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5-21-2016

### 2016-05-21 PCA Government Relations Report, May 12, 2016

Pennsylvania Counseling Association

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## PCA Report

✓ **Date: May 12, 2016**

**Division/Branch/Position: Government Relations Committee**

**Chair Person Name: Kristen Hawk & Nellie Scanlon**

**If chair is not attending, please indicate name of designee:**

**Action Item for Upcoming PCA Meeting: (please highlight one) YES NO**

**Attending the Upcoming PCA Meeting in person: ((please highlight one)  
YES NO**

**If attending via skype, list skype name:**

**If attending via conference call, please provide phone number:**

### **Summary/Update of Action Item:**

- Contacted each sub-committee via e-mail to begin getting organized and communicating about goals and action steps**
- Conference call with available Gov't Relations Committee members to discuss next steps and committee's responsibilities within PCA**
- Co-chairs had a phone conference with President-elect (Charles Jacob), President (Paul Datti), & Treasurer (J.Otis) to begin clarifying goals for the committee, to discuss committee's role in regard to lobbyist, and to problem solve how to keep initiatives moving between meetings by communicating more frequently**
- Co-chairs will be working towards updating the website and utilizing it more effectively to keep members up to date on advocacy initiatives and legislation**
  - Additionally, co-chairs are exploring ways to engage members in responding to impactful legislation**
- Co-chairs are discussing ways in which Gov't Relations can have more of a presence throughout the conference. For example, have a manned table that provides information about Gov't Relations, why everyone should be knowledgeable and concerned about legislation, potentially have specific legislation we want members to be aware of and respond to, raise money for**

**lobbying, etc. In addition, Gov't Relations is planning to submit a presentation proposal that covers basic advocacy skills and processes.**

### **Action Items**

**1. Determine what the Government Relations Committee's role is in regard to communications with the hired lobbyist and determine how PCA will respond to legislation being monitored by the lobbyist including a timely process for drafting a response.**

**2. Co-chairs need feedback from the executive committee & the organization in regard to what the committee should focus on currently and help determine specific actions. Should the newly formed sub-committees continue to move forward or do we need to re-organize? Below are the sub-committee topics as they are presently:**

- a. LPC's reimbursement by insurance companies/Medicare: How we can help get the attention of our state representatives and legislators**
- b. Master's Level clinicians' compensation: Advocating for increased wages**
- c. Lobbyist : How to help raise awareness and funds for future possible lobbying interests**

**3. Since we will not have help from lobbyist for advocacy purposes just yet as they will solely be monitoring, what can Gov't Relations do to start our own drafting/lobbying on important issues and what issue should be the initial focus?**

**-It's important to note that this will take dedication and expertise from members that aren't solely within the committee.**

### **Additional comments:**

**Still trying to maintain a presence at licensure board meetings in Harrisburg**