

Massachusetts Pain Initiative

2015 Annual Report

MassPI Steering Council Members

Anne Marie Harootunian, MS, RN, FNP
Co-Chair, Steering Council

Claire Sampson, RN-BC
Co-Chair, Steering Council

Jeanne Connolly-Horrigan, MS
Webmaster Co-Chair

Betty Morgan, PhD, PMHCNS
Co-Chair, Education Council

Carol Curtiss, MSN, RN-BC
Consulting Chair

Ginger Newell-Stokes, MS RN
Member-at-large

Nellee Fine, BSN, MA, RN
Member-at-large

Rachel Porter, MSN
Member-at-large

Peggy Flood, MS, RN-BC
Co-chair, Education Council

Cyndie Rodman, MS
Chair, Communication Council

Ann Marie Kelly, BSN, RN-BC, CHPN
Co-chair, Education Council

Cindy Steinberg,
Chair, Policy Council

Ellen McCabe, RN, CHPN
Member-at-large

Kathy DellaPenna
Administrative Assistant, Treasurer

Education Council

Council Co-Chair: Peggy Flood, MS, RN-BC

Council Co-Chair: Betty Morgan, PhD, PMHCNS, BC

Activities:

Chronic Pain Self-Management Program (CPSMP)

Peggy Flood is a trainer for this program and will develop an educational program for interested members of the MassPI to train them as providers for the CPSMP in 2016. A link has been added to the MassPI website about these training sessions.

MassPI Pocket Tool

The MassPI pocket tool continues to be a very popular resource and is distributed throughout the country as well as internationally. It is updated every few years and can be viewed on the MassPI website.

Pain Resource Guide

The pain resource guide identifies clinics/resources in the state of Massachusetts and is distributed throughout the country as well as internationally. It is updated every few years and can be viewed on the MassPI website. A subcommittee consisting of Carol Curtiss, Nellee Fine and Claire Sampson is currently working on updating the tool for 2016.

Pain Resource Guide

The pain resource guide identifies clinics/resources in the state of Massachusetts and is available on the MassPI website. The list was updated and is current as of November 2013. A subcommittee will be formed to update the guide in 2016.

Education Council Members

The Council is currently made up of nine members including the co-chairs.

Education Programs:

Spring Program 2015

The spring program was a half-day meeting held on May 13, 2015, titled "Caring for the Veteran in Pain in the Community." The first speaker was Kathleen Dunn, MSW, LICSW, ACHP-SW. Kathleen is currently the Palliative Care Coordinator for the VA Boston Healthcare System. She spoke about the psychosocial aspects of care for the veterans and included discussion of the effect of PTSD, substance abuse problems as well as military sexual trauma on the pain care for veterans.

Dr. Lara Skarf, MD, was the second speaker of the morning. Dr. Skarf spoke about the VA approach to pain care. She included several cases for discussion and developed these cases throughout the presentation. She also focused on treatment strategies for the veterans in pain who also have problems with PTSD, substance abuse problems as well as military sexual trauma.

Policy Council

Council Chair: Cindy Steinberg

Legislative Activities

Have held numerous Policy Council conference calls with very good participation

Following approximately 25 bills Testifying on several of them.

Introduced our Patients' Rights Bill (H1993), obtained co-sponsorship and testified on it

Testified on H 3817, Governor Baker's Proposed Bill and submitted written testimony. MassPI

Steering Council members and patients testified at this hearing.

Have held numerous meetings to discuss several bills including S 2022 and H 3817.

Executive Branch Activities

Cindy Steinberg was appointed to Governor Baker's Opioid Working Group chaired by HHS Secretary Sudders. She attended numerous meetings and hearings as part of the Working Group. MassPI Steering Council members, Policy Council members and patients testified at these hearings. The final report was balanced and very well received.

Regulatory Activities

Cindy was appointed to the Drug Formulary Commission. She attended numerous meetings in August. MassPI Steering Council Co-Chair, Ann Marie Harootunian was an invited speaker at the Commission meeting.

Proclamation

MassPI received a Proclamation from Governor Baker declaring September, 2015, as Pain Awareness Month in Massachusetts.

Invitations to several pain management organizations to collaborate on our proclamation request was initiated and received which included national, state-based and local organizations.

These organizations included the U.S. Pain Foundation, the Tufts University School of Medicine's Program on Pain Research, Education and Policy, the American Chronic Pain Association, the American Academy of Pain Management, the American Society for Pain Management Nursing, the American Cancer Society Action Network and the American Society for Pain Management Nursing Eastern Massachusetts Chapter.

The proclamation can be viewed on the MassPI website.

Membership Council

Council Chair: Anne Marie Kelly, BSN, RN-BC, CHPN

Council Purpose: To recruit volunteers for MassPI who are interested in assuming an active role in improving the quality of life for those affected by pain. Membership in the organization is free.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many opportunities available on the various councils for individuals who would like to share their passion and dedication for educating healthcare providers, raising community awareness about pain management and working with state government officials to improve policies related to pain care. Only through the generous support of volunteers can MassPI effectively meet the needs of those affected by pain in Massachusetts. Volunteers are vital to MassPI's mission and function.

We appreciate their support and continue our search for more volunteers in 2016 who wish to participate in improving the quality of life for those affected by pain.

MassPI councils and volunteer opportunities can be viewed on the website. If interested in becoming a volunteer or for more information, please contact info@masspaininitiative.org. Your support is appreciated.

Communications and Website Council

Council Chair: Cyndie Rodman, MS (PR/media, website content redesign)

Co-Webmasters: Carol Curtiss, MSN, RN-BC
Jeanne Connolly-Horrigan, MS

Council Purpose: To provide strategic expertise and implementation assistance with internal and external communications, PR and media efforts, and we site maintenance (webmaster).

Activities

- Provided general communications support for the Steering Council's activities (e.g. Education Council program materials, etc.)
- Maintained the web site with updated information as needed to continue to make the MassPI web site a key place for current information about activities of MassPI.
- Expanded MassPI's presence in social media with Twitter and Facebook pages

Twitter: Our name is @Mass_PI and can be found at https://twitter.com/Mass_PI

Facebook: The best way to find us is to search for Massachusetts (or Mass) Pain Initiative within Facebook

- Began the preliminary work of identifying objectives and technology improvements for a web site redesign. The significant redesign will make the site user friendly for most platforms, including mobile phones and tablets. The redesign is scheduled for 2016.
- led the development of an updated “Pocket Tool”, the popular quick reference tool that MassPI makes available to healthcare providers with information about pain medications and management. What started as a simple update of the information in the pocket tool has become a more significant update that will be available by early 2016.

Respectfully submitted by,

MassPI Steering Council Members
January, 2016