

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
November 4, 2021 1:00 pm Eastern

1. Call to Order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Eastern, November 4, 2021. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from October 7, 2021 were reviewed. Sharon moved and Josh seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. Approval was unanimous.

3. Revised Charter for Approval

Prior to this meeting, the revised Advocacy Committee Charter was approved by email after a 7-day review period. William moved to approve the revised document and Marlene seconded the motion. Eleven votes were cast, all in favor of approval. The document was delivered to Policy Committee, and as of the time these minutes were prepared, approved by Policy and offered to the TNI Board of Directors for approval.

4. Updates

Mentors – there are now ten labs and ten mentors, so that each lab has a unique mentor.

Newsletter – the newsletter is nearly ready for mailing, just awaiting the webmaster's availability to post articles to the website. An additional article was added about the microbiology module.

Conference in San Antonio – the brochure is finalized and ready for mailing. Bexar County (where San Antonio is located) has dropped from "high" risk to "substantial" risk, with a testing positivity rate of only 2%, and Jerry anticipates that infections will continue to drop. Registration is open.

5. Value of PT Initiative

Jerry provided a summary of the discussion from conference in Bellevue along with TNI Position Paper POS-1205 on PT, and Shawn Kassner, Chair of PTPEC, was invited to the meeting to discuss the matter. PTPEC seeks to engage non-TNI ABs (state certification bodies) in the PT program, as most of them are using TNI-approved PTs (only two states do not reference the TNI PT program in their certifications). Input from those ABs that are not otherwise involved in TNI would enable the PT program to better meet their needs.

The goals will be to have more states participating in the TNI PT program and to make it easier for labs working in multiple states to meet each state's requirements, by formalizing acceptance of the TNI program. Involvement in TNI's PT program will also allow those non-TNI ABs to participate in determining which analytes are on the FoPT tables and what the analyte acceptance limits and PTRLs should be. No one foresees insistence upon two PTs/year.

Some discussion focused on how to gather data about the various non-TNI AB PT requirements – there are variable pass rates and numbers of samples per year, use of PT Reporting Limits (PTRLs) is unknown, and early searches suggest that some state websites have not been updated in many years, so may not be current. Gathering this information may be difficult and time-consuming. The fact that we do know is that EPA's PT requirements (for drinking water) are different than the TNI program requirements.

After considerable discussion, agreement was reached that PTPEC will update POS-1205 to address the topics and issues discussed in Bellevue, and then, once the Position Statement is approved by Advocacy, PTPEC and/or Advocacy can create a briefing package for outreach purposes, and perhaps offer a webinar to PT users. Jerry, Stacie and Shawn agreed to draft some talking points about this plan fairly quickly.

Both parties (PTPEC and Advocacy) view this outreach as a joint effort, but it was mentioned but not decided upon that it might be helpful to involve the Ambassadors in the initial efforts at outreach. Steve thanked Shawn for joining the meeting.

7. New Business

Several questions were raised about an "80% rule" but there seem to be different and conflicting versions of this.

An annotated Advocacy workplan was distributed with the meeting reminder, and Steve asked committee members to look it over and add any activities they were aware of that address Advocacy's assigned activities before the December meeting.

At that point, the meeting time had expired and Steve adjourned the teleconference.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is December 2, 2021, at 1:00 pm Eastern.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Steve Arms, Chair	Other	Present
2.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
3.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Present
4.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
5.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
6.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
7.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Present
8.	Robin Cook	Lab	Absent
9.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Present
10.	Teresa Coins	Lab	Absent
11.	Josh Wyeth	PT provider	Present
12.	William Lipps	Other	Present
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Andrea Teal	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	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
	Aurora Shields	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Carol Batterton	Other	Absent
	Celeste Crowley	Other	Present
	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Lynn Bradley	TNI PA	Present
	Guest		
	Shawn Kassner, Pace Labs	Chair, PTPEC	Present