

Draft Summary of February 3, 2010 Meeting - WebEx

Council members present:

Bona Benjamin, (ASHP), Chair
Rita Munley Gallagher (ANA), Vice-Chair
Shawn Becker (USP), Secretary
Beth Feldpush (AHA)
Barry Dickinson (AMA)
Gordon Johnson (GPhA)
Lee Rucker (AARP)
Ann Gaffey (ASHRM)
Michael Gaunt (ISMP)
Frank Federico (IHI)
Jean Krause (ACP)
Manisha Shah (NPSF)
Muriel Burk (VA)
Paul Hoerner (DoD)
Deborah Nadzam
Diane Cousins
Mary Ann Alexander (NCSBN)
James Burris (AGS)

Organizations not represented:

APSF, ASCP, FDA, NABP, SHM

Alternates attending as representatives of their organizations:

Tara Modisett (NASPA)
Marcie Bough (APhA)
Linda Hanold (The JC)
Deborah Davidson (NCPIE)
Mark Paxton (PhRMA)

Observers:

Frank Fortier, Director, Clinical Affairs and Quality Care, (AAPA)
Lisa Daigle (ASHP)
Rick Schnatz, Scientific Liaison, USP Compounding Pharmacy Expert Committee
Jacqueline Starkes, Project Manager, USP Healthcare Quality Standards Group

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and welcomed Council members, alternates, and guests. It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the revised October meeting summary, Linda Hanold (The JC) abstained. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the agenda for this abbreviated (due to inclement weather) February WebEx meeting.

The Chair thanked the Council for their flexibility in changing the platform of the meeting from a Face-to-Face meeting to a WebEx meeting. The Council will discuss how it can optimize the use of hosting WebEx meetings at the June 2010 meeting. The Chair requested that the Council

National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention

postpone its discussion on the Position Statement on Opposition to Criminalization of Medication Errors until the June 2010 meeting to allow for additional review and comment. The Council does not intend to address state board regulations. The Council should review the “Just Culture Primer” written by David Marks to clarify how to assess medication errors.

Action Item: Ms. Becker will circulate the Position Statement “Opposition to Criminalization of Medication Errors” to the Committee for additional comments. Comments should be forwarded to Dr. Gallagher. The Just Culture Primer will be sent to the membership as well.

Secretary’s Report – Shawn Becker

- The roster has been updated and will be emailed to the Council for review, needed changes should be forwarded to Shawn Becker.
- Eleni Anagnostiadis is no longer with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). NABP will appoint a new delegate to replace Eleni Anagnostiadis. We thank Eleni for her past efforts on behalf of the Council.
- The Society of Hospital Medicine will appoint a new delegate to replace Jane Kelly-Cummings; According to Bona the new delegate will attend the June 2010 meeting.
- Alan Goldhammer will continue as PhRMA’s delegate on the Council and Mark Paxton will replace Rosemary Cook as the alternate delegate. We thank Rosemary for her past efforts on behalf of the Council.
- Permission has been granted to an instructor at Red Deer College for a Pharmacy Technician Program to be linked to NCC MERP web site as a resource to her students.
- The Council listserv has been updated. Please inform Shawn Becker if you are not receiving emails or if your email address has changed.

Membership Request – Shawn Becker

Application for membership was received by the Executive Vice President of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, (AAPA) whose goals are in line with those of the NCC MERP. Frank Fortier presented an overview of the AAPA to assist the Council in its understanding of this organization and the reason for requesting membership. AAPA is the only national organization to represent Physician Assistant in all medical and surgical specialties. Physicians Assistants are certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

The Council has extended a two-year membership to:

- The American Academy of Physician Assistants, (AAPA)

Action Item: The Chair will send an acknowledgement and welcome to the newest member of the Council.

Subcommittee/Task Force Reports and Updates

Pediatric Medication Safety Subcommittee– Manish Shah

Ms. Shah reviewed the outcome of her research on articles on weight-based dosing and has found only one policy statement on Weight Based Dosing; it was found on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) website. Shawn received an email from Dr. Richard Blum

National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention

regarding a discrepancy between manufacturer and FDA weight based dosing. This will also be addressed at the June meeting.

Action Item: A Subcommittee has been formed consisting of Manisha Shah, Frank Federico, Michael Gaunt, and Ann Gaffey to draft a broader statement on weight based dosing for review by the Council at the June 2010 meeting.

Action Item: Ms. Becker will forward a copy of Dr. Blum's email to the subcommittee.

Medication Error Rates vs. Medication Error Reporting Rates - Frank Federico

Mr. Federico gave a presentation on the Proposal for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Grant. Mr. Federico reviewed several literature reviews to see if other organizations have already developed what NCC MERP may propose. Several organizations such as the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) have performed research evaluating different methods of understanding medication safety such as; chart reviews, incident reports, etc. In addition, the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) also did research on process measures outcome and balancing. However, there was no specific information on how to develop a dashboard, what the essential elements are in creating a dashboard, or how to understand the use of a dashboard. NCC MERP could have a major impact in this area. Mr. Federico will draft a grant proposal for The (AHRQ) to research the dashboard project with the assistance of a subcommittee.

Action Item: A subcommittee has been formed consisting of Frank Federico, Manisha Shah, Ann Gaffey, Deborah Nadzam, Mark Paxton, and Paul Hoerner to write a grant proposal to AHRQ to form a consensus meeting to bring together experts in the field to think through what a dashboard would look like if we had a safe medication system in place. The report will be shared with the Council at the June 2010 meeting.

Action Item: Mr. Federico will email a copy of his draft grant proposal to the subcommittee.

Rules and Procedures/History Task Force – Diane Cousins

Ms. Cousins gave an update on the Task Force on Rules and Procedures, consisting of Jean Krause, Tara Modisett and Shawn Becker. Generally, the committee is satisfied with the Rules and Procedures review to date, however, a few suggestions under the following areas need to be considered:

- **General**
 - Change the 2nd sentence to read “These rules and procedures will be reviewed on a regular basis and may be amended at any time subject to the approval of the Council”.
 - The Secretary and Vice Chair should review the rules and procedures on a regular basis.
- **Category of Membership**
 - Consider adding the following new categories:
 - Technology
 - Over-the-counter products
 - Herbals and other supplements
 - Remove the inclusion of the USP Chairperson of the Safe Medication Use Expert Committee. Update with the new USP Nomenclature, Safety, and Labeling

National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention

Expert Committee and consider appropriate representative from the Expert Committee to attend the Council meetings.

- **Founding Members**

- Task Force members agreed and felt that there is a useful purpose for term limits and other types of memberships.

Ms. Cousins asked the Council to review the rules and procedures and let the Task Force know what they think needs to change or be improved. The Task Force will provide a full report at the June 2010 meeting.

15th Anniversary/Planning Task Force – Rita Munley Gallagher

Dr. Gallagher thanked Dr. Nadzam for her hard work on the ten-year anniversary report. Dr. Gallagher will keep the same format for the 15th Anniversary report. Council members were asked to review the “Member Comments” section of the report; new members should provide information about their organization and long standing members should forward updates/changes to Dr. Gallagher by April 1, 2010. Also, under “The Future” section please provide any new citations to Dr. Gallagher by April 1, 2010.

A celebration will take place at the June 2010 meeting, please forward any ideas for this celebration to Dr. Gallagher.

Action Item: Ms. Becker will email the Council an updated version of the draft report of “Moving into the Second Decade”.

Proposal for a National Alert Network for Serious Medication Errors – Bona Benjamin

Ms. Benjamin proposed that NCC MERP sponsor the National Alert Network (NAN) which is a system to rapidly communicate warning messages about serious medication errors that have caused death or serious harm or errors that may be likely to occur again. ASHP and ISMP have collaborated informally in the past to distribute urgent alerts on serious errors to hospital and health-system pharmacists. One example is administration of plain 5% Dextrose Injection post-operatively that resulted in several pediatric deaths from hyponatremia.

Urgent messages were sent to attendees of the IV Safety Summit representing pediatric physicians and pharmacists, as well as anesthesia, who forwarded the information to ISMP Medication Safety Alert subscribers.

NCC MERP could create a logo and feature an electronic sign-up form that adds (and deletes) interested organizations and individuals to a distribution list for alerts. NCC MERP would be looking only at the very serious alerts that would be listed on NCC MERP website and updated two to three times a year.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to establish the NAN network under the aegis of the NCC MERP.

Action Item: Ms. Benjamin will email the Council an updated version of the draft Proposal for the National Alert Network to review and forward any questions to Ms. Benjamin.

Support Document on the Use of the Metric System for Medication Dosing – Dr. Michael Gaunt

National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention

Dr. Gaunt reviewed his recommendations for the Use of the Metric System for Medication Dosing. The goal is to encourage practitioners to standardize the metric system for dosing. The Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority has reported more than 25% of the medication events occurred due to patient weight, measured in pounds versus kilograms. The United States Pharmacopeia made a statement in its USP 32-NF 27 that “Prescriptions for compendial articles shall be written to state the quantity and /or strength desired in metric units unless otherwise indicated in the individual monograph. “Apothecary unit designations on labels and labeling shall not be used”.

Action Item: A Subcommittee consisting of Michael Gaunt, Frank Fortier, Bona Benjamin, James Burris, and Diane Cousins was formed to revise the draft recommendations for the “Use of the Metric System for Medication Dosing.” The revised recommendations will be forwarded to Mark Paxton, Marcie Bough, and Carol Holquist for additional comments and presented to the Council at the June 2010 meeting.

Next Steps

Ms. Benjamin thanked the Council for a productive meeting. The next meeting of the NCC MERP is scheduled for Wednesday-Thursday, June 9-10, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., each day.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.