

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
HEALTH AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE MEETING

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 - 7:00 AM

M I N U T E S

Committee Members

Chester Choi, MD, MACP	X	Ravi Chandrashekhar, MD,FACP		Melvyn Sterling, MD, MACP	X
Dennis Cope, MD, FACP	X	George Meyer, MD, FACP	X	Jeremiah Tilles, MD, MACP-Chair	X
Carla Fox, MD, FACP		Maher Roman, MD, FACP	X	Howard Williams, MD, FACP	X
Faith Fitzgerald, MD, MACP	X	George Sarka, MD, FACP	X	Michael Matus, MD-resident	X
Douglas Hegstad, MD, MACP	X	Paul Speckart, MD, MACP		Gordon Fung, MD, FACP	X
Darin Latimore, MD, FACP	X	Susan Sprau, MD, MACP	X	Natalie Kaczur, Executive Director	X

Total Number of Committee Members: 16

Quorum: 8

Members at this Meeting: 12

Agenda

- Minutes
- Events
- ACP Brief on Essential Health Benefits
- Message to Legislators
- Invitation for Cal-ACP to Join CAPP Coalition
- CMA and the Medi-Cal Issue
- Practice Improvement Council
- CMA Delegation
- Other Business
- Next Meeting

Minutes

Dr. Tilles asked if anyone had any omissions or corrections to the minutes of the January 25, 2012. Faith asked that the “BCA” reference be changed to “VCA” (Veterinary Clinic of America). With the aforementioned change, the minutes of the January 25, 2012 teleconference meeting were approved by consensus.

Events

- *January 30, 2012* – The State Health Policy Webinar occurred on January 30th with attendance by Drs. Cope and Tilles. An email from Shaun Tomlinson with a link to the slides of the webinar. The email from Shaun Tomlinson with a link to the slides of the webinar will be forwarded to the committee members by Ms. Kaczur.
- *February 25* – Annual Neuro Day (Region II) – Cal-State Northridge University
- *February 28-29, 2012* – Sacramento Leadership Day. Dr. Tilles said that hopefully everyone has their rooms and air reservations. There is a group of 25 going. The message that will be delivered will be discussed later on this agenda. Dr. Tilles mentioned that the agenda for Sacramento day was distributed last night via email. Dr. Latimore pointed out that he may be bringing five students on Wednesday only.
- *March 10, 2012* - Dermatology for the Non-Dermatologist (Region II) - Cal-State Northridge
- *March 10, 2012* – SEP Module Session (Region III) – Scripps Green Hospital, San Diego

- *April 19-21*- Internal Medicine 2012, New Orleans - Dr. Tilles pointed out that the convocation is April 19th at 6:00 pm in Hall 12 of the New Orleans Convention Center.
- *June 6-7, 2012* - Washington Leadership Day – Dr. Tilles noted the change in dates from the original dates in May. It will again be held at the Liaison Hotel but this year there will be no dinner provided by the ACP Washington office on the 6th. There will be a couple of receptions and Cal-ACP's caucus could be early in the evening. Dr. Tilles reminded everyone that they need to register twice – once for a room at the hotel and the other with ACP National with a \$25 fee in order to attend Leadership Day. The only exclusion is that there is no registration fee for medical students and associates. Drs. Fitzgerald, Meyer and Sterling raised concern about the \$25 charge to attend Washington Leadership Day and Dr. Sterling brought up the suggestion of having attendance be a national expense. Drs. Fitzgerald and Meyer agreed to work on a resolution regarding the registration fee for Washington Leadership Day. Dr. Sprau informed Drs. Fitzgerald and Meyer that she thinks the evening talk was always a useful talk and she is disappointed that National ACP will not be having the talk this year.

ACP Brief on Essential Health Benefits

ACP came out with a briefing that encapsulates what this committee has already discussed regarding essential health benefits. There are ten particular aspects of the benefits that have to be included. The states were given considerable leeway in December when CMS decided to let them pick from among the best programs already available in their respective state. The briefing from ACP National essentially summarized this news.

Message to Legislators

Dr. Tilles asked if anyone had comments/additions to the message that will be delivered to the legislators during Sacramento Leadership Day. Dr. Meyer suggested that the paragraph headings be in bold font. Dr. Tilles agreed to the change and asked the committee to review the message later and email him with any comments. There will be additional time to discuss the message in Sacramento, but at that time it would be difficult to change the version in print.

Invitation for ACP to Join the California Alliance for Patient Protection (CAPP)

Dr. Tilles said that Dr. Roman received an invitation from CAPP (California Alliance for Patient Protection) to become a partner in their efforts. It seems like something we'd like to participate in since their purpose is to protect MICRA. Dr. Tilles asked the committee members if they have any hesitation in partnering with this alliance. There were no committee members who expressed hesitation in partnering with this group. Dr. Tilles asked if anyone had comments regarding CAPP and if there is anyone who would block a consensus to be member of the coalition with CAPP. Dr. Williams asked if CAPP is requesting any financial support. Dr. Tilles said that there has not been a request by CAPP for any financial support. Quite possibly they would ask for a contribution in the future. Dr. Tilles asked if this committee would like to allocate money now in the budget if we wish to respond to future requests from any organization. Drs. Sarka and Meyer expressed their feelings that it is important to ally with the organization now and then evaluate on a case by case basis if the question of funding is presented. Dr. Latimore said that he thinks Cal-ACP should put money aside to support CAPP so that it is available if a request is made. Dr. Tilles asked if anyone objected to allocating funds in the budget to support CAPP if necessary. Dr. Tilles said that Drs. Roman and Amin can determine how much to allocate. Dr. Cope said that even though the money is set aside, Cal-ACP should not feel compelled to donate at this point. Dr. Meyer reiterated that Cal-ACP should take this issue on a case-by-case basis with regard to any funding requests by CAPP. Dr. Sarka said that if Cal-ACP gives money to an organization, the decision should be made by more than one or two individuals. He said that more information on CAPP would be appreciated. Dr. Tilles asked that Cal-ACP hold off on joining CAPP until more information about CAPP is obtained from the CMA when we attend Sacramento Leadership Day. Dr. Roman agreed. Dr. Sprau said that this is an umbrella organization that works on public education regarding

MICRA. She added that we should also email the person who emailed Dr. Roman if Cal-ACP has questions. Dr. Roman said that the website for this organization is micra.org.

Practice Improvement Council

Dr. Roman reminded the committee that during the last HPPC teleconference meeting, the Practice Improvement Council was initiated with Drs. Roman and Cope as co-chairs and Drs. Latimore and Fox (or her designee) as members. He said that the Council wants to focus on issues in relation to clinical practice (PCMH, ACOs, Innovations in Practice, etc) and also be in touch with National ACP on these issues. The first thing we worked on is the CMS Innovation grant known as ACPED. We obtained the information needed for this grant request and spent time communicating with community clinics and local hospitals. We ran into difficulty in the end due to the grant writer having some personal issues which prevented her from helping to prepare the grant. Therefore, submission of the grant has been deferred until the next phase by the CMS, which will be June or July 2012. Additionally, there may be the opportunity to partner with ACP National on this effort. Dr. Roman said that it was unfortunate that this project was delayed, but on the upside Cal-ACP is now ready to participate in submitting grants. Dr. Roman said that Cal-ACP can submit more than one grant and asked the committee for any ideas. Dr. Sprau suggested that Cal-ACP explore utilizing CMA's help with grant writing. Dr. Roman said that ACP National may be able to assist as well. Dr. Latimore said that if National ACP has grant writers able to assist, they would probably bring "more to the table" with regard to ACP history, etc. Dr. Roman agreed and said that having National on board may help financially as well. Dr. Sarka agreed that utilizing grant writers is a good idea. Their expertise might be essential in light of the current competition for grants. Dr. Roman added that if we are able to obtain grant money, we may be able to develop Cal-ACP using the New York Chapter as a model.

CMA and Medi-Cal

Dr. Sterling said that a lawsuit filed by the CMA stopped the Medi-Cal cuts. Although there has not been a cut, we continue with the same abysmal Medi-Cal rates, which in his opinion, limits access of Medi-Cal patients to primary care providers. He added that ACA's proposal to bring Medi-Cal up to Medicare rates will not convince physicians to expand their Medi-Cal patient base.

CMA Delegation

Dr. Tilles said that at the last meeting, there was discussion on working on getting medical students and residents/fellows interested and able to participate in the CMA House of Delegates (HOD) in the Fall. Dr. Matus commented that he has a full list of the 30 internal medicine residency programs in California. He has began contacting key residents in order to establish a contact person to assist with obtaining physicians for Sacramento Leadership Day, CMA HOD and Washington Leadership Day. Dr. Matus believes that a personal contact will be more successful in obtaining participation vs. a blast email. Dr. Sarka thanked Dr. Matus for his work. Dr. Sprau asked that Dr. Matus email her with the information he obtained.

Other Business

Dr. Tilles asked if there was interest in having a Board meeting in New Orleans, Friday afternoon, April 20th just prior to the CA/HI reception. He asked the committee members to think about this and respond back to him. If there is not a Board meeting, Dr. Tilles said he would be willing to have an HPPC meeting instead (about 5:00 pm).

HPPC Teleconference Meeting
February 22, 2012

Future HPPC Meetings

Future HPPC meetings are scheduled for March 14, April 4, May 16, June 20 and August 15. As usual, there will not be a meeting scheduled for July.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 a.m.

Prepared by:
Natalie Kaczur

Approved by:
Jeremiah Tilles, MD, MACP, Chair