

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
May 3, 2012

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan, Chair, was unable to attend this month's meeting. In her absence, Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT on May 3, 2012. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the April 5, 2012, meeting were reviewed, but could not be approved due to lack of a quorum. Minutes from the March meeting have not yet been approved either due to lack of quorum.

3. Policy/position statements

The Committee continued discussion on the definitions of position and policy statements. Carol provided some definitions from different organizations from the web, but it appears that there is no consistent universal definition for policy and position statements. Jerry suggested that we think about "policy" as it relates to operations and "position statements" as it relates to technical issues. This would call for two hierarchies that look like this:

For operational issues:

By-laws
Policy
SOPs

For technical issues:

Position statements (Could also be called core beliefs or key positions. CNAEL report has 3 position statements in conclusions.)
Business decisions (Implementation decisions made based on core beliefs or positions)
Standards (Some business decisions may not result in a standard)

All agreed that the TNI Board needs to approve position statements. It was noted that some organizations require a membership vote to adopt a position statement. TNI might want to consider membership ratification. The Board should discuss how to handle this. Carol will try to develop some draft definitions and process before the next meeting.

4. Method Update Rule (MUR)

Jerry provided the committee with several handouts on the new MUR. He was disappointed that TNI's comments were not accepted or even addressed. However, Jerry did see this development as an opportunity to point to the TNI standards. If labs are accredited to TNI standards, they are already compliant with the 12 elements of the MUR. It was the consensus of the committee that many unaccredited labs may be confused by the new MUR. TNI should provide training on how to use the TNI standards to comply with the MUR. It could be done as 12 separate webinars. Jerry will develop an RFP for this training.

In addition, members thought it would be useful to ask ELAB to send a letter to EPA asking them why they did not consider ELAB's comments or TNI's comments. Jerry will contact Jack Farrell, the TNI representative on ELAB, and ask him to initiate this action.

5. July newsletter

Keith Chapman is the editor for the July newsletter. Jerry indicated that he did not think there would be enough new information to warrant putting out a July edition. It was suggested that we do something simple, one or two pages. The committee agreed to postpone the decision until the June meeting.

6. Outreach to Non-NELAP States

Lynn Bradley advised the committee that the invitations had been sent out for the NELAP AC open meeting for the AC and non-NELAP states on May 7. She has received fewer than a dozen responses. A reminder will go out today. Carol suggested that the agenda emphasize what TNI does and ask states what TNI can do to help them and their programs rather than focus on why the non-NELAP states are not TNI ABs. Past experience has been that those conversations are not productive. Lynn agreed to re-order the agenda to focus discussion in this direction.

7. Article for WEF Lab Solutions

TNI's article on the Small Lab Handbook was the lead article in the May-June edition of the WEF Lab Solutions. The next submission will be a short brief on upcoming TNI training opportunities for the June-July issue. Carol has already drafted this article and will add the MUR webinars information and submit it to WEF. The next article will be "Benefits of a Quality System" by Elizabeth Turner.

8. Other

Just before the Advocacy meeting started, Carol informed Jerry and Steve about a letter from ASAE asking organizations to sign on to a letter to Congress opposing legislation that would restrict federal employees' travel to meetings and

conferences. Following the Advocacy meeting, Aurora Shields sent additional information on the same subject. Following the Advocacy meeting, Jerry added TNI's endorsement to the ASAE letter.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee should be on June 7, but Jerry, Carol, and Elizabeth will be attending the WEAT –TNI Laboratory Conference in Austin that day. Alternate dates identified by the group were June 8 or June 14. Carol will consult with Judy and see which day works best for her.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Present
2.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
3.	Judy Duncan	Other	Absent
4.	Kenneth Jackson	Other	Absent
5.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
6.	Susan Wyatt	AB	Absent
7.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
8.	Paula Hogg	Lab	Absent
9.	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Present
10.	Gary Ward	AB	Absent
11.	Michael Wichman	Lab	Present
12.	Janice Willey	Federal	Present
13.	Keith Chapman	Small Lab Advocate	Absent
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Present
	Steve Arms	AB	Present
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present