



Massachusetts Pain Initiative

2012 Annual Report

MassPI Steering Council Members

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

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

Evelyn Corsini, MSW, LICSW
Co-Chair, Education Council

Betty Morgan, PhD, PMHCNS, BC
Member-at-large

Carol Curtiss, MSN, RN-BC
Consulting Chair

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

Peggy Flood, MS, RN-BC, AOCN
Co-Chair, Education Council

Cyndie Rodman, MS
Chair, Communications Council

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

Cindy Steinberg
Chair, Policy Council

Kathy DellaPenna
Administrative Assistant

Education Council Activities

Council Co-Chairs: Peggy Flood, MS, RN-BC, AOCN
Evelyn Corsini, MSW, LICSW

Pain Resource Education Programs (PREP)

The purpose of the Education Council is to raise awareness about pain. Increasing the public's and healthcare professionals' knowledge about pain and related issues will empower people in Massachusetts to make informed decisions regarding pain management. The Council's primary vehicle for informing the public and healthcare professionals about pain is through the Pain Resource Education Programs (PREP). These programs provide free education to communities and organizations in Massachusetts, including senior citizens centers, religious groups, healthcare facilities, clinics, businesses, and other groups as well as healthcare professionals who wish to become more knowledgeable about pain and its management. PREP offers educational sessions specifically targeted for the community, for healthcare professionals in various settings, and for older adults. Our goal in 2013 is to provide more programs for the community and healthcare professionals.

PREP presenters are trained volunteers and include healthcare professionals, experienced educators, and people in the community who wish to share their personal experience with pain. Presenters are geographically located in Massachusetts and are trained by MassPI members.

Education Council Activities

Pain Resource Education Programs (PREP) (cont'd.)

In June, 2012, nine participants attended a PREP training session. One program for healthcare professionals was held at Whittier Rehabilitative Hospital in Westborough, MA.

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 and revised 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 available on the MassPI website. This list is updated periodically and is in the process of being updated in 2013.

Education Programs

A Spring program entitled “*Managing Pain in the Chronically Addicted Patient*” was the topic of the MassPI conference held on April 4, 2012, in Marlborough, MA. Saint Anne’s Hospital provided three contact hours for the half-day program. The conference was well attended and received excellent evaluations. Faculty members included:

- Betty Morgan, PhD, PMHCNS, BC, Associate Professor, University of MA at Lowell
- Donna White, PhD, APRN-BC, CADAC-II, Addiction Specialist, Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, Boston, MA
- In addition, three experienced pain management nurses each presented a case discussion involving a patient with chronic pain and chemical addiction.

A Fall program entitled “*Care of the Patient in Pain at the End of Life*” was the topic of the MassPI all day conference held on October 12, 2012, in Marlborough, MA. Saint Anne’s Hospital provided 6.5 nursing contact hours. The faculty included:

- Diane Dietzen, MD, Director of Palliative Medicine, Bay State Medical Center, Springfield, MA.
- Maureen Lynch, MS, APRN, Dana Faber Cancer Institute
- Constance Dahlin, APRN-BC, Massachusetts General Hospital and North Shore Hospital
- The Reverend Dr. Kathleen Rusnick, Founder and President of The Brick Wall 2.
- Ellen McCabe Hemberger, RN, Hospice and Palliative Care of Cape Cod, Hyannis, MA.

Policy Council Activities

Council Chair: Cindy Steinberg, National Director of Policy & Advocacy, U.S. Pain Foundation, New England Director, American Chronic Pain Association.

Legislative Activities

The two year Massachusetts Legislative session ending on July 31, 2012, was a busy time for MassPI as members provided testimony on approximately eight bills during the session.

A great deal of effort was devoted to working with legislators to make changes to the Senate Bill S 2125, *Act Relative to Prescription Drug Diversion, Abuse and Addiction*. MassPI felt that the bill which passed the MA Senate unanimously in February 2012 had several damaging provisions with far reaching implications for people with pain and their healthcare providers. The MassPI Policy Council held several meetings with legislators as the bill was being redrafted in the House to explain our concerns. A letter was also sent to the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee offering alternative language for several provisions in the bill.

The House redrafted the bill and sent it to the floor for a vote at 11:59 pm on July 31, literally the last minute of the two year session with the top six of MassPI concerns addressed. These included the following:

1. Rescheduling of hydrocodone combination medications was removed from the bill- these combination medications remain scheduled CIII medications.
2. Targeting the top 30% of opioid prescribers in the state was removed from the bill.
3. The requirement to use the PMP before prescribing a CII or CIII was changed to before seeing a “new” patient.
4. Information on pain management was added to the information pamphlets that pharmacists will be required to distribute when dispensing a CII or CIII medication.
5. The study of drug abuse among seniors will now include a study of “pain prevalence and pain management among seniors” as requested by MassPI.
6. The goal of regulations to be promulgated as a result of this law will be expanded from “reducing diversion, abuse and addiction” to include the words “and protecting access for patients suffering from acute and chronic pain”.

The bill also specified that a joint policy workgroup be convened by the Commissioner of Public Health to investigate, study, and recommend best practices in opioid prescribing and dispensing. It specified the members of the workgroup such as a representative from each of the prescribing boards of registration. The bill stated that a member of the Massachusetts Pain Initiative be included in the workgroup.

The House version of the bill prevailed and was sent to Governor Patrick who signed it into law on August 18, 2012.

Policy Council Activities (cont'd)

Pain Proclamation from Governor Deval Patrick

MassPI received a Proclamation from Governor Deval Patrick declaring September, 2012, 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. The proclamation can be viewed on the MassPI website.

Communications and Website Council Activities

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

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 web site maintenance (webmaster).

Accomplishments:

- Supported the efforts of the Education Council's programs through the development and implementation of the program brochures, registration materials, and other program materials.
- Provided general communications support for other aspects of the Steering Council's activities (e.g., newsletter development, 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.

Membership Council Activities

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

Council Purpose: The purpose of the Membership Council is to recruit volunteers who will actively participate and assist with the work of the different councils as well as for leadership roles on the Steering Council.

Membership Activities:

- Developed a recruitment form depicting volunteer opportunities available within the MassPI Councils.
- Welcomed ten new volunteers in 2012 on the Education and Policy Councils.
- Maintained a data base of current MassPI members and volunteers. This list is kept updated by Kathy DellaPenna, Administrative Assistant.

Membership Council Activities

Membership Activities (cont'd.)

- Distributed membership/volunteer forms at education programs and meetings for marketing and recruitment purposes. These forms are available on the MassPI website.

MassPI welcomes anyone who would like to volunteer to serve on any of the Councils and appreciates your continued support.

Respectfully submitted by,

MassPI Steering Council Members
July, 2013