

Legislative Update:

It has been the busiest time I have ever experienced with the Legislative Committee. I will try my best to summarize the activities.

Committee Membership-

I want to welcome Susan Kraska to the committee. Susan stepped forward and offered her assistance due to a keen interest in this committee. She has already been involved in meeting on Mandatory Reporting. Thanks Susan!

Universal Precaution Rule Revision-

While I know many of you are anxiously awaiting the revision of this rule it has been sent back to Julie Butwin for some revisions from the attorney at the Indiana State Department of Health. The issues are not related to the disinfectant but related to vague language in the description of how to clean up a blood spill. Julie was working with the CDC to clarify the process. The second issue was the frequency of quality control checks on sterilizers. Julie is working with the FDA on this.

Pandemic Influenza Planning-

The Legislative Committee has been invited to provide assistance to Shawn Richards from the Indiana State Department of Health on planning for an Influenza Pandemic. We have not started this process at this time.

Mandatory Infection Reporting-

The Legislative Committee has learned quickly about the movement of bills through the legislature.

Senate Bill 0468-Health entity infection rate reporting was authored on January 18 2005. This bill was the same language that is being supported by the Consumer's Union.



Senate Bill 0468 was amended into Senate Bill 0205. This was the Health information bill and they just added the inclusion of infection reporting.



Senate Bill 0205 was amended into Senate Bill 0566. This is the Medical informatics commission. This bill did make it through the senate and crossed over into the house. The bill passed a hearing in the Technology committee unanimously. It has now been assigned to the Ways and Means Committee.

Here are the strategies that are in the process of being implemented:

1. I have been working with Denise Graham at the national office. She has been very insightful into what has worked well in other states. She is guiding me through this process and acting as a liaison between APIC-Indiana and the legislature.

2. The Legislative Committee met with other interested parties in February to develop consensus on what our talking points would be regarding this issue. The national office thought this is essential to show a broad base of support with members outside of APIC. This included Lisa Sorenson, Director of Quality Management at Clarian and Douglas Web, MD Director of Infection Control at Clarian.
3. An attempt to set up a meeting with a member of the Ways and Means Committee with Susan Kraska, Dr. Webb and myself. If this is unsuccessful a letter campaign may need to occur.
4. I have offered my assistance to Indiana Health and Hospital Association. They are forming an advisory committee on the reporting of medical errors and infection reporting.

The recommendations from the legislative committee will include the following:

1. APIC-Indiana is not opposed to mandatory reporting. It is a very complex issue that requires a scientific base so it is useful to consumers and healthcare facilities.
2. We recommend that the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) Guidance on Public Reporting of Healthcare-associated Infection document be used as a guide for legislation.
3. APIC-Indiana recommends that the advisory committee that will develop the indicators have a majority of its members be experts in infection reporting.
4. APIC-Indiana supports waiting for the development of national indicators before beginning this process.

Listed below are links that you can find further information on this issue if you are interested.

<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo>
http://www.apic.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Mandatory_Reporting
http://www.consumersunion.org/pub/core_health_care/002044.html

Submitted by:
Laurie Fish
Legislative Chair
APIC-Indiana

-----STAY TUNED-----
A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE WILL BE PRESENTED
AT THE APIC SPRING CONFERENCE.