

RADIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes
October 8, 2008

Call to Order

Dr. Gary Gates, chair, called a meeting of the Radiation Advisory Committee (RAC) to order into Executive Session on October 8, 2008, 10:35 a.m, in Conference Room 1E of the Portland State Office Building.

Members Present:

Brown, Paul	Gates, M.D., Gary
Elting, Donald	Riggs, Edgar
Franco, Janet	

Members Absent:

Barnett, D.M.D., Douglas	Reese, PhD, Steven
McNeill, Randy	

State Members Present:

Carpenter, Todd	Lindsey, Terry
Crawford, Steve	O’Fallon, J.D., Shannon
Grater, Connie	Shibley, Gail
Howe, David	Wright, Bonny

The Executive Session adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Public Session

Dr. Gates called the Radiation Advisory Committee into Public Session at 12:02 p.m. He asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none.

He then asked public members to hold comments until the Comment Section of the agenda.

RPS Budget

Terry Lindsey reported on Radiation Protections Services 2007 – 2009 budget. The status after 14 months is 54% against the budget. Two personnel will be leaving in October. Those two vacancies will be reviewed for filling. RPS is also forecasting the 2009-2011 budget and may be short during that time. We are looking at grant opportunities, etc. for that biennium. The next opportunity we have for increasing fees to cover the cost for operating programs is 2011-2013. Terry is asking the committee for approval to use other funds programs as a composite to fund staff

during the biennium and fill the vacant positions.

Motion

Paul Brown moved, Don Elting seconded and it was approved unanimously to support hiring the two vacant RPS positions.

RAC Case Reviews and Enforcement Recommendations

David Howe gave a summary of the case review and civil penalties proposed procedure. He stated that he would like to parallel the process that the Oregon Board of Radiation Technologists (OBRT) uses - the executive session is used for confidential case review and the public session is used for advice on enforcement. The enforcement piece is a pilot project that would use civil penalties for violations.

Discussion of Bylaws/Draft Review

Dr. Gary Gates stated that draft bylaws were distributed to members for review. Members discussed the bylaws and suggested revisions.

Motion

Paul Brown moved, Janet Franco seconded and it was approved unanimously to accept the revised bylaws.

Election of Officers

Chair – Paul Brown nominated Dr. Gary Gates for chair and Janet Franco seconded that nomination. Dr. Gates accepted that nomination and it was approved unanimously.

Vice-Chair – Paul Brown nominated Janet Franco for vice-chair and Ed Riggs seconded that nomination. Janet Franco accepted that nomination and it was approved unanimously.

Terms of Office

Terry Lindsey stated that Paul Brown and Dr. Douglas Barnett's term of office expires December 31, 2008. Both members have indicated that are willing to serve another four-year term on the RAC. Terry also requested members to submit names of other qualified individuals who would be interested in serving a four-year term on the RAC. Interested names will be submitted to DHS director Dr. Bruce Goldberg for consideration.

Motion:

Don Elting moved, Janet Franco seconded and it carried unanimously to recommend current members, Paul Brown and Dr. Douglas Barnett, continue on with another term.

Disposal of Sources (SCATR and Other Options)

Terry Lindsey stated that Bonny Wright, RPS Medical Physicist, has queried radiation therapy facilities in Oregon and found out how many Cesium-137 brachytherapy sources are ready for disposal. An agreement with the CRCPD will be through the Department of Energy to dispose of these sources. They usually go to New Mexico, Hanford or WIPP site for disposal. We are looking at other sources that need to be disposed. We would like to identify them and get them included in the SCATR program. The goal is to have this completed by June 2009.

Motion

Ed Riggs moved, Don Elting seconded and it carried unanimously to move forward with the plan for disposal of sources.

Review of Licensing

Todd Carpenter stated that we are just finishing up the renewal process, along with catching up on amendment requests.

Inspection Procedures

David Howe reported that a committee comprised of senior inspectors has been creating uniform protocols/procedures for each type of inspection. Also, the committee is working on a procedure for incident tracking.

Public Health Update/Topical Discussion of Legislative Concepts

Gail Shibley reported that Radiation Protection Services does not operate with general funds, but during the upcoming proposed general fund budget cuts, they may have to help with payment of administrative services.

Within the Office of Environmental Public Health (OEPH) there are three legislative concepts that are approved and we are moving forward on. They are budget requests related to other programs in OEPH, not RPS. There are ORS changes proposed for:

1. definition of hazardous substance – update language to include substances that may contain a substance that chronic exposure will cause health

- hazardous
2. add arsenic to contaminated products list
 3. update lead authority to deal with lead-based paint issues, ie, child occupied facilities (schools, day cares, etc), rental housing, multiple family housing

All three of these proposals have positions associated with them. Given the budgetary constraints that we have, we don't know what will happen to them.

Public Comments Session

No public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

NRC NSTS

David Howe reported that as a result of 9-11 activities, the NRC is going to implement a web-based tracking system - National Source Tracking System (NSTS) tracking category one sources. One of the features of the system involves specialized identifiers of users. Training on the system will be conducted during November and December.

Todd Carpenter will be involved with developing a web-based licensing system. One of the problems is that there are so many different types of data bases throughout the states so, combining them into one web-based system will be a chore. Staffing will be another issue in development of this concept.

Subcommittee Reports

- Administrative Rules – Todd Carpenter reported that final rule changes were distributed to members. He noted that about 50% of the divisions have been reviewed. The Rules Committee will start reviewing the rest of the divisions.
- Medical Therapy and Emerging Technologies – Bonny Wright reported on emerging technologies:
 - Oregon has two new tomotherapy machines. She and Terry went to Meridian Park Hospital to see one and the other one is at Salem Hospital.
 - She had reviewed information on electronic brachytherapy which is a tiny device that is inserted into the body to treat tumors. There is one in Bend, Oregon.
 - Although Oregon doesn't have one yet, there is a cyber knife at the University of Washington. It is supposed to be a fantastic machine,

fully robotic, with a swinging arm that can provide treatment from any angle.

- Super-conducting, tiny proton treatment machines are being advertised, but they have not been made yet. There are large ones in use still.
- Medical Imaging (CT and Fluoroscopic Rules) – Steve Crawford reported that there are some possible rule changes that need to be done. Our rules basically only cover CT machines. And the rules only allow an ARRT to operate CT machines. In the past, through variances, doctors have been allowed to use the machines. Now a lot of them are located in dentist offices. Their dental assistants receive training to operate these machines. We may need to look at rule changes to allow operators other than ARRT to use specialized machines. Steve also stated that he had received a phone call from a RSO and she would like their facility to do an “abbreviated” fluoroscopic training for non-radiologist users. We will look into this issue on a case by case basis.
- Non-Ionizing Radiation – Terry Lindsey reported that this is an area that we have talked about in the past regarding regulating non-ionizing radiation. If the legislation regarding this issue is successful, then we would need to identify rules, etc.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The next meeting for the Radiation Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie J. Grater