

Executive Committee Meeting 5/17/2018

Attendees: Mary Beth Shea, Ron Gironda, Sam Wan, Genevieve Davis, Tracey Smith
Guest: Russell Lemle (left call after his updates)

1. Legislation (Dr. Lemle)

Dr. Lemle provided updates on recent VA legislation approved in Congress. He also commended our APA ally, Dr. Kelly, for continuing to advocate for VA mental health care in the midst of opposition. Finally Dr. Lemle updated the group on the Executive Order and the potential use of CHOICE in fulfilling that need. Brainstormed the role of AVAPL in these updates.

2. Mid-Winter Minutes (Dr. Smith and Dr. Davis)

Discussed editing of the minutes for publishing online. Noted the pros and cons of summary versus transcription, in terms of readability and understanding. Agreed to further discuss at the conference.

3. Conference Presentation (Dr. Shea)

Discussed how to organize the presentation, including discussing updates since the meeting. Dr. Wan will scan a copy of the talking points for the group to review. Plan is for us to talk the group for their questions and do an introduction (Shea), talk about an overview of what we did each day (Davis) and the talking points we had during the meeting: opioid treatment (Gironda), recruit and retain (Shea), enhancing integration of care (Smith), and non-VA care (Wan). We could also use this time to remind people to send us their questions at any time.

4. AVAPL allies (Dr. Shea)

Dr. Shea brought up a concern related to how to maneuver relationships with politically engaged allies while remaining a politically neutral organization. Discussed the idea and challenge of being able to draw lines and being able to be advocates but also being able to do our day to day work as federal employees.