

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

Wednesday, January 25, 2012 - 7:00 AM

M I N U T E S

Committee Members

Chester Choi, MD,MACP	X	Ravi Chandrashekhar, MD	X	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	X
Faith Fitzgerald, MD, MACP	X	George Sarka, MD, FACP	X	Michael Matus, MD-resident	X
Douglas Hegstad, MD, MACP		Paul Speckart, MD, MACP			
Darin Latimore, MD, FACP		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

State Health Policy Networking Webinar

Key Contact Program

Advanced Payment Module

Practice Improvement Council

Ballot Initiative

CMA Delegation

Other Business

Next Meeting

Minutes

Dr. Tilles asked if anyone had any omissions or corrections to the minutes of the December 14, 2011 meeting. The minutes of the December 14, 2011 teleconference meeting were approved by consensus. Dr. Meyer added that the name of the contact person in Louisiana (regarding information on a PCMH demonstration project) referenced on Page 3 is Karen DeSalvo and her email address is kdesalvo@nola.gov. Dr. Meyer noted that she started numerous demonstration projects after Katrina. The Practice Improvement Committee may be able to work with her.

Events

- *February 4, 2012* - Adventures in the History of Medicine (Region II) – Saddleback Medical Center. Bob Doherty will be one of the speakers.
- *February 25* – Annual Neuro Day (Region II) – Cal-State Northridge University
- *February 28-29, 2012* – Sacramento Leadership Day. Dr. Tilles said that he has a listing of the attendees for the Northern California, Region II, and Region III, but needs the names/information of the participants for Region I. Ms. Kaczur will send an updated list to Dr. Tilles. Dr. Tilles informed the committee that the block of rooms at the Hyatt are held until February 2, 2012 or until they are sold out. As of yesterday, there were only four rooms left. Dr. Tilles urged that those attending Leadership Day who have NOT already made reservations should do so ASAP. Dr. Meyer said that if there are attendees who are not able to find a room, he or his Executive Director can assist in obtaining a room. Dr. Tilles said that the committee

assigned to draft the message to be delivered to the legislators has been appointed. Dr. Choi is chair of the committee consisting of Drs. Latimore, Chandrashekhar and Fox. Dr. Choi said that he hopes to have the draft completed by next week. Dr. Tilles thanked him for once again agreeing to chair this committee.

- *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 JT pointed out that the convocation is April 19th at 6:00 pm. Additionally, there are new Masters from California: Susan Sprau, MD, Alpesh Amin, MD, Jackie Parthemore, MD, David Ramone, MD and Nancy Lane, MD. Dr. Tilles said that he hopes the governors of the respective regions put together something special for their Masters. Dr. Tilles announced that Dr. Cope has been elected as a Regent of the College and Molly Cooke, MD will be the President-Elect of the ACP.
- *June 6-7, 2012* - Washington Leadership Day – Dr. Tilles noted the change in dates from the original dates in May. The change was necessary due to the fact that Congress will not be in Washington DC during the dates that were scheduled for May. He asked everyone to make note that June 6-7 is a Wednesday and Thursday.

State Health Policy Networking Session

Dr. Tilles reminded everyone that on January 30, 2012, there will be a State Health Policy Networking Webinar. Members will have to register for the webinar by contacting Shaun Tomlinson via email. Ms. Kaczur said that she will send an email to all committee members with information on how to contact Ms. Tomlinson and register for the webinar.

Key Contact Program

Dr. Tilles announced that National ACP has changed the name of the Key Contact Program to “Advocates for Internal Medicine.” He added that the new name is very appropriate.

Practice Improvement Council

At the last HPPC meeting, Dr. Roman suggested forming a Practice Improvement Council. The HPPC supported this idea and a council has subsequently been appointed. Drs. Roman and Cope are the co-chairs of the council which also includes Dr. Latimore and Dr. Fox (or her designee). The council has been given a charge to both keep up-to-date on all items that could lead to practice improvement in California and also be a liaison with National regarding nationwide initiatives that could be helpful to California regarding practice improvement. Dr. Tilles said that this council should report directly to the Cal-ACP Board of Directors and provide monthly updates to the HPPC. Dr. Roman added that at this evening’s Board meeting, the focus will be on the CMS Innovation grant and there will be some discussion about the Practice Improvement Council. With regard to the grant effort, Dr. Roman said that it has been a tremendous learning experience. He briefly discussed everything he had to go through on behalf of Cal-ACP in order to be eligible for a government grant. The chance that Cal-ACP receives a grant is not high, but the positive side is that Cal-ACP is in position to begin “tapping into” future grant opportunities. Dr. Roman invited non-Board members of the HPPC to attend tonight’s Board meeting.

Dr. Tilles informed the committee that Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) will have a program for members who are in solo or small practice which will allow them to collect prepayment of the amount of money they will earn as expected savings from participating. In addition, those physicians who are unsuccessful about the expected savings will not have to pay the prepayment money back. Dr. Tilles said that this should be kept in mind as we try to put together something workable for small groups.

With regard to the CMA lawsuit against the State regarding the Medi-Cal cuts, Dr. Sterling said that if there is time and interest, he will try to give a brief report on the CMA's attack on Medi-Cal.

Dr. Fitzgerald said that she was able to obtain some veterinary care rates for dogs. She said that if people are willing to pay more for dogs than for children on Medi-cal, this was indeed an emotional issue. The veterinarian who provided her with the rates is with BCA. She said that a routine office visit for a dog is \$48 with another \$5.25 added for biowaste. Regular vaccines are from \$18 to \$24 and a two-view x-ray is \$175. Catheterization is \$33 and with a Foley it is \$66. Testing from a blood drop is \$25. 15 minutes of wound cleaning is \$77. Other committee members said that they have additional vet charge information. It was requested that the information be sent to Dr. Sterling. Dr. Fitzgerald requested that a short email be sent to her with Dr. Sterling's information so she can forward him the veterinary costs she has obtained. Again it was noted that this is indeed a case for emotion over reason. As an aside, it was pointed out that Dr. Fitzgerald is having another hip surgery on Friday. She was wished her a speedy recovery.

CMA Ballot Initiative

Dr. Tilles noted that Dr. Sprau has requested that this issue be brought to the attention of the HPPC. Because Dr. Sprau has not yet joined the meeting, Dr. Tilles presented the background information. The CMA Executive Committee (EC) has made recommendations on the three ballot initiatives for consideration by the CMA Board of Directors at their meeting on January 27, 2012. On the initiative to increase taxes on people earning over \$250,000 per year, the EC recommended "support." On the initiative to increase the cost of a pack of cigarettes and other tobacco products by \$1.00, the EC recommended "support." On the initiative to require insurance to obtain approval from State government before rates can be increased the EC recommends "oppose." The CMA has advised its members that their feedback is welcome and will be included in the background material presented at the meeting. Dr. Tilles noted that the CMA background material notes that the State of California already has a regulation which requires insurance companies to notify the State Government when they plan an increase in rates. In the two cases that have so far been announced, public reactions have resulted in retractions of the proposed rate increases by respective insurance companies.

Dr. Sprau joined the call and Dr. Tilles asked her if there is anything Cal-ACP should do including sending letter to CMA. Dr. Sprau thought that the committee should be aware that this is what CMA is doing and that they have asked for feedback on their positions. She said that we can provide the CMA with individual feedback or do we, as an organization, want to take a position. Dr. Tilles asked if there is anyone who feels that the ACP should not be supportive of these three decisions. Hearing no objections, there was consensus to support the CMA's positions. Dr. Tilles asked if there was any other discussion. Hearing none, the committee agrees that the potential endorsements by the CMA should be supported by the ACP. Dr. Sprau said that personally she has mixed feelings on a couple of the initiatives and would prefer that the Board make the decision. Ms. Kaczur will forward Dr. Sprau's email to the Board and request their vote. Dr. Sprau discussed her own reservations. She said she is in favor of the tax on cigarettes and although it is a regressive tax, it does help decrease cigarette smoking. She added that she is not sure how to make the government use their tax money more effectively, but her impression is that tax money is not used effectively in the State or the country so she is somewhat neutral to the proposal to increase taxes on those making over \$250,000 per year. With regard to the initiative where insurance companies need to obtain State approval for rate increases, she said that she understands that physicians are at risk for having their fees reduced if this proposal is approved, however the greater evil is the insurance companies which are failing to adequately police their rates and that does need to be addressed.

Dr. Williams, Governor-Election for Region III, questioned the support by the CMA on the increased tax on the wealthy, noting that this really isn't connected to medicine. Dr. Sprau agreed with him and said that there is nothing in this statewide proposal that any of those tax dollars are being allocated to healthcare. Dr. Tilles said that

he is not quite sure what the Board of Directors result will be and perhaps Cal-ACP will only support the tobacco tax.

CMA Delegation

Dr. Sprau said that we need to continue to work on getting medical students and residents/fellows interested and able to participate in the CMA House of Delegates (HOD) in the fall. Preparation should begin now by asking the governors to provide a contact person in each of their regions so they can begin identifying people. Dr. Roman asked Dr. Sarka to nominate Dr. Matus to assist in Region II with this process. Dr. Meyer said that Puja Thakkar was very involved in the 2011 HOD and has recruited another resident who will most likely participate in 2012. Dr. Sprau asked for suggestions on how these individuals can be identified so that we can communicate with them and make sure we have names to send to the CMA. Dr. Sarka proposed to send out a “call” looking for volunteers to work on this project. Dr. Matus said that the best way is to go through the medical programs. In Region II, he has 3-4 residents interested and working on curriculum and he is willing to talk with other programs on how to do this. Ms. Kaczur will follow-up with Dr. Matus. Dr. Sprau asked Drs. Cope and Williams to provide contact names from their regions. Dr. Cope suggested a Facebook Page to promote this to students and residents.

Other Business

Dr. Roman thanked Dr. Tilles for keeping the HPPC “on track.” Dr. Sarka seconded Dr. Roman’s statement.

Future HPPC Meetings

Future HPPC meetings are scheduled for February 22, March 14, April 4, May 16, and June 20. There will not be a meeting in July.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 a.m.

Prepared by:
Natalie Kaczur

Approved by:
Jeremiah Tilles, MD, MACP, Chair