

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
November 1, 2018

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CDT, November 1, 2018. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes from October 4, 2018, were reviewed. Robin moved that the minutes be approved and Teresa seconded. All present voted in favor.

3. Newsletter Update

Steve reported that he had received all of the articles and forwarded them to Jerry. Jerry indicated that the newsletter would probably be published next week.

4. Conference planning

Jerry reported he had signed a contract with the Newport Beach Hyatt for winter 2020 and had added an extra day on Thursday for training. Conference registration and hotel are open for the Milwaukee meeting.

5. Outreach to NGABs and NELAP ABs

Jerry reported that it had come to the Board's attention that an NGAB had submitted comments in response to state rulemakings regarding use of NGABs for environmental laboratory accreditation that caused some confusion. After reviewing the issue, the Board asked for the Advocacy Committee to reach out to the NGABs and the NELAP ABs to find out what the limitations are for state agencies that want to use an NGAB for laboratory accreditation. The committee discussed several approaches to information gathering and decided that a brief questionnaire to the NELAP ABs and NGABs might work best. It was also suggested that we get information from the NGABs first and then use that data to shape questions for the NELAP ABs.

After data is collected, Advocacy could take some steps to help promote the concepts that might work best. We could also write an article for the newsletter and prepare a presentation for NEMC. Jerry noted that he would like to have a proposal for going forward on the Board's agenda at the next meeting.

Some comments from the discussion included:

- We should try to find out which state programs will accept an NGAB accreditation.
- What do we need to do to help states accept an NGAB accreditation?
- There is a lack of understanding about what an NGAB can do.
- The cost of accreditation by an NGAB may be an issue although an NGAB can generally perform an accreditation faster than states.

- Why do some labs prefer a state accreditation over an NGAB accreditation even if they aren't required to have a state accreditation?
- How are some non-NELAP states using NGABs?
- Why are some NELAP ABs accrediting out of state labs that don't do business in their state?
- Jerry will contact a utility lab to see why they chose a NELAP AB for accreditation when they don't do work in that state.

6. Quality Systems Position Paper

Carol reviewed the changes she had made to the paper as requested by the Policy Committee after their review. She noted that the term "quality management system" or "management system" had been replaced throughout the document with "quality system". After review and discussion, it was noted that the bullet points in the section on Benefits needed to be re-worked for consistency. Robin agreed to do this. Final approval will be done on the next agenda.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 12 Noon Central time.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Present
2.	Steve Arms	Other	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
4.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
5.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Present
6.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present
7.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
8.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
9.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Present
10.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
11.	Sharon Mertens	Lab	Present
12.	Teresa Coins	Lab	Present
13.	Ron Coss	Lab	Absent
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Celeste Crowley	AB	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Andrea Teal	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Absent

	Silky Labie	Other	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Small Lab Advocate	Absent
	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present