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*25 Years of **Independent Practice** as Healthcare Providers for the People of Maine*

Legislative Committee Meeting

Sept. 14, 2021

Attendees: Pam Cahill, Kathy Forti-Gallant, Ellen Farnsworth, Connie Jordan, Colin McCabe, Nancy Browne, Anne Perry, Shelby Stiles, Valerie Fuller, Sylvia Ingerson, & Sandra Picard

The meeting was called to order by Kathy at 6:32 pm.

Pam related that any bills for the 2022 session need to be submitted by Friday Sept. 24th. By Sept. 27th, Bills will be reviewed by a legislative panel and either be accepted or rejected for submission. October is when an appeals session held for those whose bills were rejected to make their final case. Final list in early December. After discussion, the committee decided that MNPA did not have any bills to submit. Anne & Pam reviewed that for this session the panel will likely only be approving emergency type bills.

Sandra Picard, NP attended the meeting as a new member who introduced issues related to MPO/Inflammatory/Lyme testing and insurance coverage. Sandra gave some background and the group discussed ways to best support best practices for testing, coverage, treatment of LD. The committee felt that the most expeditious way to support these efforts was through education of providers (especially NPs), healthcare students, and policy influencers (legislators). The committee recommended to her that the MNPA Professional Development committee would welcome opportunities to increase awareness on this issue through conference presentations including a session that is scheduled for the fall conference. Anne Perry, who is a NP & legislator, explained differences between policy, politics, education and pathway to developing and submitting a bill for new legislation.

The committee discussed previous bills:

LD 868 Consistency among examiners for involuntary commitment and subsequent examinations being revisited. It was passed without the Governor's signature and will become law on 10/18/21.

LD 1045 Universal health care bill: establishes a commission to implement universal health care leg in Maine providing Federal government acts first; the bill would set up a waver process (not same as ACA); if that passes, then Maine can apply for that waiver. The bill would establish a study commission of 17 members. Five members would be providers (1 RN). Pam will watch this Federal legislation and then it would be appropriate to work on in this committee. Connie volunteered to apply for one of the panel positions which is appointed by the Governor & approved by the legislature. Terri Taylor also interested.

LD 1090 Reiteration of the Burns report. One issue is that psychiatric NPs are not included in reimbursement increase (Medicaid/Medicare). MNPA advocates for equity of payment regardless of who bills the service. Anne, Connie, and Sylvia will coordinate for follow-up action on this and draft a bill for us to submit to next year's legislative session. That will give us time to gain support & draft properly, etc.

LD 120: bill to establish a permanent oversight commission for healthcare. Commission will be composed of legislators but NPs can serve on the committee's advisory council made up of 13 members which we reviewed. MNPA plans to lobby to insure NP on council. Maine Legislature President and Speaker of Senate to compose the advisory council. Anne Perry will reach out with official letters. MNPA will recommend Ellen Farnsworth/Valerie Fuller/Sylvia Ingerson for the council. Ellen, Sylvia, and Valerie will send their CVs to Anne. They will meet with Anne via zoom to coordinate this effort on 9/27/21 @ 6:30 pm; Connie will send zoom invite to all of them.

Colin shared with the committee that he is giving up the rest of his term as co-chair on the legislative committee so that he can be the co-chair of the public relations committee.

Ellen brought up that on Oct 2nd massive march which is part of Women's March is planned. Local and national efforts are planned. & concerned for women's rights and Roe V Wade.

Sylvia developed guidance for new members of the MNPA Legislative Committee in the form of an orientation packet. Copies were sent to committee members for comments. Pam will review and then it can go onto the MNPA website for members to access. The committee thanks Sylvia for her efforts.

Nancy has agreed to continue doing meeting minutes for the committee this year. Meeting minutes are sent to the Board of Directors monthly after the committee reviews & put on the website for members.

Further meetings will be as needed. A survey monkey will be sent out to legislative committee members to give their choices of the most convenient times/days to have meetings this winter. The board will also encourage MNPA members to join the committee at the fall conference & meeting minutes on website.

Respectfully,

Nancy Browne