

IEPC Meeting
August 24, 2020
9:00 am - 10:30 am PT
Meeting held by Zoom Video Conference



MINUTES

All people present at this meeting must have a signed IEPC Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). All content and discussion in this meeting is held to confidentiality in NDA.

Present:

Attendees: Sameer Mistry, Robert Chavez, Jackie Reardon, Roneet Lev, Kavitha Weaver, Kian Azimian, Peter Anderson, Timothy Korber, Knef Lizaso, Mike Weitz, Casey Grover, Russ Kino, Andrew Fenton

Admin: Julie Hewett, Danielle Inscoe, Cassie Chinn

Guest: Brent Walls

AGENDA:

I. Introduction

II. Financial Report

III. Restructuring Insurance

Brent Walls, CPA reviewed IEPC's financial and considered pros and cons for IEPC's current legal structure. At its foundation, IEPC received advice to structure IEPC as a C Corp based on minimal starting costs, paper filing complexities, and the concept of zeroing out the balance at the end of each year. Brent reported that this has a large impact on income tax for the association. In 2018, IEPC paid \$7800 in federal taxes, \$4100 in state taxes, in 2019 IEPC paid franchise taxes. IEPC has a higher directors and policy insurance premium because all participants are considered shareholders rather than members. IEPC in fact is operating as a non profit with education and advocacy. Brent recommends IEPC reorganize as a non-profit organization rather than remaining as a C Corp. Based on advocacy activities IEPC participates in, the recommendation is to restructure as a 501(c)6.

It was clarified that a 501(c) 6 structure allows for advocacy such as supporting or opposing legislation that affects independent emergency physicians. However such a group cannot lobby, meaning providing money to candidates for office.

The group had No objections to restructuring IEPC as a 501(c)3 were raised.

Roneet will proceed with confirmation with IEPC board members followed by working with Brent Walls on restructuring.

IV. Membership

Membership is current stable.

V. California ACEP Board of Directors

IEPC has two members on California ACEP board of directors, Valerie Norton and Mike Gertz. Congratulations to Andrew Fenton, IEPC member on being selected for California ACEP's most prestigious award, the Walter Edwards award.

VI. IEPC Services

- EDDBA membership
- Resume Sharing

- HR Repository
- Sexual Harassment Training - California mandate for those with 25 or more "employees" (independent contractors not excluded)
- Annual Report - available to any IEPC group who want to invest the time in putting this together
- Employment Advertising
- Newsletter Content
 - Interesting case of the month
 - Feature from other groups

VIII. Round Table Discussion

Telemedicine visit issues – Monterrey has been successful in instituting telemedicine services in their ED with support of the hospital. They are able to do follow up visits and Addiction treatment. The larger Southern California EDs have me obstacles from the hospital administration. The hospital wishes to avoid competition of tele-health services with primary care offices. They also quote Stark laws in allowing an ED group to use hospital owned tele-health equipment for by a non-hospital owned physician group.

ED Volume - Groups are still below baseline volume of patients, they have adjusted by decreasing physician hours and coverage. Scripps Chula Vista is in a unique position of hiring physicians for their urgent care. Please use the resume sharing system if you receive resume from people you cannot hire for yourself.

Malpractice Rebate. Malpractice premium is expected to provide an end of the year rebate based on decrease volume. Roneet reported that TDC contacted her group about a COVID-19 credit. Groups should contact their malpractice carrier to inquire about that.

Fires in California – individuals are being displaced from their homes due to the fires in California. The Monterrey group is expecting a spike in COVID cases due to the fires and evacuations.

PPE – There was a discussion around physicians being allowed to purchase their own PPE. ACEP supports allowing physicians to bring their own PPE. CAL-OSHA also supports physicians purchasing their own PPE.

Employment - Please post your job opportunities on IEPC web site. Please use resume-sharing service if you have a resume and cannot currently hire. Contact admin@iepc.org

AB 890 - This bill will allow NP to practice independently. It looks like this bill will pass and California ACEP is trying to obtain a carve out for emergency physicians. Dr. Fenton shared the case of a New York Hospital whose chief of staff was a PA and changed hospital bypass in adversarial way for physicians. Please have each doctor in your group have their voice heard.

Groups discuss local hospital politics, foundation model.

IEPC will be moving towards auto pay for dues.

Next Meeting

Conference Call Monday, September 28 –9 AM PT

Mid-Year Meeting - no in person meeting considered for 2020 due to pandemic