



American Academy of Physician Assistants

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American Academy of Pediatrics Liaison Report August, 2008

Liaison: Chris Barry, PA-C, MMSc
Term Dates: June 2008 – June 2010
Staff Advisor: Ellen Rathfon

Meetings

- June 16, 2008: Met with key AAP leaders (Executive Director Errol Alden, MD, President Renee Jenkins, MD, and President-elect David Tayloe, Jr., MD) in Chicago during the American Medical Association conference. I was introduced as the new liaison and greeted warmly. Discussed the following issues:
 - Immunizations. Discussed formation of the new Immunization Alliance.
 - Marie-Michele Leger attended meeting in July 2008.
 - Healthcare Disparities.
 - Planned conference in November. Will be in touch with Bob Wooten (AMA Commission to End Health Care Disparities representative)
 - Education and Health Literacy.
 - Potential partnering opportunities with “America’s Promise Alliance” and AAPA’s Health Literacy Campaign and Book Grant Program.
 - AAPA CEO Bill Leinweber will be in contact with the President of America’s Promise, Marguerite Kondracke, whom he knows through previous endeavors.
 - Access to care. Common problem among pediatricians, and a role that PAs can fill perfectly. One of AAP’s goals is to enhance access to pediatric health care and maintain the “medical home”. Pediatric practices are encouraged to have evening and weekend hours to meet this goal. At this meeting, I emphasized PAs as part of a team-based approach, that do not require hands-on, direct supervision. Access to care is part of AAPA’s mission, and PAs are a perfect solution to the access to care problem. I plan to continue to emphasize this to the AAP Board.

Upcoming Meetings

- AAP/NCE Annual Fall Meeting, October 11-14, 2008, Boston, MA
 - Exhibit AAPA Travel Display- will recruit PAs in the Boston area to help with booth
 - Will plan to meet, either formally or informally, with AAP Board members at this conference.
- Pediatric Academic Societies meeting May 2-5, 2009, Baltimore, MD
 - Plan to meet with AAP Board and EVP during this conference.
- AAPA Annual Conference May 23-28, 2009, San Diego, CA
 - HOD attendance, Liaison meeting, SPAP meeting.

Important Players

Errol Alden MD, AAP Executive Director
Roger Suchyta, MD, Associate Executive Director
Renee Jenkins MD, AAP President
David Tayloe MD, AAP President-elect
Jay Berkelhamer MD, AAP Past-President

Key Results / Goals

KEY RESULT #1: Identify and participate in opportunities for partnership between AAPA and AAP.

Objectives:

1. Many issues noted above from the 6/16/08 meeting lend themselves well to partnership
 - a) Immunization Alliance: Will communicate goals and outcomes with Marie- Michele Leger.
 - b) Health care disparities: Will communicate with Bob Wooten about attendance at the Disparities meeting in November.
 - c) Education: Will communicate with Bill Leinweber to see if he has made contact with Ms. Kondracke, president of America's Promise Alliance.
2. Will hopefully have AAPA as designated reviewer on official AAP policy statements.
 - a) Will contact AAP staff member, Jan Page, to inform of new liaison and request communication on future AAP policy statements.
3. Liaison to make new AAP staff contacts critical to different projects and policy development.
 - a) Working with former liaison, Albert Bourbon, to identify key AAP staff members, who will help me as AAPA Liaison to the AAP.

Timetable: Ongoing

KEY RESULT #2: Increased familiarity and acceptance of PAs by Pediatricians

More than any other specialty, Pediatricians use NPs in significantly higher numbers than PAs.

- <5% of PAs practice in pediatrics and pediatric sub-specialties

Objectives:

1. Increased PA student involvement in pediatrics
 - a) Communication with SAAAPA BOD. Contact made with SAAAPA External Affairs director, Betsy Severance, at AAPA Liaison meeting in July, 2008.
 - b) Increased student involvement through SPAP and SPAP mentoring initiative.
2. AAP Committee involvement
 - a) Will attempt to have PAs serve on AAP committees
 - b) Will discuss AAPA specialty organization (SPAP) encouraging PAs who practice in pediatrics to join different chapters, sections and committees within AAP (AAP website now endorses and encourages Allied Health membership within the different councils and committees).
 - c) Have requested Liaison have access to AAP Member's Only section of website.
3. Will continue Liaison (PA) presence at AAP meetings and encouraging contact with Dr. Errol Alden and AAP Board of Directors.
4. Physician/ PA Team presentations are needed at strategic AAP meetings.

- a. Will communicate with Michael Powe and Ann Davis to coordinate with AAP staff to have them make a presentation at an AAP meeting.

Timetable: Ongoing

KEY RESULT #3: Increased Communication between PA Specialty Organization (SPAP) and AAP

Objectives:

1. Enhanced communication between SPAP Board of Directors, AAPA, and AAP.
 - a. AAPA Liaison now serves as non-voting Board member of SPAP
 - i. Attend monthly conference calls with SPAP Board of Directors
 - ii. Communicate regularly with SPAP Board and SPAP members on items of interest to PAs in pediatrics, and will communicate ideas from SPAP to AAPA and AAP as necessary.
2. As deemed necessary, will encourage SPAP to introduce appropriate resolutions to AAPA HOD, and will consult with SPAP BOD on any draft resolutions received from the AAP.
3. Invite Key AAP members to participate in AAPA Annual conference (and attend SPAP meeting, perhaps giving a talk), as well as SPAP annual CME conference.

Timetable: Ongoing

Opportunities – see above for details

- Immunization Alliance
- America's Promise Alliance
- Healthcare Disparities

Follow-up List

- Need to arrange for assistance for booth coverage at AAP conference in Boston in October, 2008
- Communicate with Marie-Michele Leger, Bill Leinweber, Bob Wooten, Betsy Severance and SAAAPA Board, and SPAP Board on issues listed above.

Finances

Budget: \$5400
Expenses: \$270
Remaining: \$5130

Respectfully submitted,

C. Barry, PA-C

Chris Barry, PA-C
AAPA Liaison to the AAP
August 3, 2008