



**NCPI Advisory Council Conference Call
May 15, 2007, 12 – 1 pm**

**Dial-in number: 1-888-447-7153
Participant Code: 6419469#**

Conference Call Summary Notes

Note: This conference call will primarily be informational with time for discussion. Bill Marcus will be giving a presentation/report from national meetings he attended in May.

Introductions

Attending: Beverly Nicholson, May Sung, Bill Marcus, Annie Borgenicht, Glen Yokoyama, Judi Nurse, Kathe Kelly, Kathy Keller, Lori Reisner, Marcia Grant, Judy Citko
Regrets: Penney Cowan, Vicky Ferraresi, Thurman Hunt, Daryl Walker, Alecia Sanchez

Review of Meeting Notes

Not available in time for this meeting. May will distribute later.

Standing Agenda Items:

- SCCPI Liaison Report - Marcia Grant / Glenn Yokoyama - Given by Kathe Kelly
 - Kathe reports Marcia will likely join the call. Pain resource nurse course and palliative care for social workers course are their current main projects.
 - There will be no gala this year due to funding issues.
 - Next newsletter will be coming out in July
 - Congratulations to Beverly on her State Pain Champion Award.
 - Bill asks if SCCPI and NCPI members who will be attending the ASPI meeting can get together while in Boston?
 - Pamela Merriman, State Pain Champion and Kathe Kelly will be going.
 - Beverly, Annie, Bill and Judy Citko, Alecia and May will be going from NCPI
 - Will discuss outside of this conference call.
- Web Site - Vicky Ferraresi - Provided by May
 - Website updates were noted – info about availability of CD from teleconferences. May sent email to Chuck and Vicky to amend since they are not ready yet. Materials from the two calls may be combined. May is exploring option of a DVD instead, with slides and audio, and may include an APS Cancer Pain Guidelines book. May is hoping to have some done in time for ASPI meeting. NCPI received permission from ASPI to use the remaining funds for this duplication and distribution. Possible distribution methods have been discussed.
 - Need to include a line on the website that we are a member of ASPI
 - Conference call meeting notes are posted on website. Member password is “nocanopain”

- Upcoming Conferences/Educational Opportunities
 - ASPE PainWEEK will be held in September 6-9, 2007 in Las Vegas.

Old Business:

- NCPI 2007 Activities Priority #1: Communication/outreach to Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) to build a working relationship. – Bill Marcus
 - Kathy Ellis from CURES agreed to become part of the Advisory Council. Daryl made the contact. Judi Nurse will forward contact info to Beverly for formal invitation.
 - Regulatory Affairs Committee – Bill is Chair. Members are Daryl, Alecia, Judi Nurse, Annie, Judy Citko. Goal is to address need to have appropriate education of law enforcement agents. Plan is to develop current training based on program Bill had done 11 years ago for the attorneys general and others. Needs to be updated, but is a starting point. Look at laws, policies, etc. that we would like to update further. For 2008 session – is too late for this year. Committee will hold some type of meeting in the near future. May will give Bill the conference call information Bill described how he was inspired to write the material that prompted the CA governors pain summit 14 years ago (1994) while on the plane coming back from an AACPI meeting.
 - APS Breakfast session – 100 attendees in Washington, DC. Coordinated by Aaron Gilson of the PPSG. Bill was asked to describe the process of behind passage of AB2198. He described CA's history – that the state had received a grade of C on the PPSG's 2003 report card, which upset Lori Rice, a member of the State Board of Medicine. This led to AB2198 formation of a task force to substantially update CA intractable pain laws. Basically, the process is to clearly identify issues and problems, be specific. Get the ear of people who can make the changes. Draw in all stakeholders before presenting drafted changes. Find a sponsor. Ensure that they are on board with the issue and have all the background education. Bill gave the example of putting minor issues into bills where there is no strong vested interest and putting those where there is more controversy into a separate bill. Howard Heit then spoke about some practical issues.
 - What to fix in the future: how one would treat addicts who are also pain patients. Clean up pain patients' bill of rights. Examine some of the archaic provisions that are common to several states, find the history on the language and use this to update the legislation. New PPSG report card is coming out this summer. CA should rank better with the implementation of AB2198. Beverly suggests NCPI put out a news release. Get sponsors of AB2198 on board. Houston was sole sponsor of the bill. He is from Contra Costa area. Office is listed as in Livermore. Beverly asks if Alecia and Cathy Dawson can assist. NCPI could be a convener for this with ACS. Even though ACS had not taken a position on this bill, if we get a good grade, it will help ACS in improving pain management, as is part of their charter. Alecia will speak with Ann Goure' on how to approach this. Beverly suggested that we can look at the news release written by Cathy Dawson last year for ideas.
 - Bill has been working with a task force dealing with how pain issues involving physicians are handled by the courts, including reconviction of Billy Hurwitz. In

the Hurwitz case, the judge prior to turning the case over to the jury dismissed all the charges that would have commanded a mandatory minimum sentence. John Tierney of the NY Times published an article. He reported that at least three of the jurors were in tears over the verdict (convicted on 1/3 of the charges). They were confused about the standard of care evidence and not clear on the difference between criminal intent and poor judgment. Dr. Conteh from NY was recently acquitted of all drug trafficking charges. Dr. Morgan was convicted of selling scheduled drugs for personal profit. The task force is planning to publish one or more articles on this topic in the American Academy of Pain Medicine Journal. Diane Hoffman also a writer on this topic.

- Beverly notes that the Institute for Safe Medicine Practices had a recent piece in their newsletter on the topic of how to improve safety with opioid use. With wider use, some inexperienced clinicians are making mistakes. Want to have a balance of clinicians with experience helping to guide the less experienced and establish some safeguards.
- Defer to next month: follow up from Cancer Pain Guidelines Teleconference and ASPI Lance Armstrong Grant Status – Beverly Nicholson
- Power Over Pain - Action Network Progress Report - Annie Borgenicht
 - Annie has contacted some other pain patients and physicians to assist in her goal to educate, working with DEA, APF newsletters, reach out to others with pain, and reach out to the media. She hasn't found the right niche yet in No. CA
 - Annie splits her time between CA and NY (6 months each)
 - Annie has spoken with Penney Cowan. Currently there is no support group in SF, one still exists in Oakland – she is trying to contact them

New Business

- ASPI Annual Meeting June 21-23, 2007, Boston, Massachusetts – Beverly Nicholson
 - NCPI attendees to meet at the ASPI Annual Meeting as discussed previously.

Presentation/Report – Bill Marcus

- 1.) American Pain Society - the status of the methadone CME project
 - Bill was asked to work with a group of physicians to come up with a model CME program on the use of methadone for pain treatment. Plan is to develop a live and Internet versions. Chairperson is Joyce Lowinson, MD, from New York with the International Association of Pain and Chemical Dependency. JBS International in Silver Springs, MD is providing the staffing. Program will be presented in Sarasota Springs, NY. Judy Martin, MD incoming president of California Society of Addiction Medicine. Lori Reisner asks who is the intended audience? A local group of MDs in Albany, NY, but likely to have wider impact. Issue is still to be determined. Lori suggested dividing it up into levels of practice, as is done in ASHP. NIDA wanted it completed in early June, but committee insisting on taking the amount of time it takes to do it right.
- 2.) Pain Care Forum Activities
 - Bill is also participating in the Pain Care Forum. They meet quarterly in Washington, DC. Participants need to represent a group. Bill represents NCPI.

Can attend in person or by phone. Key national players speak on important issues. Last speaker was the Executive Director of the Association of State Medical Boards. National Pain Care Policy Act of 2007 is due. Senator Dodd will likely sponsor it. A Military and Veterans Pain Care Act is in draft. There is also a new pain guideline drafted in WA State, which is causing some concern. APS has posted a detailed notice of their concern about this issue.

Announcements – Open Agenda

Next Conference Call: June 19, 2007 – just prior to ASPI meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Keller