

MARYLAND INITIATIVE

Quarterly Meeting

October 27, 2005

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

1 **Present:** Micke Brown (Coordinator), Pamela Parrish, Lynn McPherson (Director), Kathryn Hebert (Director),
2 Gail Katz (Chair), J. Joseph Curran (MD Attorney General) Carolyn Quattrocki (Assistant Attorney General),
3 Carol Billet (Director), Tim Keay (Director), Mary Vargas (Treasurer), Karen Kaiser (Chair-Elect), Michelle
4 Lonchar (APF MSW Intern), Bonnie Weissfeld (APF Office Manager).

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6 *Participants by Conference Call: Karen Kaiser from 1015-1100; present after 1200pm.*

7
8 **Absent Board Directors:** Catherine Jackson (Chair-Emeritus), Will Rowe, Shannon Leidig, Kathy Smolinski,
9 Joseph Berman MD, Sherry McCammon (Secretary).

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11 Meeting called to order by Gail Katz at 10:10. Welcome and introductions were made.

12 10:10-11:05am: Meeting with Attorney General Curran regarding the Electronic Prescription Monitoring Plan

13 11:10-2:10pm: MPI agenda with a break for lunch around 12pm.

14 Executive Board Report

15 ○ **AACPI Fundraising Training Event**

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17 Gail Katz reported about a recent AACPI fundraising training announcement. It will be a one-day
18 conference for the state pain initiatives. The date has not yet been posted. MPI has responded and would
19 like about three members to attend. Gail feels it is very important for us to learn about how grants are to be
20 written and how to develop relations with funders. She stressed how these relationships need to be
21 developed over time prior to requesting funds.

22 ○ **Coordinator Position**

23
24 Gail reported the hiring of Shannon Leidig, as a MPI Coordinator. She will be working for 8 hours per
25 week and acting as a special project manager. Further discussion of the revised job description and financial
26 matters will continue after Karen re-joins our meeting. (see: Updates/ Miscellaneous section of the minutes)

27 ○ **Vacancies on the Board**

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29
30 ○ Gail discussed the need to recruit people for vacancies on the Board. We discussed looking to
31 recruit representatives from the fields of: Arthritis, Law, Social Security Disability, and
32 specifically the UM Disability Clinic, Med Chi, and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of
33 America.
- 34 ○ Micke offered to return to the board and willing to serve as the Professional Education Chair,
35 which was vacated when Matt Gainey resigned from the board.
- 36 ○ The Public Awareness Chair position is newly vacant due to the resignations of Mary V. and
37 Shannon L., our past co-chairs. Shannon has continued to lead the Washington County
38 volunteers working with the Public Listening project for Power Over Pain in that county. Due to
39 Micke's POP coordination responsibilities with APF, she is unable to serve in that capacity, but
40 continues to volunteer for public speaking activities as needed for the Maryland POP activities.

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42 **ACTION – Mary Vargas** volunteered to look for interested people in the field of Social Security Disability
43 Law.

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- 1 ○ **Issue: Medicare Recipients to be Ineligible for Pharmaceutical Company Indigent Programs**
- 2 ○ Gail introduced the pressing issue of several pharmaceutical companies making Medicare recipients
- 3 ineligible for their indigent programs as of January 1, 2006. Their decision was made with the
- 4 assumption that Medicare recipients will qualify for benefits under Part D. There is a serious
- 5 concern regarding how this will be processed. How will patients be notified and what will be the
- 6 ramifications of this? If we are confused about this, patients will be confused.
- 7 ○ Micke generated questions about how to guide patients through this – should we post an alert and
- 8 offer resources on our web site? Should we notify organizations?
- 9 ○ Gail would like to ask MEDBANK of Maryland, Inc. or Pharmaceutical Companies to work with us
- 10 to guide patients through this transition. (MEDBANK works on behalf of clients who have no drug
- 11 coverage and are not eligible for programs like Medicare.)
- 12 ○ Micke raised the question of whether Pharma might give a grant for such a venture. It was agreed
- 13 that it would be in the best interest for them to provide a bridge for the patients.
- 14 ○ Tim brought up concern that there is a disconnect between the pharmaceutical plans and provider
- 15 information – Example, physicians state that they don't really know how much the drugs cost. With
- 16 enrollment beginning November 15, there is a concern that people will enroll in the wrong plan and
- 17 possibly be stuck in the plan for a year.
- 18 ○ Related Issue: How can we learn about Medicare Part D?
- 19 ○ **ACTION – Lynn** will be attending a national meeting in Las Vegas regarding Part D and
- 20 will report to us what she learned.
- 21 ○ **ACTION to All** – Please notify group if hear of other programs to learn about Part D.

Treasurer Report

22 Mary Vargas reported the budget looks good and this is a good time to look at the budget and conclude what is
23 needed for staffing, etc. Accolades were given to Will Rowe and the generosity of APF.

The Hospice Network of Maryland Annual Conference

- 24 ○ Lynn McPherson invited us to attend. There will be about 180 participants & MDPI should be
- 25 represented.
- 26 ○ The conference will be held on November 2 & 3, 2005 at the Hilton in Columbia, Maryland.
- 27 ○ To include an abstract about MPI in the conference booklet, we need to submit one by 12pm tomorrow.
- 28 ○ **ACTION – Pam** will create an abstract & poster for MPI. **Micke** will send the PDF version of the
- 29 membership brochure to copy and paste. Copies will be forwarded to the board. **Lynn** will use this
- 30 image from Power Point to create a poster (need by Saturday morning).

Committee Report: Public Awareness

- 31 ○ Micke urged board and general members of MPI to attend a public listening event on Saturday,
- 32 November 5th in Washington County. This is a second year celebration. Will Rowe is the guest speaker.
- 33 The flyer is posted on the MPI website.
- 34 ○ Micke reminded the board about the qualitative research project around public listenings is in process.
- 35 Funding has been underwritten by a grant from AACPI. Karen Kaiser and Anita Tarzian are the lead
- 36 investigators.
- 37 ○ It is a product of good collaboration among U of MD, MPI, and APF
- 38 ○ Status of IRB approval is pending

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- **ACTION-** All - We should give thorough thought of where to publish the results for the best exposure – MD Nursing Association? Pharmacists Association? Key finding can be posted on MPI web site.

Committee Report: Public Awareness Public Policy/Advocacy

- Capitol Hill Day activities were review; Congressman Cardin has signed on as co-sponsor for HR 1020. Every congressman and senator from Maryland was visited by MPI volunteers.
- Gail Katz reported regarding the Hollinger Meeting – Gail & Will were invited to speak on Nov 15.
 - Gail put together a packet for all of them to mirror information provided during the Capital Hill visits.
 - **ACTION:** Micke will contact Bill Kerrigan to have him email an advocacy packet to Gail for the meeting.

Committee Report: Professional Education

- Gail – Should we have Education Advisory Committee (regarding the Attorney General meeting) what we should be doing – would like to build in an awareness piece
- Tim Keay – Should we do another telephone survey? (Gail feels the survey does not have much clout, as it is not scientific.)
- Micke – We need to have coordinated efforts in professional education in collaboration with other organizations.
 - In the spring, there is a continuing education class on policy. Should we get Ben Cardin & other reps involved? Will Rowe will be speaking.
 - We should have an annual professional education seminar to be interactive and increase visibility among professional groups. Stronger connections need to be made for us to be meaningful to them.
 - UT Pain Society raised \$50,000 from their program and had only 6 exhibit groups – we can do this too. Lynn suggested we duplicate the UT group's agenda. Is there a doctor's pain society in MD?
 - Gail agreed that it makes sense to do this collaboratively with other groups – whether in the spring or next September. Also, we need to discuss what are the kinds of organizations that would fund this?

Updates and Miscellaneous

New MPI Coordinator Position (Shannon)

Hiring details:

- Gail inquired whether APF's Jeannie Hornsby could be our advisor for tax forms required for hiring. Independent contracting was favored since this is a part-time, no benefit position. The position reports to the board with immediate supervision by the Chair to maintain accountability and clear charges according to strategic priorities.
- **ACTION:** Micke will send the example invoice forms and contract example for the executive board to review and tailor to MPI needs.
- Karen will continue with negotiation of salary and availability timeline.
- Micke will assist Shannon with transition of role and serve as an advisor during her orientation to the new role

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Job description:

- Draft of revised description was reviewed with recommendations of edits made.
- **ACTION:** Micke will make recommended changes to include the effective date of Oct. 2005. She will email edited form to the executive board. Micke will research how to get Shannon access to MPI email via APF.

Recruit Volunteer Coordinator: This may be one of Shannon's initial projects. MPI would like to have more student members – Michelle suggested that recruiting from UMaryland School of Social Work; ideas around law school and business school were generated.

Board Elections

Gail requested we start thinking about electing of our new slate. We should send out a mass email calling for volunteers.

Strategic planning for POP

- Mary feels we need to sit down and do strategic planning for POP – what communities will we be targeting and how – this is too much for Shannon to do. Mary will try and be there for such a meeting. Micke offered to be an advisor, however will not plan to attend.
- Micke recommended that a committee oversees & coordinates the selecting of counties and contacts for POP. Also, we need a volunteer coordinator for POP of MD. This is more than what Shannon should have to do.
- Micke presented POP at St. Catherine's in Emmitsburg, Maryland to professionals who work with elder community - great exposure for APF & MPI. Contacts were made who may assist with access to Frederick County. Lynn mentioned that the Wexler Center in Baltimore City is interested in having a presentation brought to that community; this invitation may lead to public listenings. Karen mentioned that in Howard County the Claudia Mayer Center may be an opportunity.

Adjournment

Recognizing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Recorded by: Michelle Lonchar

Reviewed by: Micke Brown;

Approved by MPI Board:

Next Meeting is January 26 (4th Thursday). Location TBD. A call for nominations and elections will be a key agenda item.