

Rhode Island Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Board of Directors Meeting

Collis 151

Minutes of January 21, 2009 Board Meeting

Attending: Beth Lange, MD: Presiding, Members: Rhia Bhatt, M.D., Ailis Cline, M.D., Keivan Ettefagh, M.D., Patricia Flanagan, M.D., Greg Fox, M.D, Amy Goldberg, M.D., Jim Hallett, M.D., Bill Hollinshead, M.D., Pam High, M.D., Lisa Keswick, M.D., Executive Director Frank Donahue.

President Elizabeth Lange convened the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes of October 15, 2008 meeting were accepted on a motion of Patricia Flanagan, seconded by Greg Fox.

President' Report:

- Global Medicaid Waiver: Passed by RI General Assembly with an amendment that mandates an oversight/advisory role for the General Assembly. Several AAP Board members including Beth, Pat, Brian and two residents testified at House and Senate Finance Committee meeting on the waiver itself and the oversight board. Testimony focused on the protection of Rite Care and children's health in face of the states interest in reforming the care for the elderly and disabled.
- Generic Medication: The state has promulgated a policy requiring the use of generic drugs instead of name brand drugs for all Rite Care enrolled children as of December 2009. This policy was enacted by the General Assembly in 2008 as budget tradeoff to allow some children and families to remain in Rite Care. The policy has caused problems as some children require some of the medications considered as name brand. There will be a hearing in February or March but the policy is scheduled to go into effect on April 1, 2009.
- Web Site: The web site continues unused as members lack the training to operate it successfully. . A friend of President Beth Lange is skilled in web site management and has been recruited to assist the RIAAP Executive Board In the fundamentals of web site operation.
- Tar Wars: President Lange asked for volunteers (3) for RIMS (K. Norton) to assist with the 2009 Tar Wars initiative.
- RI Vaccine Advisory Council: The first RI Vaccine Advisory Council met Tuesday, January 20 to consider presentations from the vaccine manufacturers. This is a new version of the body that advises the state on the purchase of vaccines and has been constructed to make the process a more open and transparent forum for the selection of vaccines the state will purchase. It is modeled somewhat on the forum used in Massachusetts.

- Cambodia Grants: The Chapter is instituting a new policy where there will be a process to apply for a travel grant for the Cambodian experience. The Chapter will be limited to 4 grants annually. Randy Rochne, M.D., of the Pediatric Department will coordinate and administer the program. The process is intended to be an open, orderly system that is fair to all residents and to the Chapter which has limited resources to support it.
- Golf Tournament: Greg Lockhart, 2009 Tournament Chair has committed the Chapter to Swansea Country Club for the event to be held on Saturday, August 29. The Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the Committee as there is much work to be done. All are welcome to help as this year is going to be more difficult in terms of support because of the economy. Please be advised you do not have to golf to help. Just contribute whatever skills can help, volunteering, fund raising, gift securing etc.

Executive Director Report:

Frank Donahue reported that negotiations with Avectra Corporation, a membership information software company, have stalled and probably will be terminated soon. Avectra prices are higher than originally stated making it difficult for a chapter of our size to afford their services. Information gathered from AAP, who utilizes Avectra for membership management, indicates that AAP is about to offer a no cost service for chapters that would provide the same services that Avectra is selling. Based on that information Frank will terminate our negotiations.

Plans for the District I CME continue to be developed and will be finalized at the ALF in March. The 2 day conference will be in Providence at the Biltmore Hotel November 13 and 14 2009, Friday and Saturday, and will focus on behavioral health. The CME is sponsored by the Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut Chapters.

Treasurer's Report:

Keivan Ettefagh reported the treasury is in good condition at the moment although, like all other investors, there have been losses in the investment portfolio because of the economic downturn. We have transferred all funds to the Smith Barney firm from Morgan Stanley Inc.

School Health Update:

Greg Fox updated the Board on activities related to school health related issues including issues relating to School Nurse Teachers Association, children with special health care needs, and pediatricians in the role of school physicians. The school health education community is concerned regarding budget reductions the Governor's 2010 budget proposes which if enacted would deeply affect training, curriculum, personnel and in general have an adverse impact on school health throughout the state. The House

Finance Committee will be hearing the RIDE Budget in the next few weeks so advocates including RIAAP should testify or contact Finance Committee members against any proposed reductions in school health programs.

Greg discussed obesity prevention as there is significant interest on the part of school health nurses and the “Wellness Councils” established in each District. A primary first step would be a surveillance system to learn the prevalence of obesity among school age children in the state.

Beth Lange advised that RIAAP would work Greg in developing information to involve RIDE and DOH in improving school health.

Continuing Medical Education Calendar:

- District I AAP is planning a two day CME involving AAP Chapters from Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut on November 13 & 14 in Providence. The topic will be behavioral health.
- April 4 - FEAT/RI (Families for Effective Autism Treatment) conference "Autism - Sharing the Knowledge", featuring several nationally and locally recognized professionals in the field of autism. Free for parents: .CME credits available.
- April 2-4 - national AAP Practical Pediatric CME is right here in Providence Register on AAP website under education.

Young Physicians Program:

Lisa Keswick, Project Director in collaboration with Pamela High has held 2 very successful Collaborative Office Rounds since December. The next Round topic is scheduled for March 11 and the topic is The Use of Sign Language with Young Children, both typically developing and children with special needs. The Rounds are held in the Pediatric Partial Hospitalization Program in the basement of the Potter Building. Interested members should contact Lisa Keswick at lkeswick@gmail.com so she can plan for food/refreshments.

March Meeting Agenda:

The March meeting will be devoted to policy issues including legislation introduced into the Rhode Island General Assembly and RIAAP position on the various pieces of legislation and as special guests we have invited Helen Drew, Director of Policy at DOH and her Husband, Frazer Payne, former Senate Policy Director to join us in discussion.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

