

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
April 2, 2020

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CDT, April 2, 2020. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1. Steve asked Carol to try to determine the correct email for Bob Pullano.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from March were reviewed. Sharon moved approval, and Robin seconded. All present voted in favor.

3. Updates

- **Newsletter** – Trinity has about half of the articles but expects to receive the rest by COB Friday. Jerry does not want to send the newsletter out until we have a decision about going forward with the summer meeting. He will go ahead and send everything to Jan so that she can begin formatting and have the newsletter ready to go at that time. It was noted that EPA has put the DMRQA on hold which is another article we should add to the newsletter. Jerry reviewed a report of newsletter stats from November 2019 as requested at the last meeting. The report showed how many people opened the newsletter and the articles that were opened.
- **Summer meeting** – Jerry informed the committee that the EMS steering committee decided to wait until April 20 to make a decision about whether to proceed with the summer meeting in Minneapolis. We will reach out to TNI committee chairs, NEMC session chairs and vendors at that time to get their input in to the decision.
- **Mentoring subcommittee** – Steve updated the committee on the preliminary planning meeting held with Jacob Oaxaca, chair of the Mentoring Subcommittee. Steve reported that a draft charter has been developed which will be forwarded to this committee. The Subcommittee will begin meeting after additional members are recruited. Jerry will be sending out a call for volunteers to be on the subcommittee soon.
- **Meeting with TNI Ambassadors** – Steve reported on the call with TNI ambassadors on Wednesday. Each ambassador reported on activities in their state and the group discussed ways to engage non-NELAP states by encouraging use of TNI resources.

4. Value of Accreditation

Jerry reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that he had developed to deliver at the TCEQ Trade Fair, and that Steve would use for FSEA (both events have now been cancelled or postponed). Jerry used information gathered while developing the draft 2019 white paper “The Value of Accreditation”, discussions in Jacksonville, and in presentations in Newport. In the end, Jerry concluded that we should change our vision from “data of known and documented quality” to “data you can trust”. He proposed using the data we have collected to develop a new white paper. Comments on the PowerPoint and the new concept included:

- If we go with “data you can trust”, we should still use “data of known and documented quality” as part of the explanation. We should avoid “trust the data”. Jerry is open to other ideas.
- One suggestion: Providing reliable and transparent data through known laboratory activities.
- We should get the perspective of data users. Why do you use accredited laboratories? What difference do you see? States without accreditation programs may see the differences in accredited vs. non-accredited labs and be able to provide case studies.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will May 7, 2020, at 12 Noon Central time.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Absent
2.	Steve Arms	Other	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Absent
4.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
5.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Absent
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	Absent
13.	Josh Wyeth	PT provider	Present
	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	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 Consuego	Lab	Absent
	Nan Thomey	Lab (other)	Present
	Aurora Sheilds	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present