

MINUTES

JUNE 2003 MEETING Initiative

Maryland Pain

Convened on June 24th with a quorum of 7 Board members.

Present were:

Mary Baluss	Tim Keay
Mary Lou Perin	Tom Carroll
Karen Kaiser	Shannon Leidig
Micke Brown	Mary Vargas
Marcia Strittmatter	
Bonita Pennino - representing ACS and Sherry McCammon (maternity leave)	

Absent board members were:

Andre Bathalon Kathryn Herbert Mary Lynn Mc Pherson

Old business

Board Decision-making

Since it had been necessary to adjourn previous meetings with no definitive decisions due to the absence of a quorum, it was decided by the board that:

1) The By-Laws should be amended to state that a quorum would constitute 1/4 of the board and a "Super Quorum" as _ of the board members. There are currently 13 (*with Sherry and John*) board members

- a) Those board members could participate in decision-making by both E-mail and phone.
- b) discussion followed that both the American Cancer Society (ACS) and the American Pain Foundation (APF) always be represented on the board
- b) Karen Kaiser proposed that Sherry McCammon and John Giglio be contacted to verify their intention to remain on the board.

New business

The following new information was discussed:

1) The AACPI report card on State Pain Regulations will be coming out in July-August 2003. We will be able to see how Maryland compares to the rest of the nation.

2) The major discussion of the board revolved around goals for the organization: MPI members will review public position papers (such as organizational position papers) and work from those papers to produce. MPI position papers that will be approved by the board. Then the focus of MPI would be to develop a strategy for action that the position paper supports. The position paper would outline a) the

rationale for MPI's concern, b) MPI's position on the issue, and c) MPI's recommendations for improvement. Tom Carroll will lead the effort to identify position papers and develop MPI position papers for Board Review. Other MPI members who have expressed interest in helping Tom at previous meetings will assist him.

3) Tom Carroll stated there was major consensus of the board that the MPI should focus on:

a) Making certain that a pain professional would be on committees making pain management decisions for the state. Re: Preferred Drug List.

b) Making sure that current existing guidelines (such as those of the professional boards) are enforced. MPI should question how existing care guidelines are enforced, including who is responsible for enforcement.

c) How to influence the development of the Medicaid formulary for the state.

Karen will contact Lynn McPherson and ask her to get a group together and utilize her hospice formulary as a starting point for recommending which analgesics and co-analgesics MPI supports as being on the state formulary. The group is to bring their recommendations to the Board for approval. Time is of the essence since the group will be making recommendations in early October and pain medications are the first drugs to be considered. When developing their response, Lynn's group should consider Karen's letter about this issue that was distributed to the MPI members last spring.

d) How to exert pressure that the aim of health insurance for everyone in the state include equality of pain management.

4) The group discussed the AACPI Electronic Prescription Monitoring Plan statement. Karen and Mary Baluss will work on revisions of this statement.

a) As the umbrella organization, AACPI has asked for our position statements.

b) The question that was raised but not answered was: what if MPI's position papers differ from AACPI statements?

5) Marcia announced that an effort will be made to minimize the size of documents sent to members via E-mail so as not to overload home E-mail Inboxes. Yvette Colon has offered to post large documents to our web page (www.marylandpaininitiative.org) and forward a link to the membership chairperson for distribution to members.

- 6) Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. There will be no July meeting. The decision about whether or not to meet in August was not made at this time.

Original summary provided by Mary Lou Perin

Revisions made by Karen Kaiser

Prepared for mailing by Marcia Strittmatter