

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

September 20, 2018

1. Roll call, approval of minutes and overview:

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order at 1:02pm Eastern by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 6 members present. Associate members present: Reggie, Keith (Phenova), Tim (Phenova), Jason (Phenova), and Nicole Cairns).

A motion was made by Eric to accept the minutes from the 7/19/18 and 8/6/18 meetings as written. The motion was seconded by Fred.

Vote: For – 6 Against: 0 Abstain: 0 The vote will be finished by email.

(Addition: Email Votes:

Dixie (10/16/18 – For)

Jennifer Mullins (10/16/18 – For)

Matt (10/16/18 – For)

Scott (10/16/18 – For)

Michella (10/16/18 – For)

Jennifer Duhon (10/16/18 – For)

The motion passed and the minutes have been approved.)

2. Updates

- Combined evaluation SOP
 - There were concerns expressed about the recognition process as described in the 8/6/18 minutes. There will be a group meeting with Jerry and Alfredo that will hopefully happen this next week. The group is still trying to find a date that everyone can attend.
 - The application will be the next step. Tracy (NEFAP) and Maria (PTPEC) are working on this. Tracy is working on it and will be in contact with Maria.
- Gil Dichter retired. We now need a new SOP Subcommittee Chair and new PTPEC membership will be looked at in an upcoming meeting. Maria described the responsibilities of the SOP Subcommittee. Ilona reminded the group that this group will be working on the general SOPs needed for the 2016 Standard implementation. Eric Smith volunteered to be the new Subcommittee Chair for the PTP SOP Subcommittee. The subcommittee typically meets the second Friday of the month. Eric will contact

Ilona about scheduling the next meeting because he cannot attend a meeting on 10/12/18.

- Eric sent an email to Maria asking about the NPW and SCM FoPT tables. These tables were updated but they are not posted. The committee voted to approve updated DW, NPW and SCM tables in February 2018. The DW table update was for the cyanide footnote update and the SCM and NPW table had a PCB footnote update (PCB ARA from NJ). All 3 tables also included format updates (logo, change log, etc.). In April 2018 the NELAP AC expressed concerns about the PCB footnote. They were OK with the DW table but wanted to accept all 3 tables at one time. Eventually it was decided that the change requested in the PCB ARA could not be addressed (6-21-18). The NELAP AC still needs to vote on the DW table and the PTPEC needs to remove the added PCB footnote in the SCM and NPW tables then post these two with the changes to their format. Once the NELAP AC accepts the DW table, an effective date will be chosen.

Maria noted that she re-read the committee's SOP on table updates and editorial changes do not need to go through the same process as changes to the content of the SOP. The effective date does not change when editorial changes are made. The changes to the NPW and SCM table are editorial in nature, so these changes can be posted on the website.

Eric confirmed that the SCM and NPW tables only have format changes. Maria will remind the NELAP AC that the PTPEC still needs their vote on the DW table.

Eric motioned that the SCM and NPW tables be updated to remove the PCB footnote and be posted on the TNI website and the NELAP AC be reminded to vote on the DW table. The motion was seconded by Andy and was unanimously approved. Maria will submit the SCM and NPW to the webmaster for posting and copy Ilona. She will also remind the NELAP to vote on the DW table update.

3. Implementation of Volume 3 and 4 of the 2016 Standard

Nicole sent Maria an email on 9-17-18:

I'm not sure if you've heard, but at least one State (Florida) will begin implementing the 2016 TNI standard this month, with final implementation by April 2019. There are a couple of other States that may be moving in this direction as well.

I think it's time to start considering an implementation date for Volumes 3 and 4 for PT Providers and PTPAs. The PT Providers and PTPAs are going to need time to set up their programs to the new Standard.

Unfortunately, this could prove to be a bit of a challenge. Since States will be implementing on different schedules, until all States transition out of the 2009 Standard,

there is going to be a disconnect between the way in which labs are required to report and the way PT Providers will be scoring. I brought this up at the AC meeting and got mixed responses from the various States. Some were ok with the 2016 Standard reporting/scoring even if they were still on the 2009 version of the Standard, while others said that they would require different reports depending on the Standard in place (so potentially 3 different reports, 2003, 2009, and 2016 for PT Providers to produce).

I wanted to bring this up before the next PTPEC meeting. It might make sense for the PTPEC, PT Providers, PTPAs, and the AC to all get together to try and work out how the PT Program can efficiently move to the 2016 Standard as a whole and in a timeframe that is amenable to all. The laboratories are going to need guidance on what to do within their State.

Maria noted that the PTPEC approved Volume 3 and 4 in January 19, 2017. The 2009 Standard Volumes 3 and 4 were adopted in March 2010. The PTPs needed time to implement the changes made in the 2009 Standard. There was only one PTPA at that time. The PTPA made a new checklist based on the 2009 Standard to help the PT Providers implement the changes. TNI also posted a document summarizing the changes between the 2003 and 2009 Standards. Currently, TNI has posted a change document for the 2016 Standard but this does not include the changes to Volume 3 and 4.

Maria would like committee input on how to transition to the 2016 Standard.

Nicole noted that she talked to the NELAP AC in August because all the PT Standards are so interrelated. She would like a date chosen to implement the new Standard rather than letting everyone implement as they can. This might result in multiple reports needed. She thinks the PTPEC should select a date and notify the NELAP AC so they can work with their labs to meet this implementation date.

Keith (Phenova) mentioned that there is a concern about changes to the assessment checklist and concerns about different ABs having different implementation dates. There are concerns beyond multiple reports. There are concerns about supplemental studies – this is a big change between the 2009 and 2016 Standards. If you are a lab that is accredited in states that are using different versions of the Standard, you may have to purchase 2 PTs for the corrective action. The current Standard requires that the analyte be in the make-up PT and the new Standard gives options based on whether it is qualitative or quantitative. There are also issues with determining failure rates. A lab may pass in one state and not in another because they are using a different version of the Standard. Nicole agreed that some of these issues make it important to move forward with one Standard only. It gets too muddy and complicated.

Maria proposed to set a meeting with the PT Providers and PTPAs and determine an implementation date and then present that to the NELAP AC.

Keith pointed out that there is text in the 2016 Standard that would allow implementation of the Standard except for parts of the 2009 that would remain in effect during a transition time.

Carl noted that Florida adopted the 2009 Standard – Section 5. 11 Volume 3 for PT result reporting. Carl emphasized that making regulatory changes in FL is very difficult. It was due to an issue that they were able to make any of the changes they are now making. Nicole noted that this one section that FL has in their regulations, there is actually no difference between the 2009 and 2016 Standard. Nicole commented that states typically only adopt Volumes 1 and 2 and not 3 and 4. The one section FL did put in their regulations from Volume 3 deals with what needs to be in their PT reports. There will be no conflict.

Keith asked about the evaluation process. He asked if anyone has reached out to non-TNI states. Maria noted that information will be posted on the TNI website and TNI newsletter that non-TNI states have access to. Ilona is not sure if advocacy is communicating these changes to the non-TNI states that have a TNI advocate.

Ilona noted that it is not up to our committee to determine when Volume 1 and 2 are implemented. This committee is only responsible for adopting and determining an implementation date for Volumes 3 and 4. Labs are being told they need to work with their AB to find out implementation expectations.

Eric commented that maybe the PTPEC is complicating this issue. The PTPEC adopted the 2009 Volume 3 and 4 and worked with everyone as needed to implement it. One of the only things the PTPEC needs to look at is how all this impacts the evaluation of the PTPAs. We need to let PTPA's know when they need to have the new Standard implemented.

The PTPEC already adopted the new Volume 3 and Volume 4 Standards, but implementation was held because of issues with the implementation of Volume 1 and 2. They are interrelated. Implementation dates of all these Standards need to be somewhat similar.

Ilona and Shawn Kassner are working on the Combined Evaluation checklists and at this point the directive from this committee has been to use the 2009 checklist. If that has changed, the committee needs to let Ilona and Shawn know what they should be using. We have a checklist for 2009, but if the PTPEC wants the 2016 Standard used ... we need a new checklist.

Keith noted that currently the ABs can override a PT determination of whether the PT result is in compliance with their State requirements. He stated that the ABs are now being told they can't do this anymore. Nicole stated that this is incorrect. Nothing changed. ABs can still evaluate the results based on their requirements. If they are on a different version of the Standard ... they can re-evaluate the results. Let the ABs work out the issues themselves.

Iлона will work on setting up a meeting date with the PTPAs, PT Providers and Nicole.

Andy commented that the next version of the Standard will consider risk. He thinks the new Standard (2016) requirements should be considered even if the combined evaluation is to the 2009 Standard.

The secondary accreditation implementation issues that were present in 2009 are similar to what we are looking at for 2016. The states will continue to work with each other and the secondary states will accept reciprocity with the primary states. These issues are better discussed with the PT Expert Committee because the PTPEC is only responsible for Volume 3 and 4.

Keith also asked about the scoring issue with microbiology PTs. This is another issue he needs to take up with the PT Expert Committee.

4. Subcommittee Reports

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee – Bob Shannon and Keith McCroan have submitted a proposal for determining Radiochemistry limits. Carl needs time to review this information.

SOP Subcommittee – No report.

FoPT Table Format Subcommittee – Maria will check in on the status of the WETT FoPT table formatting.

Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee – No report.

5. New Business.

- None.

6 Action Items

The action items can be found in Attachment B. The action items will be reviewed at the next meeting.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 10/18/18 by teleconference at 1pm Eastern.

Action Items are included in Attachment B and Attachment C includes a listing of reminders.

Maria adjourned the meeting at 2:30 Eastern. (Motion: Fred Second: Andy Unanimously approved.)

Attachment A

Participants

TNI

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Rep	Affiliation	Contact Information
Maria Friedman (2020) (Chair) Present	AB	California Water Board	Maria.Friedman@waterboards.ca.gov
Dixie Marlin (2018*) (Vice-Chair) Absent	Other	Marlin Quality Management, LLC	marlinquality@gmail.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present		TNI	tauntoni@msn.com
Eric Smith (2019) Present	Lab	ALS Environmental	eric.smith@alsglobal.com
Carl Kircher (2021*) Present (left 2pm Eastern)	AB	Florida Department of Health	Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov
Andy Valkenburg (2021*) Present	LAB	Energy Laboratories	avalkenburg@energylab.com
Jennifer Duhon (2019*) Absent	Other	Millipore Sigma	jennifer.duhon@sial.com
Matt Sica (2020) Absent	AB	ANAB, ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board	msica@anab.org
Gil Dichter (2018*) Absent	Other	IDEXX Water	gil-dichter@idexx.com
Patrick Garrity (2019*) Present	AB	Kentucky DEP	patrick.garrity@ky.gov
Michella Karapondo (2019*) Absent	Other	USEPA	karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Fred Anderson (2020*) Present	Other	Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC	Fred@advancedqc.com
Jennifer Mullins (2020*) Absent	Lab	Upper Occoquan Service Authority	jennifer.mullins@uosa.org
Scott Haas (2020*) Absent	FSMO	Environmental Testing, Inc.	shaas@etilab.com

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
295	Moved from Backburner: PTPA Evaluation Checklist needs to be updated prior to next round of evaluations. (Originally discussed 8/6/13)	Shawn Ilona		New Date: 8/31/18	In Progress (will use 2009 TNI Standards and current SSAS Standards)
349	Review LAMS/FoPT Table Differences document. Provide comments by email and next meeting.	ALL	4/20/17	4/25/17 2/28/18 – For WET? June 2018 for all tables. New target date: 7/15/18	In Progress WET is still being reviewed. Update 1/23/18: Subcommittee expects to have updated FoPT tables with CAS #'s and LAMS changes by 3/15/18. 2/22/19: Still in progress. 6/21/18: Still working with Rami.
352	Moved from Backburner (originally discussed 2/20/14) : When new limits are established for the FoPTs, what is considered to be a statistically significant change to the old rates? At what point is it appropriate to question new limits? This lends to the TSS discussion a few months ago. Patrick commented that it would make sense to look at	All	2/20/14	TBD (see #350) <i>350: Prepare formal request to SOP Subcommittee regarding updating FoPT tables and applicable backburner items just</i>	In Progress – Update of SOP 4-101 6/21/18: Gil noted that this SOP will be worked on again at the next meeting. An expected completion date will be given at July meeting.

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
	changes to pass/fail rates 6 months after new limits are effective. This possible addition to procedures should be evaluated when updating the limit acceptance SOP.			<i>moved to the Action Items table (#352, 353)</i>	
353	Discuss possible procedural changes to how limits are updated. Maria talk to SOP Subcommittee. (Need to look at PT database implications.)	All		TBD	In Progress – Update of SOP 4-101 Maria will send a copy to close this item.
358	Send request to SOP subcommittee to consider what happens when ARA's are rescinded. There is no formal process.	Maria	6-29-17	7/19/17	Maria will resend to Gil and this item will be closed. 3/15/18: Still in progress.
361	Analyte Code changes needed in LAMS. (TKN)	Maria Dan Hickman	7/20/17	9/30/17	Still need to look into TKN issue. 2/22/18 – Maria will confirm.
363	Discuss procedural change in how changes are made to LAMS. Consider notifying PTPEC before relevant changes are made and provide a summary of changes at some frequency.			1/31/17	Will talk to IT about getting this in an SOP. 12/21/17: Maria will follow-up on this. 3/20/18: Maria will check this week. 6/21/18 – still being worked on.
368	Forward Jerry's question to Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. (Analyte	Maria	8/24/17	9/1/17	Maria will resend to Carl. 6/21/18 –

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
	code change for the non-polar extractable materials.)				Maria will send to Ilona.
373	Carl will notify the PTPEC when Bob and Keith complete their comparison table to the Radiochemistry FoPT work the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee has already prepared.	Carl	12-21-17	3-31-18	
384	Meet with Dan Hickman to get Analyte Codes and then prepare final DRAFT of Micro DW and WW tables. Send to Jennifer for review.	Maria	4/19/18	5/15/18	Still in Progress
385	Send Micro DW and WW tables to PTPEC for review and vote at next meeting.	Maria	4/19/18	5/15/18	Still in Progress
389	Present recommended LAMS updates to Dan Hickman.	Maria	5/17/18	5/20/18	
391	Setup meeting with Jerry and Alfredo to discuss combined evaluation process.	Ilona	8/6/18	9/20/18	In progress.
392	Finish up vote on July and August minutes by email.	Maria	9/20/18	10/18/18	
393	Send reminder to NELAP AC to vote on DW table update sent last March.	Maria	9/20/18	10/18/18	
394	Remove PCB footnote on NPW and SCM tables and send to William (cc Ilona) for posting.	Maria	9/20/18	10/18/18	
395	Let Shawn Kassner and Ilona know whether to use 2009 or 2016 Standard for combined evaluation checklist.	PTPEC	9/20/18	10/31/18	

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
7	Add the Field PT Subcommittee to the limit update SOP during its next update.	3/4/10	In Progress
11	Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute.	5-19-11	
13	Charter needs to be updated in November.	Ongoing 2017	
18	Shawn noted that PTPEC should have some specific measurements. This should be passed along to the PTP SOP Subcommittee. Nicole noted that we need to determine which items to measure.	6-29-17	