

VIRTUAL ADVOCACY TRAINING SERIES

November 4-21, 2024

Make yourself comfortable. We will get started
in a few minutes.

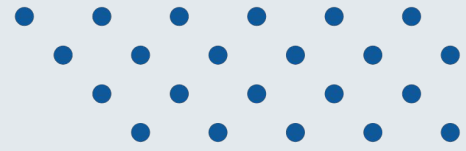
SESSION 5 : Your Pain Policy Projects

Thursday, November 21
Cindy Steinberg, Director of Policy & Advocacy

Agenda

- Review US Pain Federal Priorities & Interest Areas
- Review US Pain State Priorities & Interest Areas
- Sample projects and options
- Workshop to share your project ideas in small groups
- Cindy to move to different groups to answer questions
- Break (25 minutes)
- Come back together to share projects
- Q & A
- Discuss next steps & reminders

Small Group Leaders



Our Sponsors

The 2024 Virtual Advocacy Training Series was developed independently with funding support from Vertex Pharmaceuticals.



Thank you also to our Corporate Council for their continued support of this program, and other U.S. Pain initiatives.



2024 US Pain Advocacy Federal Priorities

- Individualized, Integrated, Multidisciplinary Pain Management– **promoting movement toward this as best practice**
- Improve Access to a Broad Range of Therapies– **including complementary modalities, behavioral health, novel therapeutics, innovative medical devices, etc.**
- Pain Management Best Practices Report Dissemination– **to educate front-line clinicians & raise awareness about CP**



2024 US Pain Advocacy Federal Priorities

- Population health data collection, analysis & reporting on CP **to better understand who is affected, prevalent conditions, cost, etc.**
- Improve telehealth coverage **for chronic care management, prescription renewal, etc.**





2024 US Pain Federal Advocacy Interest Areas

Issues we follow & take action on when there are opportunities:

- Access to opioids for those who benefit from them
 - Access to medical cannabis for those who benefit from use
 - Removing insurer roadblocks to treatments: Step Therapy, Prior Authorization, Non-medical Switching, etc.
 - Improving pain education for providers
 - Reducing the cost of prescription medication
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2024 US Pain State Advocacy Priorities

- Individualized, Integrated, Multidisciplinary Pain Management—promoting movement toward this as best practice
 - Improve Access to a Broad Range of Therapies— including complementary modalities, behavioral health, novel therapeutics, innovative medical devices, etc.
 - Continue Telehealth Coverage beyond COVID PHE for chronic care management, prescription renewal, etc.
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2024 US Pain State Advocacy Priorities

- Removing insurer roadblocks to treatments: Step Therapy, Prior Authorization, Non-medical Switching & curbing other Pharmacy Benefit Management Practices



2024 US Pain State Advocacy Interest Areas

Issues we follow & take action on when there are opportunities:

- Access to opioids for those who benefit from them
- Access to medical cannabis for those who benefit from use
- Improving pain education for providers
- Reducing the cost of prescription medication



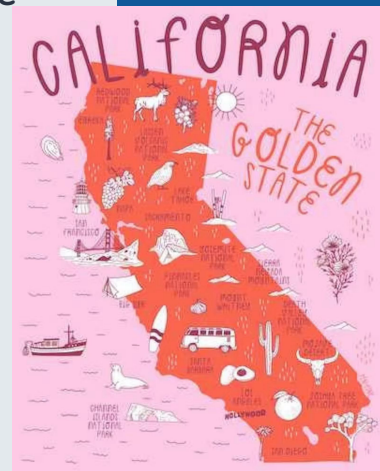
Sample State Volunteer Project

Join an existing volunteer effort in state you live in to get insurer coverage of multidisciplinary pain treatment OR start one in your state

- CA, MA, NY, ME, NH have active on-going efforts
- Start an effort in your state w/ another advocate in the class and/or with help from US Pain

Example from CA

- CA Assembly Bill 2585 – passed in August, 2022
- Says the healthcare system, including providers “should encourage the use of evidence-based non-pharmacological therapies for pain management”
- But does not require insurer coverage
- We want to require insurer coverage of a broad range of treatments including those that are not normally covered



Example State Advocacy Project in CA

- Team of U.S. Pain advocates from last year's training have been working together to research this issue
 - Found out Governor vetoes insurer mandate bills
 - Have researched other ways to accomplish this and wrote a formal comment on this issue to the CA Dept of Managed Care
 - Have started connecting with like-minded groups like CA PT's, OT's & chiropractors to find out what they are doing & discuss collaborations
 - Called CAT – CA Advocates Team 🐱
 - If you live in CA and would like to work on multidisciplinary pain care coverage, you can join that team. Let Michele know.
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Advocacy Project Options

1. Select a topic from our federal priorities or interest areas that you would like to work on and tell Michele what you plan to do or ask for help
 2. Join an existing effort in your state working on multidisciplinary pain care at the state level
 3. Search bills on your state legislature web site and find one you want to work on and reach out to sponsor
 4. Select a topic from our state priorities or interest areas that you would like to work on and tell Michele what you plan to do or ask for help
 5. For those of you with more than one advocate in the same state, see if you would like to work together on a project
 6. Chose another topic in pain advocacy to do your project on and send a description to Michele. The topic will need to align with U.S. Pain views since you will be saying you are a US Pain Volunteer Advocate. Michele will either approve or send to me if she is not sure it aligns with U.S. Pain's views or positions on the issue.
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Workshop: Discuss Your Project Ideas

- We will break into small groups and will put people from the same state together
- You can choose to do your own federal or state project or work together if you are from the same state
- Take turns sharing what you plan to do or what you are thinking about doing for your projects
- Ask any questions you may have about them and brainstorm how to help each other
- Cindy will move to different groups to hear ideas, answer questions and help you focus your project

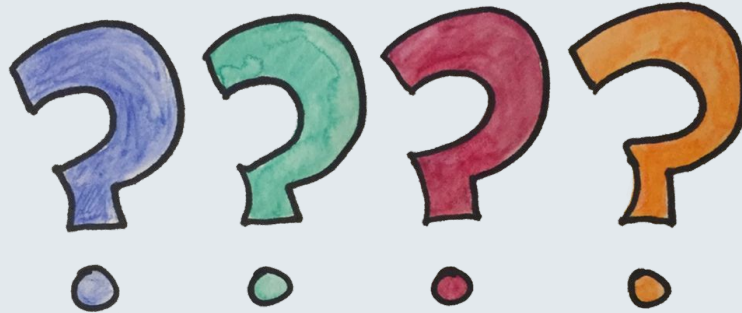


Break

We'll take a 25 minute break now. Please return in 25 minutes! Thank you.

Interactive Workshop Wrap -Up

- Did everyone in your group get a chance to discuss their project or ideas for a project?
- Who would like to share their project with the group?
- What questions do you have?

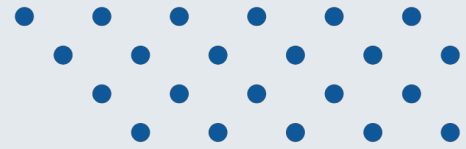




Some Lessons to Keep in Mind

- Policy work is slow, takes unpredictable turns
 - Requires patience & persistence over a long period
 - Work through aides as that is where the details often get figured out
 - Find allies with like-minded interest in bills to partner with
 - Really celebrate successes because they are difficult to achieve!
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Final Items



Continue Your Projects

- Begin counting your 10 project hours starting now, tracking your progress over the next four months.
- Keep a record of your work and share an update with Michele at the end of each month.

Questions or Assistance

- If you have questions about your projects, reach out to Michele. She can either answer directly or suggest scheduling time with Cindy for additional guidance.


Project Completion

- Once you've completed your 10 hours, notify Michele to confirm.
- Participation rewards:
 - Attend all five sessions to receive a certificate and a U.S. Pain swag bag.
 - Attend at least four sessions to receive a certificate.
- We hope you'll continue working on projects beyond the required hours!

Advocacy Alerts

- Sign up for Advocacy Alerts and actively participate when you receive them.
- To sign up:
 - Visit the U.S. Pain Foundation website → Programs → Action Opportunities → Register for Action Opportunities.

Thanks for participating!

For questions or issues, contact Michele Rice:
 michele@uspainfoundation.org

