

# CDC Report

Thursday, April 17, 2003

Palm Springs, California

## **The following is from a brief closed Board Meeting held prior to the Annual Meeting in Palm Springs:**

### **Legislative Report and State Budget:**

Michael Arnold stated that the dialysis industry has “dodged the first bullet” with regard to the state budget mid-year cuts. A \$30+ billion deficit remains to be resolved. Michael has been testifying in opposition to the proposed Medi-Cal 15% rate reduction for dialysis as well as in opposition to the elimination of non-emergency medical transportation for our patients. DaVita and FMC have hired their own lobbying firms in Sacramento to work against the Medi-Cal reductions. The “May Revise” from the Governor’s office is being awaited at this time. The Vehicle License Fee (VLF) will probably go back to the 1998 level (approximately 300% of current fees) based upon the “insufficient revenue” provision put in place at the time of the reduction. There is also talk of “rolling over” some of the deficit into the future.

DaVita and Satellite Dialysis have made PAC contributions in the amount of \$5,300 each and FMC in the amount of \$5,000. The proceeds from the silent auction at the Annual Meeting will also go into the PAC fund. Michael stated that this allows us to support legislators who are committed to maintaining high quality dialysis care in this state.

*Grassroots Committee:* Judith Filangeri reported for the Grassroots Committee. She stated that the more aware the legislators are that we exist, the better the response when we need it. Despite the fact that we made it through the mid-year budget cuts, we are not in the clear yet. We have had a good response from the dialysis community in this effort and, hopefully, that will help get us through next year’s budget. Michael Arnold stated that the process is working and that it helps. He thanked Judith and her committee.

*PCT Training:* Michael Arnold distributed the “DHS Suggested Amendments with CDC to AB 1739 (as introduced).” It appears that the Department adopted all of the recommendations CDC made at the March 16 Board Meeting in Oakland. Of particular note, they accepted our recommendation for 120 classroom (or “didactic”) hours with 280 clinical hours. The document was reviewed in general and Michael asked the board to review the document in depth and get back to him if there are any problems.

**LVN Regulations Status Report:** The California Nurses Association (CNA) filed suit and requested a temporary restraining order; the request was denied. Administrative Hearing was scheduled for this date and CNA is requesting a preliminary injunction. The Administrative Law Judge will post the results of the hearing on their website later in the day. CNA may still move forward with their lawsuit if they lose in today’s hearing. (Note: Later in the meeting, the Board was advised that the judge found in favor of the State, saying the CNA had not presented a case that would “win on the merits”.)

**Medicare Report:** Carol DiRaimondo, MD, stated that CDC needs an alternate representative for NHIC (Medicare Part B carrier) to attend the Carrier Advisory Committee meetings. The committee meets quarterly and is a good opportunity for networking. Carol is the representative, but needs a new alternate. Brian Wong, MD was nominated and accepted the position.

**Annual Conference:** Sue Vogel reported that 180 attendees are pre-registered for the meeting this week. Mike Paget asked the Board whether the policy that there be no refunds after April 1 (as published in the meeting brochure) should stand. The Board voted that it should stand.

The hotel food cost is estimated to be \$162 per person. The registration fee of \$200 for attendees, which has not changed in years, barely covers this cost. At the May Board meeting, the financial status of the Annual Meeting will be discussed and the issue of fee structure will be reviewed. There are only two hotels in Palm Springs that are large enough for our group, so we are somewhat limited in venues. The program committee will summarize evaluations from the Annual Meeting and these will be reviewed at the May meeting as well.

**Web Site:** Brian Wong reported that there have been over 3000 visits since the inception of the site. Mike Paget stated that visits have been increasing as a result of the LVN issue. The ESRD Networks are referring inquiries to the CDC web site.

**Other Business:** John De Palma, MD stated that he would like to approach Senator Sheila Kuehl, in conjunction with the CDC, for the purpose of increasing funding for nursing programs. Michael Arnold stated that Senator Kuehl has been an advocate for us in the past, but that at this time there is no money in the State. Michael also stated that the issue of nursing shortage has been presented to the legislators for the past three years. John said that he would like to get the message out anyway.

**The next Open CDC Board Meeting will be held  
in Los Angeles on May 16, 2003**

More information may be obtained from our web site at:  
<http://www.caldialysis.org/EVENTS.htm>