

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
September 4, 2008

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes from the 7-03-08 and 8-12-08 meetings were reviewed and approved for posting on the TNI website.

3. Newsletter

Michael Wichman reviewed assignments for the next newsletter. There was a question about state news updates. It was agreed that this would be a sidebar talking about the approval of the Virginia program and listing the other potential Accreditation Body applicants. Jerry will contact the potential ABs to get their permission. Susan Wyatt will write the article about state news.

Other newsletter articles include:

Article from APHL – Michael W.
PT frequency – Kirstin McCracken
Implementation of TNI standard – Carol
Miami meeting – Lara
Update on AB renewals – Carol
FSMO – Marlene
Article about DC meeting -Judy
National Database sidebar – Jerry
Website sidebar – Jerry
Feature member (Margo Hunt) – Kirstin

The revised deadline to submit articles is Sept. 15 and the revised publication date is October 15. Michael will send a follow up email with revised dates and assignments. Patrick Conlon will be editor for the next newsletter.

3. Benefits of Accreditation White Paper

Carol Batterton reviewed changes to the Benefits of NELAP Accreditation white paper that was drafted at the Washington, DC, meeting. It was suggested that the committee needs to identify the target audience and the uses of this paper before developing any further. Jerry Parr suggested that this paper could be posted on the

website and used as the basis for talking points and slides for presentations. TNI could also use the paper to build a series of articles based on the benefits statement from each of the various stakeholders. Case studies can also be included on the website with links to more information.

It was also suggested that a benefit statement directed to water and wastewater utility laboratories be added to the paper. Carol will develop a paragraph for the committee to review before the next meeting. Comments on this draft should be submitted to Carol by September 18.

4. Small Lab Advocate

Judy reviewed the roles that have been discussed to date for the Small Lab Advocate, Lenard Schantz. He will be a member of the Advocacy Committee and the Technical Assistance Committee. Carol will send out an email to set up a time for Jerry Parr, Barbara Escobar, Aurora Shields and Judy Duncan to have a conference call with Lenard to discuss his role. An email summary of the call will be circulated. Jerry will also find a place to introduce Lenard on the Miami agenda.

5. Follow up from July Meeting

Judy asked Ken Jackson if any additional follow up with Greg Carroll and the EPA OW was needed regarding discussion on the number of PTs. Ken didn't think so. Jerry Parr indicated that he will be at the DoE meeting next week and may have a chance to follow up with DoD representatives on DoD's accreditation needs.

6. Strategic Plan

Jerry Parr indicated that he had sent the strategic plan to the TNI Board before the DC meeting and that many of the items that had not been completed were assigned to the Advocacy Committee. Of the 28 goals in the plan, 11 were assigned to Advocacy. Jerry will send the plan to the committee and Jerry and Carol will develop specifics to talk about at the next meeting.

7. Next meeting

Barbara Finazzo announced that this was her last call with the Advocacy Committee since she was changing jobs. Judy thanked her for her contribution to the committee and to TNI.

The next meeting will be Oct. 2, 2008, at 12 Noon CDT. A revised draft of the Benefits of Laboratory Accreditation white paper and the strategic plan will be reviewed at that meeting.

Attachment 1

#	LastName	FirstName	Stakeholder Group	Present	Term
1	Autry	Lara	Other	Y	1
2	Coats	Kevin	Other	N	2
3	Conlon	Pat	Other	N	3
4	Craig	Carl	Other	N	2
5	Finazzo	Barbara	Other	Y	3
6	Moore	Marlene	Other	N	1
7	Duncan	Judy	AB	Y	1
8	Jackson	Kenneth	AB	Y	2
9	Shields	Aurora	AB	Y	3
10	Wyatt	Susan	AB	Y	1
11	Eaton	Andy	Lab	Y	1
12	English	Zonetta	Lab	Y	2
13	Perry	Michael	Lab	N	3
14	Pletl	Jim	Lab	N	1
15	Ward	Gary	Lab	Y	2
16	Wichman	Michael	Lab	Y	3
17	Schantz	Lenard	Small Lab Advocate	N	
18	Parr	Jerry	Manager	Y	
19	Batterton	Carol	PA	Y	
			ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		
	McCracken	Kirstin	Lab	N	
	Morgan	Judy	Lab	N	