

**NCPI Advisory Group Conference Call
March 14, 2005 5p-6p**

Summary Notes (Rev. 4/11/05)

Advisory Council Members present: Donna Anderson, Judy Citko, Vicky Ferraresi, Marcia Grant, Kathy Keller, Beverly Nicholson, Lori Reisner, Ben Rich, May Sung, Rita Yakubik

Other participants: Ann Gouré, Cathy Dawson, Steven Rickards

Donna Anderson called the conference to order and took roll. The summary notes of the February 14th meeting were clarified with regard to Judy Regotti, a certified hospice and palliative care nurse at TrinityCare Hospice, representing the California Hospice Foundation, at the SCCPI board meeting. At the last meeting, Judy provided a report on new legislative issues. In addition, Marcia noted that SCCPI's Gala is their most important event, even though it does not raise funds. The meeting notes were accepted as amended.

Chair's Report (Donna Anderson)

Donna reports that Carolyn Gamble, grant writer extraordinaire for ACS and assisting NCPI, has resigned. It is anticipated that a new grant writer will be hired, but this will take some time. However, Donna reports that a new funding stream for projects has opened through AACPI, funded by Purdue Pharma, LP. Up to \$10,000 grants are available for professional education, patient education and website development. The AACPI is encouraging state initiatives to begin applying for these grants. Donna notes that the written proposals may not need to be as detailed as those previously submitted to other funding agencies. Several advisory committee members noted that this might provide seed money for a collaborative educational program between SCCPI and NCPI. Marcia Grant agreed to bring this proposal back to the SCCPI board for further consideration.

Donna also wanted the NCPI Advisory Committee to be aware that AACPI would be moving its headquarters from the University of Wisconsin's Pharmacology Department offices to the UW Comprehensive Cancer Center. This is viewed as a positive move, which is expected to have no disruptive impact on state initiatives in the process. AACPI also plans to hire an Executive Director.

NCPI Logo (Donna Anderson)

The advisory committee members on the conference call unanimously approved version 2 of the NCPI logo developed by Miles Orkin. A slight darkening of the yellow/gold sunburst was suggested to enhance the color version. May will discuss this with Miles and thank him profusely on behalf of NCPI for his work.

Website Update (Vicky Ferraresi)

Vicky reports that Chuck believes the NCPI website is ready to go live as soon as ACS requirements are completed. May will follow up on this process, with the goal of having the website go live/kick-off date be April 15th. Updating has been continuous, with the most recent being the announcement that Governor Schwarzenegger has withdrawn his proposal to eliminate the healthcare boards. The member roster still requires updating, though most of the advisory committee members have submitted their preferences. It was suggested that the form be sent out once more to members to ensure that their update can be included before the go live date.

Action: Cathy Dawson volunteered to draft an announcement that can be forwarded to linking organizations, AACPI, Purdue's Pain Advocacy Community monthly newsletter (<http://www.partnersagainstpain.com/painadvocacycommunity/05-05/Index.asp>) SB151 attendees and NCPI members for distribution to their personal contacts and other parties interested in NCPI.

AB1782 (Judy Citko)

Judy reports that the AB1782 legislation was originally authored by Anestad to set up medical practice standards for controlled substance use in response to problems identified with investigations by law enforcement where patient records were taken from physicians' offices, disrupting patient care and often devastating the medical practice even when no charges were ever filed against the prescriber. This bill passed last year in a vastly different form as intent legislation with no funding attached. The intent is to develop protocols to guide investigations to avoid disruption of patient care. At this time, CMA is taking the lead, having developed a letter of intent seeking grant funding from outside funders to support a workgroup to address these issues. According to Judy's contacts, a letter of intent is being sent to Purdue Pharma for funding support, among other possible funders. At this time, it is not entirely clear what role NCPI is being asked to take in this process. Judy agreed to check with her sources to determine whether NCPI is being asked to participate in this workgroup, nominate appropriate interested parties or provide some other type of support. For potential nominations, Penney Cowan, Richard Abood, Bill Marcus and Ben Rich were suggested to participate or recommend participants in this workgroup. It was agreed that NCPI members would forward names to May Sung as potential representatives from NCPI in this project.

FSMB Workshops Update (Bill Marcus)

On behalf of Bill Marcus, who was unable to attend this meeting, Kathy Keller provided a synopsis of the information Bill provided regarding the Federation of State Medical Board workshops on "[Promoting Balance and Consistency in the Regulatory Oversight of Pain Care](#)" being presented around the country. Bill has been a presenter at two conferences, both of which were well attended. There are two additional conference planned. The Boston presentation is currently fully enrolled and closed to further registration. The Seattle conference is still available. Bill's presentation is a

detailed program consisting of a PowerPoint presentation, complemented by references of case precedent and issues to consider. Much of the program is based upon David Joranson's ideas proposed 10 years ago to help distinguish between poor practice and criminal activity. Bill notes that Patricia Goode, of the DEA, has also been a presenter, as well as Jennifer Bolan, a former federal prosecutor who now specializes in pain management law.

The upshot is that NCPI's efforts to help promote education of California's professional practice boards (medicine, pharmacy, nursing and dentistry) have been effective in that representatives from the medicine and pharmacy boards have attended, and the dental board has expressed interest in the content despite their inability to send a representative. This is a notable accomplishment of the NCPI! This work ties in well with the intention of AB1782.

Ben Rich requested to view Bill's materials and volunteered to be a back-up participant in AB1782 workgroup discussions. May will forward these materials to Ben.

SCCPI Position Statement on Physician Assisted Suicide (Donna Anderson)

Donna opened discussion on the SCCPI position paper on Physician-Assisted Suicide. Rita Yakubik reports that CHAPCA provided testimony at recent hearings in Sacramento. Their position has been to take a neutral stand, focusing on three areas of concern: hospice values life, is opposed to suicide as a coping strategy and the evidence suggests that this is not an issue directly resulting from failure of pain management, but an issue of control over one's situation that intensive attention to pain management would not necessarily address. The ensuing discussion involved consideration of NCPI's possible stance on this issue. Rita suggested that NCPI should consider the stance that suicide is a complex issue and that the group is currently studying these complexities so has no immediate position on physician-assisted suicide. Ben Rich also recommended that a statement reflecting that NCPI is a fledgling organization, so a stance advocating or opposing physician-assisted suicide is premature. Beverly Nicholson suggested that a No-Position stance is appropriate while the situation is being studied, and acknowledging that NCPI's time and financial resources are appropriately being concentrated on attaining adequate pain relief for patients where this is a problem. Rita acknowledges, on behalf of the advisory committee, the courage of SCCPI's position paper on this issue.

Next Meeting

The next Advisory Committee conference call will be held at 5-6pm on Monday, April 11th.

Submitted by
Kathy Keller, PhD, Secretary