



**MARYLAND PAIN INITIATIVE
BOARD MEETING MARCH 10, 2009**

PRESENT: Beth Murinson, Kathryn Walker, Gail Katz, Larrissa Scruggs, Carol Billett, Suzanne Nesbit, Tim Key and June Winkler.

PARTICIPATING BY TELEPHONE: Karen Kaiser, Micke Brown, Danelle Buchman, Renee Benzel

SUNPAPERS OP-ED ARTICLE: Karen suggested that we read it. Danelle will forward it to the board by email.

MINUTES: of the January 13, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Regular checking account	\$ 50,056.10
LAF account	\$ 71,496.03
MHCCF account	\$ 16,741.72

Outstanding Bills are:

DC Survey	\$ 12,000.00
Survey Analysis	\$ 3,000.00
APF for Legislative Briefing	\$ 291.02
APF for food during 2008	TBD
June for unpaid salary	TBD

We still need a report for January and February.

SURVEY COMMITTEE: Not sure if the DC survey is complete but think that it is. That information is needed to complete the analysis and report. We still need to put something on our website. Would like to use some of Karen's power point presentation in poster form to be displayed at meetings related to pain. Gail says that the American Cancer Society can create the posters from power point. Would be especially nice if posters could be available for a June 5th meeting of the Advisory Council of the Prescription Monitoring Program.

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PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM: Gail Katz reports that the advisory council met two weeks ago and heard a presentation by a Virginia Policeman (one of 18)) who is actively investigating cases using a database. They have been trained in the legal and clinical aspects of diversion. Some Doctors have more patients requiring drugs. The meeting was followed by a conference call on March 6th. Aaron Gilson and Patrick Coyne both participated in the conversation. Points made were that our program has more education included. There is a 14 day lag in information available and there is absolutely no data that shows Prescription Monitoring Programs have a positive effect and it is expensive to operate. Micke inquired about the legislation and whether it is being looked at. Gail says that they aren't there yet. Beth will check with Aaron Gilson about the fear factor in physicians. At their April 17th meeting they will do an analysis of various PMPs. On June 5th from 9:30am to 12:30pm they will be looking at the impact of PMPs from a patient's point of view; how it helps; how it impedes. Most of those obtaining drugs illegally are doing so by robbing others medications, and pharmacies. They are not "doctor shopping". Kathryn Walker says that SNUDH data shows only a small per cent said drugs were from different doctors.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING RECAP: Because a Democratic caucus took the room and audience we had planned on, only 20 people were present, 3 or 4 of them legislators. Those who were there were really engaged. Bonita Pennino will follow up with Delegate Rosenberg for suggestions on how to move along from here. Amanda Koontz, legal aid to Delegate Olesziewski, is planning a summer project on pain. Our major goal is to "change language" in existing legislation. The cost for the briefing was \$1791.02 which was over the \$1500.00 allocated by APF.

LOBBYING ISSUES: Danelle expressed concern that we need to follow the guidelines for lobbyists which includes being registered with the Ethics Committee. This briefing was educational in nature and not cause for concern. In order to be considered a lobbyist, we would be trying to "influence" a direct bill or legislation. Larrissa has IRS guidelines which the Policy Committee will review.

FIBROMYALGIA PROJECT: Jayme Halko will continue to keep us informed. Micke forwarded the APF report on Insurance Barriers to Fibromyalgia Care: The Maryland Experience on the results of telephone surveys conducted between Dec. 8, 2008 and Feb. 8, 2009.

SAMHSA: Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration, part of the Department of Health and Human Services is providing funding for educational programs on controlled drugs. Beth Murinson reports that any program must be held by September 2009 to get funding and support. Their target audience is primary care providers/prescribers. They want to partner with licensing boards, hospice networks. They would provide mailings, announcements, faculty stipends, CME brochures, etc., but they need someone to take ownership/sponsorship of the

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program. It is a one day course but can be a full or half day. Are we interested in sponsoring a program? Kathryn and Beth have seen the syllabus and say it is a good program and very worthwhile. It would benefit us to have it in September for Pain Awareness Month. We need to find out where it was done previously and how it was received. If we take it on, we would need to provide mailing lists, arrange a CME provider, arrange a date, time and place, handle the registration, arrange for food and pre and post evaluation. Beth was given the go ahead to pursue it with SAMHSA. Suzanne Nesbit and Carol Billett agreed to join the education committee. Possible Audiences could be Med Chi, American College of Physicians, Maryland Academy of Family Doctors, Nurses and Physician's Assistants.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Greater Washington Partnership for Palliative and End of Life Care is seeking a full time Program Director.
2. Pain Care Policy Act passed the committee and will be forwarded to the House
3. By August 1, 2009, The American Pain Foundation will be downsizing its office space by moving into the smaller office space (currently the annex) on the same floor. The suite number will remain the same. More staff will be working remotely as APF continues to expand its virtual work style. A core, yet smaller staff will work out of the office during the weekday covering normal business hours. APF will continue to take our mail and telephone voice mail support. MPI needs to find new storage space for our files, tee shirts and brochures as well as a place to meet as of July 14th, as APF will no longer have space to accommodate those needs.
4. **NEXT MEETING MAY 12, 2009 5PM APF CONFERENCE ROOM**

ADJOURNMENT: 6:30pm