- Getting payors to attend meeting might be beneficial, since they play such a large role.
- Kathy: Look into Gideon Letz (sp?), Chief Medical Officer for California Worker's Comp [many may be hesitant to participate, for fear of being "outed"]
- Pain Summit, 1994 (previously mentioned, link online)—Report: "Removing Impediments to Appropriate Prescribing"
- Division: Identify impediments: Prescribing pain assessment, development of treatment plans, prescribing pain meds, administration of pain treatments, ongoing evaluations, diversion of pain meds, etc.
- Recommendations to consider for: Legislators, regulators, consumers, caregivers, health care professionals, payers, law enforcement, manufacturers, and prior and ongoing pain management activities.
- Kathy: Proposition regarding Breakout Groups: Different format from morning. Question and answer sessions, along with audience discussions—this way, people are *not* segregated, so information isn't confined to one group.
- Learning more about the practices of other states, and what's worked/not worked for them, legislatively. Rights vs. Laws—addressing what patients can do to get what they need.

Open Agenda

- May will contact Aaron Gilson (central time, free during the next few weeks), conference call, tentatively 8:30 AM. People interested: Beverly, Donna, Kathy Keller, May Sung—any others?
- Prefer speakers from N. California, but by no means exclude people from S. California—legislation is, obviously, applicable statewide.

The meeting was adjourned by Beverly at approximately 5:15 PM