



National Tuberculosis Controllers Association Executive Board Conference Call Minutes April 16, 2009

I. Attendees

- A. Phil Griffin, Jim Cobb, Jon Warkentin, Kathy Hursen, Cristie Chesler, Shea Rabley, Ron Karpick, Pat Infield, Kim Field, Deb Sodt, Charles Wallace, Kathy Kolaski (ex-officio)
- B. CDC Staff: Kashef Ijaz
- C. Guests: None

II. NTCA Board Discussion Items

- A. Secretary's Report – Carol Pozsik (in Denise Ingman's absence)
 - o There were no comments on the March minutes; they were accepted by the Board.
- B. Treasurer's Report – Carol Pozsik (in Kristin Rounds's absence)
 - o Balances of the following were reported and accepted: savings account, checking account, TB Walk funds. (Note that TB Walk funds are not NTCA funds.)
 - o The regular checking account is showing that TB conference registrations are beginning to show up in the account balance as direct deposits.
 - o Directors and Officers Liability Insurance bid was received from Great American Insurance Company. This bid was accepted by the Board.
- C. President's Report – Phil Griffin
 - o NTCA has requested and received application forms to become an affiliate organization with ASTHO.
 - o Scott Becker, Executive Director, APHL (Association of Public Health Laboratories) will be our guest on Saturday morning, June 13, 2009, to discuss APHL structure and the progress has been made in the evolution of their organization. (Last year our guest was from NASTAD [National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors].)
- D. Executive Director's Report – Carol Pozsik
 - o Several requests have been made for waiver of registrations for promising TB clinicians in training. Motion was made, seconded and approved that ten waivers be granted providing they are requested by a letter to Carol Pozsik from the requesting physician sponsor or other TB official.
 - o Vic Tomlinson expressed his thanks for the assistance of the NTCA Staff and Board in the planning and executing of the Atlanta TB Walk.

900+ persons registered for the walk, and 700 persons actually walked.

E. Committee/Workgroup Reports

- EDN Workgroup – Deb Sodt

Meeting with Carol Pozsik, Al Forbes, Deb Sodt, and Ann O’Fallon to discuss the restructuring of the Committee. A proposal was made to make the Committee more representative of all incidence groups as is the NTCA Board. Also Refugee Health Coordinators will be represented by Ann O’Fallon, Executive Director. DGMQ (Division of Global Migration and Quarantine) is hiring an experienced EDN Program Manager. Huge delays in data processing have prompted the hiring of this person.
- Nominating Committee – Deb Sodt

Ballots for the election of Officers and Executive Committee have been sent out to the active membership on April 14th.
- Zoomerang Survey: Cohort Review or Case Reviews in States – Kim Field

There were 65 responses to the survey. Case or cohort reviews go back to 1981. More comorbidities are being found. There is an increase in cultural issues. 60% of respondents are doing ongoing reviews. Information will help the National Indicators Project with Kai Young.
- PCSI Meeting – Jim Cobb

Jim reviewed the program agenda for the PCSI (Program Collaboration and Integration) meeting in Washington, DC: Representatives from TB HIV/AIDS, STD, Viral Hepatitis programs and organizations and CDC will be present. There will be a review of progress on Program Integration and Collaboration among all programs and CDC. Jim Cobb will give a presentation, and he requests that examples of integration and collaboration be sent to him. In addition to Jim Cobb, Carol Pozsik and Kim Field will also attend.
- Report of Project Director (part-time) – Jennifer Kanouse

As the new Project Director, Jennifer Kanouse reported that she is working on numerous projects for NTCA: Zoomerang surveys for set up and posting, website renovation and posting, Conference Registration (SignUp4 site) development and maintenance, Set up of Pay Pal for acceptance of Credit Cards for Conference Registration and Member dues; and special project to identify and publish document re: assets of all TB Control Programs in the US and Territories to include staffing, financial, and all other assets of the programs

III. CDC Discussion Items – Kashef Ijaz

(The CDC report was presented by Kashef Ijaz. Phil Talboy and Dawn Tuckey were not available for the call today.)

A. Direct Funding for Big Cities

- Kashef Ijaz met with National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) representatives and discussed CDC's decision to begin moving away from directly funding Big Cities. No date given.

B. Travel to June Conference

- PGO will send a letter to TB Controllers stating that attendance at the National TB Controllers Conference in June is mandatory and that if no one representing the State or Big City funded programs attends, the funding in the Cooperative Agreement must be returned to PGO. Includes attendance at TB ETN meeting for Focal Points.

C. 2010 CoAg Announcement

- Programs should expect release of the 2010 CoAg funding announcement soon and it will be continuing competitive with likely carry-over capability.
- Executive Committee response: Due date must be far into August (60 days) to allow enough time for adequate report of activities in Interim Report. There will not be much change in the information required in the announcement. Evaluation and Training language about the same. Focal Points to attend TB ETN Meeting, and it will be discussed.

D. TB Technical Instructions Review

- TB Technical Instructions Review going on in Peru. Dick Brostrom and Jenny Flood are reviewers.
- Kashef has asked NTCA to include competencies in the new database that is being developed. This will help CDC determine who should go on program reviews.

E. Remaining 10% on 2009 Funds

- CDC thinks that there will be no rescissions. Money should be available soon.
- States will need the money because of state budget cuts. People should be able to travel soon.

F. Program Evaluation Staff Assistance

- Program Evaluation staff to assist specific states to organize and streamline the projects. They will provide technical assistance and feedback on state progress reports.
- Focal Point's questions can be addressed by these people.

G. State Cuts to Federally Funding Positions

- Can positions funded with Federal funds be cut by state government? There are pay cuts for employees in Florida that can't be supplanted with Federal funds. Will CDC cut the CoAg money from TB Programs because of the state taking it?
- Heather Duncan and Juanita Elder will be on May 21 NTCA Conference Call to be on the call to address these questions.
- Kashef requested that information be sent to him about any cuts made to positions funded by CoAgs.

IV. Next Meeting

The next NTCA conference call will be May 21, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time.

Minutes submitted by Carol J. Pozsik, Executive Director.
(Recording for Denise Ingman)