Attendees

NTCA
Carol Pozsik, Phil Griffin, Jim Cobb, Denise Ingman, Kim Field, Kristin Rounds, Sue Etkind, Jon Warkentin, Allan Lynch, Pat Infield, James Watt, Peter Davidson, Mary Goggin, Michael Leonard, Kathy Kolaski, Ron Karpick, Jennifer Kanouse

CDC
Phil Talboy, Tom Navin, Ann Cronin, Dawn Tuckey, Jessie Wing

NTCA Board Discussion Items

• Secretary’s Report – Denise Ingman
  The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and accepted by the board.

• Treasurer’s Report – Kristin Rounds
  Kristin reported the savings account balance (non-CDC), the checking account balance (CDC funds), and the money market (TB walk) balance. It was moved and seconded to accept the treasurer’s report.

• President’s Report – Phil Griffin
  o Constituent Reports
    Phil commented that some board members copy him when they send emails to their constituent states. He hasn’t heard many issues from the states, but thinks we need to be asking more. Phil will continue to summarize the discussions during the board conference calls because it is helpful to the board members when contacting their constituent states.
  o Annual Report
    Phil needs reports from all the committees and work groups to include in the annual report. In addition, each board member needs to send Phil a bio, including official title, length of time in TB program, and a short statement on NTCA’s greatest accomplishment in 2009.

Executive Office Report – Carol Pozsik

• June Conference Update
  The registration website, including a link for hotel reservations, will be available by the end of February. The agenda is packed again this year and includes a special event hosted by CDC on Wednesday evening.

• SNTC Report – Michael Leonard
  Mike made a plea for all states to send him a list of TB physicians and consultants involved/interested in TB. To date, he has only heard from about 15 states, but even so it is already apparent that there is a huge variation in the way states utilize physicians. The June meeting is planned, speakers have been invited and most are confirmed. Mike will email the session topics and speakers names to Carol.
• **NTNC Report – Kathy Kolaski**
  The agenda for the June meeting is complete. Kathy will email the agenda to Carol so it can be added to the conference website.

• **Committee/Workgroup Reports**
  o **TB-Pen Steering Committee – Peter Davidson**
    The first meeting was recently with the group focusing on how to make program evaluation a larger part of the annual conference (ETN/PEN). They would like to provide information on products or practices that are ready to implement at the end of the conference. Kim F. commented that there may be many good examples of evaluation initiatives at the state level that just need to be shared. Peter also said the committee should know by their next meeting in March whether CDC is supporting travel costs for attending the TB ETN/PEN conference like last year.

  o **Patient Care Committee – Carol Pozsik**
    Carol talked to Bob Benjamin and he is willing to work on this committee but cannot take the lead. Kim F. recommended that Phil Griffin chair this committee if he willing. Phil did agree to take the lead, but much of the work will have to proceed after the June conference is over. Both Sue Etkind and Bob Benjamin will serve on the committee. Phil reviewed the purpose of the committee, which is to address the national issues of treatment and payment sources (including across state lines). It was recommended that NTCA at least start by working with HRSA – possibly to establish an MDR medications stockpile that could be tapped, and then move on to more complex issues, including universal Medicaid coverage. This committee initially was part of a broader committee that included the effort to look at TB laws and how those affected treatment and payment issues between states.

  o **Adoption Meeting – Jon Warkentin**
    John said the TBESC group is concerned about a lack of communication between their group and TB controllers. They want to know how to get information out better and how to better collaborate. Jon said the committee will be working to accomplish this. Jon sent out an email that lists the information on the TBESC website and the links to get there.

**CDC Discussion Items**

• **Surveillance – Tom Navin**
  CDC is working hard to prepare for World TB Day. There was a greater than 11% drop in cases from 2008 to 2009. CDC is trying to address the possible reasons for this – under reporting, under-diagnosing, change in TIs, better TB program management? Tom asked if NTCA would rapidly help develop and then conduct a survey of all reporting areas to try to evaluate the cause of the decrease in cases. The process of developing the survey and collecting the information from states needs to be completed very rapidly. Tom will send a summary of 2009 surveillance findings to Phil, who will distribute to the board members. Anyone interested in working to develop the survey needs to send Phil an email today and Tom will set up a conference call for February 22 at 3 p.m. Eastern.

• **Annual Conference Issues – All**
  o **Laboratory Attendance**
The current hotel location for the annual meeting is not large enough to hold two meetings (NTCA/CDC and APHL) concurrently. APHL proposed that the public health labs meet every other year with NTCA and on the off year, APHL would hold a separate TB-focused meeting. They requested that DTBE support the cost of laboratorians attending both meetings. After much discussion on APHL’s request, consensus was not achieved. Phil Talboy also needs to discuss the issue with DTBE staff.

- **Conference Location**
  At the 2009 NTCA business meeting there was a request to revisit the issue of having the annual meeting outside of Atlanta, and possibly looking at Washington, D.C. to encourage Hill visits. Sherry Brown completed a cost comparison of various locations. The cost will be at least $80,000 more to send the Atlanta TB staff to an off-site location, with the most expensive place being Washington, D.C. Last year over one hundred CDC staff attended the meeting in Atlanta. This number would be drastically decreased, possibly to as few as 20-30 people if the meeting is held outside of Atlanta. The board members were not in favor severely limiting CDC participation or doubling the conference costs.

- **Budget – Ann Cronin**
  The President’s budget for 2011 is $143,051,000, which essentially means level funding. However, it includes language about cuts in travel and contracts, but no one knows exactly what that means at this time.

Minutes submitted by Denise Ingman, NTCA Secretary