



**NOSN STATE LEGISLATURE ENHANCEMENT
COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2018**

6:30am Hawaii/ 8:30am Alaska/ 9:30am Pacific/ 10:30am Mountain/11:30pm Central/ 12:30pm Eastern
Phone # 866-423-8755 and enter Passcode 858324# (*Officers add 7#*)

Present: Wendy Alfaro; Nichole East; Diane Gerards-Benage; Dawn Holcombe;
Mariana Lamb; George Malouly, Celgene; Chuck Miller, M.D.; and Nicette Short.
Absent: Warren Fong, M.D. (Chair); Jose Gonzalez; Sedrick Spencer, Celgene; and
Tammy Thiel.

MINUTES

I. State Cancer Caucus:

1. California - Nicette, Dr. Fong, Jose and Mariana held numerous meetings with legislators on April 17, 2018 in Sacramento.

Status:

Nicette reported that the day was very successful. They met with four legislators, seven legislative aides and one stakeholder from the Lung Association. Discussions involved education of what the caucus is and is not. The purpose of the oncology caucus in Sacramento, California is to establish a continuous line of communication and education with legislators regarding access to care for California cancer patients. It is not a lobbying organization, nor will it be raising money. The legislators were receptive and the legislative aid for Assembly Member Wood was certain that Dr. Wood would want to be involved in the caucus.

Discussion:

Dawn mentioned a meeting in Dallas that was “a day in the life of a cancer patient” with the focus on educating employer groups, IPA’s and local payers on the landscape of oncology. She suggested creating a template/overview of basic oncology terminology to assist other states to educate stakeholders outside of oncology delivery.

Action:

a. To engage additional stakeholders such as American Cancer Society, California Dialogue on Cancer, Leukemia and Lymphoma Societies, researchers, manufacturing companies, cancer survivors/families, etc. The Lung Association representative recommended expanding invitation to include radiation centers along with other specialties like dermatology and pathology. Mariana mentioned that eventually they would like to invite health plans and employer groups to join as well.

b. The first California Cancer Caucus breakfast meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 7, 2018 in Sacramento. This first meeting will introduce stakeholders, establish goals and set structure for education and collegiality.

I. State Cancer Caucus: (cont.)

2. **Illinois** – Diane has been contact with Representative Evans, who has indicated his desire to recreate new cancer caucus.

Status:

Rep. Marcus Evans spoke at the Illinois Oncology Society annual meeting on April 6th, he is a Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma survivor, and is very interested in connecting clinicians with specific legislators, creating a healthier society and ultimately increasing access to care for all patients. He is currently setting up the Board and creating the website. He encouraged all patients to get involved and meet with their legislators.

Action:

Diane has already communicated with Rep. Evans office on ways she can get involved. She will continue to provide updates as they become available.

3. **Hawaii** – Dr. Miller is bringing this up at the next Board Meeting on April 21st to see if Hawaii is interested.

Discussion:

Dr. Miller requested an outline or overview of the steps that California has taken so far. He would like to share this with his Board as well.

Action:

Nicette will put together an overview and share with Dr. Miller and the Committee.

4. Dawn asked... "What are other states to do, since they might not have as much support as California?"

Discussion:

Nicette is the NOSN Lobbyist and is able to help all states. George from Celgene stated that they could help, as need. Diane mentioned that BMS and Celgene have been very helpful in Illinois.

II. State Legislation:

- A. **Oral Parity Legislation** - NOSN will continue to monitor this and later decide if this is a top priority, if so, then create a separate committee to tackle the challenge of reviewing state legislation.

Status:

1. Idaho
2. Michigan
3. North Carolina

B. **Opioid legislation**

1. **California** - There are currently at least 12 bills being presented. The Committee would like to add an exemption for cancer patients in active treatment. Nicette noted that many states already have this exemption.
2. **Mississippi** – since September 2017, they have been working on adding the exemption for cancer related pain. Once finalized, she will send to the NOSN Office.
3. **Illinois** – as of January 2018, oncologists are exempt. The language states "... *prescriptions for oncology treatment and palliative care are not subject to the mandatory Prescription Monitoring Program check....*" Additional language is attached.

Discussion:

The goal is to have equal legislation across state lines. All states were asked to share their opioid legislation language with the NOSN Office.

III.

Next Teleconference:

May 16, 2018 at 6:30am Hawaii/ 8:30am Alaska/ 9:30am Pacific/ 10:30am Mountain/11:30am Central/ 12:30pm Eastern.

The monthly NOSN Partner call immediately follows at 7am Hawaii/ 9am Alaska/ 10am Pacific/ 11am Mountain/12pm Central/ 1pm Eastern 10am-PST).

The meeting adjourned at 9:58AM.