

**North Central District – WPTA
Monday February 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Videoconference via Zoom: Wes Kurszewski (Chair), Chris Ashbeck (Vice Chair), Dave Smith (Secretary/Treasurer), Lee Coleman (presenter), Sue Griffin (APTA- WI President), Kathy Zalewski, Karna Sandok, Heather Vogel, Kate Bennett, Nicole Quarne, Jackie Ritchay, Aaron Homolka, Ben Solheim, Adam Zamane, Melissa Maki, Stephanie Mikoliczak

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CE/Presentation/Discussion: *Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Tool Kit*. Presented by **Dr. Lee Coleman**, DPT, OCS. Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy, Concordia University (Wisconsin)

Officer Reports:

- Review and approval of minutes (on website) from October meeting
- Treasurer report– Dave Smith - Current balance \$16,087 (1/31/23).
 - Expenses – social at Pain Conference (\$500). Ethics course CE speaker (\$1033)

Subcommittees/Representatives:

- Executive Committee (EC)
 - Met in January – minutes on website
 - see Old Business section below for NCD Goals and status
 - NCD Funds for sponsoring CE Courses: currently no process in place for application or allocation. EC has followed a self-imposed policy of limiting the allocation of funds to \$500 without membership vote. EC developed an application to apply for funds (ask Dave Smith if would like a copy). If request is more than \$500, the EC will bring it to membership for a vote.
 - Request for Funds: Chris Ashbeck (Vice Chair of NCD, member of the Pain SIG) is requesting \$800 to help fund a CE course at the APTA-WI Spring Conference. Dr. Holly Johnson (Kentucky) worked with Dr. Lee Coleman at Concordia University teaching about the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Tool Kit, and adapting the kit for use in Wisconsin. Therapists will be able to access the kit for a small fee. Benefits to NCD: we have a high rate of SUD and drug overdose; PT's at forefront treating this problem. CE Course will teach about kit and its use. Discussion led by Dr. Lee Coleman and Chris Ashbeck.
 - MOTION: The NCD will allocate \$800 to bring Dr. Holly Johnson for the CE course at the APTA-WI Spring Conference April 27-28, 2023 (Wes K – motion; Heather V – second). VOTE: AY – all. NAY – none. Passed.
- Membership Committee: Cindy Koehler not present

- Social event at Pain Conference in Stevens Point (November 4). The NCD provided \$500. Several hundred dollars raised for the PT PAC Fund.
- Education Committee: (Chris Ashbeck – Vice Chair, Kate Bennett, Karna Sandok, Kaela Rueden, Nicki Quarne)
 - Ethics course – October 19, 2022. No discussion
 - The 4th Annual APTA-Wisconsin Pain Conference held in Stevens Point at UW-Stevens Point Science Building. NCD sponsored happy hour as noted above. See below for other info in NCD EC goals section.
 - Upcoming Courses
 - Credential CI Course: working on fall course in Northwoods in Minocqua fall 2023, partnering with UWSP PT Program. See below for info in NCD EC goals section.
 - Prior Planning
 - *Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults (CEEAA)* – continues to be difficult. Kate Bennett waiting for email responses from Geriatric section June 2022 to present – Same holding pattern. Kate will reach out again. Sue Griffin offered assistance as well.
 - Recommendation to pursue another vestibular CE in the near future.
 - May 9, 2023, NCD meeting CE: *Trauma Informed Care*. Presenter is Jennifer Smith, M.Ed., program coordinator for Youth Mental Health and Wellness in the Center for Community Health Advancement at Marshfield Clinic Health Systems.

Old Business:

- NCD Executive Committee meeting January 2023. Minutes on website. Review of goals set at the January 2022 meeting.
 - Improve NCD membership and involvement
 - Supported Cindy Koehler and efforts at local and state levels
 - Promoted membership at CE's held in district, happy hour at Pain conference
 - Working to improve Northwoods involvement and membership. See below for CI Credentialing course in Minocqua in fall 2023 (in planning)
 - Continue to provide CEU's
 - See above CE Committee report; and below in UWSP section.
 - Improved since COVID pandemic
 - UWSP – strengthen relationship/partnership
 - Pain Conference at UWSP. Excellent facility, worked well

- Highlighting their Facebook page on our page.
- Several clinics are already taking student interns.
- Credential CI CE in fall 2023 as noted previously = partner with UWSP to promote rural CI's and internships throughout the NCD.
- Partnering: Kathy Zalewski (staff member UWSP PT Program) presented; Steve Johnson presented at prior meetings
 - Would love to partner with the NCD; do not want to compete with APTA-WI or the NCD with CE offerings
 - Profits from course could go to the NCD
 - First cohort has 100% APTA-WI membership (not required of students).
- UWSP is hosting APTA-WI Strategic Planning in April 2023
 - Pro Bono PT clinic
 - Logistics for the NCD to create and provide a Pro Bono Clinic are vast. Decision made for the NCD to support the UWSP PT Program efforts in the near future.
 - UWSP interested in a partnership with the NCD in the future
 - Chris Durrall currently is leading the current class/Clinic. Limited to 12 – 2 pm Monday – Thursday. Currently triaging students on campus to narrow the focus while working out logistics. If NCD members are interested contact Kathy Zalewski (contact info at end of minutes)
- UWSP PT Program Update (Kathy Zalewski)
 - First cohort doing well (36). Started doing short duration clinicals in local PT practices
 - Longer clinicals start summer 2024, graduation December 2024.
 - Telehealth Clinical: no charge, augmenting and partnering with clinics. Supported exercises for patients discharged from PT care = support of the home program. Monitoring by phone calls, tests, baseline data gathering. Two students per client. Learning digital communication. Researching validity of practice model.
 - Dr. Alexa Posny, Dept of Education during Obama presidency and UWSP graduate, is providing \$10K annually to support a student advocacy internship. The scholar works for a semester at the APTA Government Affairs to gain experience and insight. Will be a third year student in the future. Fully funded tuition (UWSP), transportation, and housing.
- Legislative Updates (Sue Griffin, APTA-WI President presented)
 - UMR Legislation (*Utilization Review / Utilization Management*).
 - Legislature not back in session until January 2023. Anticipate 2-year process. This is a budget year so first 6 months devoted to that. Anticipate bill introduced in August 2023.

- Main issue is the cumbersome prior authorization process, and denials of medically necessary coverage of PT. (see video on APTA WI website with Lynne Steffes and Jack Knudson-Stuhr (WPT-PAC Chair) discussing current situation [Wisconsin Physical Therapy Political Action Committee - APTA Wisconsin - aptawi.org](https://www.apta-wi.org/wisconsin-physical-therapy-political-action-committee))
 - Still have our Senate and Assembly authors of the bill.
 - 39 new members in State Legislative branch
 - Next steps:
 - Grassroots effort will be key: from patients, PT/PTA's, letters, testimonials gathered.
 - Collect examples of issues with prior authorization process, especially denials and appeals, and response time. Must appeal to demonstrated denials.
 - Send case examples to the APTA-WI office.
 - Patients – send complaints to Insurance Commissioner. Only THREE complaints will set the process in motion
 - Talk to patients encouraging them to file complaints with their HR departments. PT's should file complaints WITH their patients which has more effect.
 - APTA-WI creating a post-card, paper or electronic
 - Donate to PT-PAC Fund. Need to discuss issue with legislators and staff, and those running for office. See video link above. Sue went to Democratic leadership meeting; costs money. If donate monthly, recurring, even \$5, it allows prediction of future funds compared to a one-time donation. <https://www.apta-wi.org/political-action-committee/>
 - This is a big fight our association and requires attention and money
 - Board meeting: discussion about Chapter (APTA-WI) conferences. Value to people for in-person attendance, builds a solid community, and member engagement. But, need to break even with expenses. Need to gather information. Online courses and decreasing attendance are factors.

New Business:

- NCD Elections in fall of this year 2023. Wes is finishing second year of the 2 year maximum for Chair position. Vice-Chair and Secretary are also up for election but are not required to be replaced. Contact Wes for questions. Please consider involvement.

PT Connections Article: Please share any news for this article with Dave Smith (smith.david@marshfieldclinic.org), or any other Executive Committee member (Wes Kurszewski, Chris Ashbeck).

Future Meetings: Note the meetings will be held on the SECOND Tuesday of the month in February, May, and October at 5:30 pm. Our next meeting date is May 9, 2023

CONTACTS:

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Secretary/Treas: Dave Smith smith.david@marshfieldclinic.org

APTA-WI President: Sue Griffin suegriffin@aptawi.org

UWSP PT Program: Kathy Zalewski kathy.zalewski@uwsp.edu

PT-PAC FUND: <https://aptawi.org/political-action-committee/>

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Submitted by NCD Secretary Dave Smith, MPT on Monday February 20, 2023