



National Tuberculosis Controllers Association Executive Board Conference Call Minutes February 19, 2009

I. Attendees

- A. NTCA Board Members: Jim Cobb, Phil Griffin, Carol Pozsik, Denise Ingman, Kristin Rounds, Deb Sodt, Kim Field, Charles Wallace, Kathy Hursen, Kathy Kolaski, Jon Warkentin, Pat Infield, Cristie Chesler, Shea Rabley, Ron Karpick, Allan Lynch, Kathy Moser, Iram Bakhtawar, Mike Arbise
- B. CDC Staff: Kashef Ijaz, Ann Cronin, Stacy Harper, Dawn Tuckey
- C. Guests: None

II. NTCA Board Discussion Items

- A. Secretary's Report – Denise Ingman
 - There were no comments on the January minutes; they were accepted by the Board.
- B. Treasurer's Report – Kristin Rounds
 - The Annual Audit has been completed, and the report is available from the NTCA office.
 - Balances of the following were reported and accepted: savings account, checking account, TB Walk funds. (Note that TB Walk funds are not NTCA funds.)
- C. Committee/Workgroup Reports
 - PCSI Committee – Jim Cobb
Jim Cobb attended a conference call was held with other representatives from NCHHSTP Programs, Dr. Fenton, and Gustavo Aquino (replacement for Susan DeLisle). Dr. Fenton and Gustavo Aquino called the meeting to revive "Program Collaboration and Integration" (PCSI). Another large meeting is being planned for summer 2009 in Atlanta. There is no content for the meeting yet. All programs should be represented at that meeting.
 - HIV Confidentiality/Security Survey – Phil Griffin
Eleven Board members completed the survey. Phil Griffin tabulated the results and provided them to CDC. To summarize results, some items were clearly "doable." Others were split on whether they were "doable." Others were either "doable" or "not possible." Copies of the summary are available upon request from Phil Griffin.
 - Economic Recovery Survey Status – Phil Griffin
Twenty-six states have responded to the survey. NTCA will send out a reminder. It is preferable to have all states respond.

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- Cohort Survey Review – Kim Field, Kashef Ijaz
In providing background for the purpose of the survey, Kashef said one of the messages DTBE heard at the regional meetings was that all states should be doing case reviews. DTBE consultants were asked to attend cohort reviews in their areas, and Kashef attended the Washington State process. From this, DTBE staff decided to determine what process all the states were using. Kim Field added that the draft survey went out for comments, and Jennifer Kanouse will assess and incorporate those. There was consensus to send the survey out to all states after revisions are complete. Phil Griffin will help prepare the final draft, and then it will be sent out.
 - EDN Workgroup – Deb Sodt
Many problems occurred with the EDN system just after an EDN workgroup conference call in early February. Problems noted were delays, inconsistencies, and documents from the overseas physicians no longer being scanned into the system. Deb Sodt communicated this to Kashef Ijaz, as did the refugee health coordinators' representative on the workgroup. The outcome was the re-institution of document scanning, but there are still other problems.
 - Nominating Committee – Deb Sodt
There are candidates for every office, and nominations are now closed. The candidates will submit short bios, and the final slate will be presented at the next NTCA conference call. It has been difficult to get people to agree to run for office.

III. New Business

- A. Change in Reporting of AFB Smear Results – Mike Arbise
 - The Illinois State Laboratory has changed its protocol to include “equivocal” when reporting 1-9 organisms. Supposedly, this is a CLIA requirement not known to anyone else on the Board.
 - Mike Arbise will send out the information from the Illinois State Laboratory so the Board can determine how to proceed.
- B. Conference Registration – Carol Pozsik
 - Online registration should be available within the next few days. Registrants will be able to pay online using a credit card.
 - As determined by the Board, there will be no bags distributed at the conference.
- C. 2010 Conference Date – Carol Pozsik
 - There are only two weeks available in June 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Ravinia.
 - Board decision: late June is preferable to early June and Carol to book for the conference to begin on June 21, 2010.
- D. APHL Representative – Phil Griffin
 - John Bernardo is currently our representative on APHL's Advisory Committee. APHL notified us that we can have two representatives.
 - Phil Griffin will ask Mike Arbise to serve as the second representative.

IV. CDC Discussion Items

A. Stimulus Package Update – Ann Cronin

- House version contained \$335 million, and Senate version had \$400 million. Funding for TB not clear in any language.
- DTBE will submit their plans for funding to the CDC Center under the covered language. No support for infectious diseases under Senate language
- Re: 2010 funds, Congress will be doing appropriations soon. May be a small increase, but not assured.
- Continuing Resolution through March of this year for 2009 funds. Probably will be level funded.

B. New CDC Liaison – Kashef Ijaz

- Dawn Tuckey is the new CDC Liaison for the RTMCCs and NTCA.
- Carol will ask Dawn to give update on the Centers at each NTCA conference call.

C. TB Program Evaluation Workgroup – Kashef Ijaz

- November 2008, CDC Evaluation Workgroup reviewed existing plan and reinvigorated evaluation process.
- Decision made to have all TB programs designate someone as the Evaluation Focal Point.
- There will be a meeting in July combined with the TB ETN Conference for Focal Point group. Funding provided for travel by CDC. Announcement forthcoming.

D. 2010 CoAg Guidance Changes – Kashef Ijaz

- Majority of the application will remain the same with exception of additional requirements: 1) cohort review, 2) program evaluation focal point/network, 3) clear direction for progress reports, 4) big city recipients will be directed to work more closely with state programs to develop formulas for future funding cycles, and 5) changes in lab portion re: data for progress reports.
- Center wanted more general language in the announcement re: collaboration between program.
- Announcement is currently at PGO for review.

V. Next Meeting

The next NTCA conference call will be March 19, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time.

Minutes submitted by Denise Ingman, NTCA Secretary.