

## Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting January 7, 2021

### 1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CDT, January 7, 2021. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from November 5, 2020, and December 3, 2020, were reviewed. Martina moved approval and Sharon seconded. All present voted in favor.

### 3. Review of the Mentoring Subcommittee PowerPoint for virtual winter conference

Jacob Oaxaca, chair of the mentoring subcommittee, joined the call to review the PowerPoint presentation prepared for the virtual winter conference. He asked for questions and input from the Advocacy committee. Questions and comments Included:

- Are we mentoring the lab or an individual? Ans: We are mentoring the lab, but there is one contact person.
- Add a bullet saying that at least one member of the lab being mentored should be a member of TNI.
- Make sure we emphasize that mentoring is focused on the implementation of a quality management system and not necessarily on acquiring accreditation. Add a sub-bullet to slide #2.
- Add a bullet about mentor sign up. Will we vet mentors? Ans: We are not planning to, but mentors could be asked to submit qualifications. We will also need to add a disclaimer about mentor qualifications and abilities.
- Could we require that a mentor is from a lab accredited for the program being mentored? Ans: No, that might exclude too many mentors.
- How long does the mentoring relationship last? Ans: Until either party withdraws.
- How does a lab transition from a mentoring to a consulting contract? Jerry will work with Jacob and Lee to define that.

### 4. Winter Virtual Conference

Jerry summarized the four special sessions of the conference and indicated that he still needed two additional speakers. Robin agreed to speak on the How Accreditation Improves Laboratory Data Quality and Performance panel. Jerry will talk to Paul Junio about speaking on the Improvements in Laboratory Performance and Data Quality panel.

Steve reviewed Friday morning's Advocacy meeting and noted that the member spotlight for the next newsletter will likely be Dave Speis since he will be completely retired soon. He also noted that the annual report which will highlight Advocacy's plans and accomplishments will be presented at the Monday morning plenary session. A decision about the February Advocacy meeting will be made at the Friday meeting.

### 5. Next Meeting

The next meeting is TBD.

Attachment 1

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Present/Absent</b>
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Absent
2.	Steve Arms	Other	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
4.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
5.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Present
6.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
7.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
8.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
9.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Absent
10.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
11.	Sharon Mertens	Lab	Present
12.	Teresa Coins	Lab	Absent
13.	Josh Wyeth	PT provider	Present
	<b>Associate Members</b>		
	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	Present
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Silky Labie	Other	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
	Erin Consuegra	Lab	Absent
	Nan Thomey	Lab (other)	Absent
	Aurora Shields	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	<b>Staff</b>		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present