

2012-2013 Executive Board Conference Call April, 3, 2013

Executive Board

Laurene Mascola (CA)
Janet Hamilton (FL)

Tom Safranek (NE)
Joe McLaughlin (AK)

Sharon Watkins (FL)

CSTE Staff* *called was not recorded Shundra on Vacation notes are from Lauren.*

Beverly Christner

Lauren Rosenberg

Summary

1. Bylaw Changes and State Epi Calls

- Executive Board members received letter, bylaws draft and list of call assignments
- Executive Board was enthusiastic about a way for them to give feed back
- There was a “what if” discussion on what would happen if a bare minimum quorum (28 people) barely votes (67% of 28, or 19) for the changes-and therefore 19 of 56 Council members vote in favor. Most of the Executive Board thinks that if it’s that close, a vote shouldn’t be called on Thursday.
- Tim spoke informally to a few members he thought would be enthusiastic about this, and they were all against it, to his surprise. Here is what he heard:
 - Changing the name & becoming a voting membership of 1,000-concern that it would decrease the clout of how CSTE is viewed at CDC & with other organizations
 - Mechanic of how position statement voting would occur-electronically or in person?
 - How will all conference attendees be able to discuss & vote on all Position Statements?
 - What is the motive to do this?
 - What problem are we trying to fix, especially given these other concerns?
 - Has there ever been a Position Statement that the state epidemiologist voted on that upset a large local DOH or other locals or other epidemiologists at State DOHs?
 - Why haven’t we heard from other members that this is an issue? Is this the same small group of vocal people or more of a widespread issue?

- Tom and Joe appreciated hearing others' concerns and have shared in the past in some way or another, but the intent of what we're proposing is a net positive.
 - Issue of "clout" is still a real one-the "Old Guard" is going to be less supportive than the "New Guard"
 - Joe understands their concerns but thinks we should push forward, especially as the Council will be retained. We can continue to evolve & Change in the future if need be.
- Lauren's suggestion: Is there a partway compromise? If the majority of the concerns are on one specific piece of the proposed changes (e.g., position statement voting), could that one part be taken out of the proposal?
 - Joe suggested a suite of choices for bylaws changes
- Janet voiced concern that maybe a non-state epidemiologist calling list might not have as forthright feedback as a state epidemiologist making those calls. She's willing to do so, but voiced the question.
 - The State Epidemiologist EB members on the call are willing to call more people so that state epidemiologists get calls from other State Epidemiologists. Joe, Tim and Tom are all willing to make more calls

2. Action Items

1. Jeff and Lauren will develop talking points/decision tree of how to respond in various scenarios.