



MA & ME Cancer Advocacy Call October 28, 2020

ME Attendees: Hilary S., Bethany, Liz, Matt, & Mikala

MA Attendees: Maggie, Patti, Brock, Dan, Dana, Matthew, Carol, Alice, Steve, Annette, and Nikki

AGENDA

- **Welcome**
- **Updates and Action Items**
- **Post Election Activities**
- **State Teams Discussion:**
 - **2020 State Legislative Session**
 - **Other State Updates**



Welcome everyone to the call.

REMIND Melissa to record the call and MUTE lines if she doesn't. 😊

Remind participants they can use the chat or they can unmute on the screen. If on the phone it's *6 to unmute their line.

Review the agenda

We will be splitting into state teams tonight. Due to our technical issues last month, we're asking you to please test the chat now by saying hi! We are also asking that you once again be patient with the technology. It will be MUCH smoother if you have called in via your computer or tablet. For those of you that are on the phone, you will have to hang up when we split, and call in to the room via a different number. Melissa will provide those numbers right before we split, so here's your warning to get something to write with and on.



Updates & Action

- Ambassador Action Center
- November Meeting
- Henrietta Lacks Enhancing Cancer Research Act
- Reigniting Research Event Update



Ambassador Action Center:

- One last reminder that all actions and points reset on September 1st, so don't be surprised if you log in and all your points from last year are gone. 😊
- Shout out to Dan, Dana, Kate, Alice, Patti, Leanna, Emily, Steven & Erin in Massachusetts for logging a total of 74 actions for a total of 1603 points in the Ambassador Action Center since our September call.
- A shout out to Carol P., Jeff, Mikala, and Bethany in Maine for logging a total of 16 actions for a total of 702 points since our September call
- Not sure what to log or what each area is worth for points? Melissa will be including a compressive sheet that breaks down the sections and how many points each are worth along with the meeting minutes.
- Don't have access to the Ambassador Action Center? Email Melissa (melissa.stacy@cancer.org) and she'll hook you up!

November Meeting Date and Topic: Our next volunteer meeting will be November 18 at 7pm. We'll be sharing updates then splitting into teams for state specific 2021 & 2022 plan review.

Henrietta Lacks Enhancing Cancer Research Act: We are slowly starting to see our federal lawmakers start to co-sponsor the Henrietta Lacks Enhancing Cancer Research Act. We'd love to have as many as possible sign on as co-sponsors by the end of the year. In Maine, Senator Collins has signed on. In Massachusetts Representative Kennedy (CD4) and Representative Lynch (CD8) has signed on. **ACTION:** Melissa will be including updated talking points on the legislation with the meeting minutes. We are asking everyone to reach out to their contact in your Federal Congress member and Senators offices and ask them to please co-sponsor this important legislation. The more co-sponsors we have by the end of this session, the easier it will be to get them to re-commit next year!

Reigniting Research Event Update: As you all know, the Reigniting Research Event took place on Monday, October 26th. Thank you to everyone who played a role in helping make this event a HUGE success. We had over 450 attendees join to hear from Dr. Ned Sharpless, Director of the National Cancer Institute, MA Lt. Governor Karyn Polito (Poe-Lee-toe), Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley – MA CD7, and a very powerful survivor speaker who is currently in her 8th clinical trail for ovarian cancer. If you missed the event, and would like to watch it, you still can! Melissa will include a link in the minutes, with instructions on how to view the recording.

The story behind the picture: ACS held it's breast cancer events through October, raising money to support patients facing a breast cancer diagnosis, as well as fund life-saving cancer research. ACS CAN Maine CD1 Lead Diane Aston created an amazing video, sharing her personal story and encouraging others to take action and join ACS CAN. The photos are a few that Diane shared for the video. The video will be posted to Maine and MA state social media pages on Halloween, and was shown the Boston event, and many other events in NH. Thank you Diane for sharing your story with ACS CAN!



With the election on November 3rd, we are asking everyone to use this opportunity to build your relationship with your STATE elected officials. Whether your State Senator or Representative are elected for the first time, or are being reelected, we are asking everyone to please send a note (card, letter, or email) congratulating them and sharing our priorities for the 2021-2022 session with them. Below are some talking points you can use for the card or letter.

Tips:

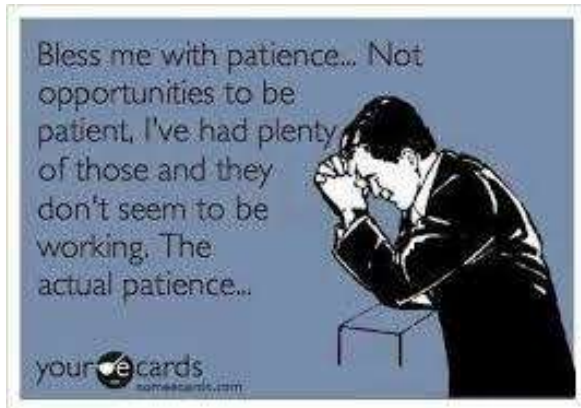
- A snail mail note, letter, or card addressed directly to the legislator is the best format.
- If a note, keep it to 3 or 4 sentences. If a letter, keep it to 2 or 3 paragraphs.
- Include your contact information in your note so they can contact you if needed.
- Include the 2021-2022 Legislative Agenda with your note or letter – We'll be reviewing the legislative agenda in our state specific breakouts shortly, and the hard copy document will be emailed with these notes.

Talking Points you could include in a letter or email:

- Congratulate them on their recent election or re-election to the office.
- Introduce yourself as a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) and a constituent.
- Share with them a little about why you are volunteering with ACS CAN.

- This is a great time to share with them your connection to cancer
- Share a little about yourself and what motivates you
- Let them know you are available in their community as a resource for cancer related policies.
 - *Don't worry...if they ask you a question you don't know the answer to, Melissa, Patti, Hilary, and Mikala will be able to find you the answer.
- Let them know you'll be reaching out to them in the new year regarding specific bill sponsorship.
 - Something as simple as, I look forward to working with you in the new year on opportunities to support ACS CANs mission through policy.
- Please log any card or email you send into the Ambassador Action Center.

STATE TEAM BREAKOUTS



Maine:

- [Link in chat](#)
- **1-917-727-7985 513 376 250#**

Massachusetts:

- [Link in chat](#)
- **1-917-727-7985 122 568 210#**



Now it's time to move into our State Teams. I'll be sharing specifics on how to do this momentarily. A few things to note: I'm going to stay in this room and provide support until everyone is able to move into their state specific room. We are not coming back together at the end. For the Maine team, Hilary S. will be moderating the call and sharing any Maine specific updates. For the Massachusetts team, Patti will get you started and I'll be joining as soon as everyone is set. Thanks to everyone for joining the joint call tonight!

For those of you that have joined via computer – I'm putting the link to the rooms in the chat. Find the Massachusetts or Maine Room and click the link to join.

For those of you that have joined via phone, you will need to hang up and call in to the number I'm about to give you.

For Maine: the phone number is **1-917-727-7985 513 376 250#**

For Massachusetts: the phone number is **1-917-727-7985 122 568 210#**

FINISHING OUT THE YEAR

- **FY21 Budget**
 - **Tobacco Control**
 - **Prostate Cancer**
 - **Breast Cancer**
 - **Patient Palliative Care**
 - **Healthy Incentives Program**
- **Step Therapy/Fail First**



Post election we expect the FY21 budget to be realized by the House. Depending on what's in the budget, we'll work with our sponsors to file amendments as needed on the issues above.

We also believe that the Step Therapy/Fail First legislation should begin moving again, and will keep you posted as we hear from our sponsors.

2021 & 2022 PRIORITIES

- **FY21/FY22 Budget**
- **Step Therapy/Fail First – TBD based on 2020**
- **Healthcare Plan Transparency**
- **Medicaid Clinical Trials**



Our 2021/2022 priorities will be determined by what happens through the end of this year. If Step Therapy/Fail First passes by the end of session 2020, our number one priority will be Healthcare Plan Transparency. If Step Therapy/Fail First doesn't pass, then that will be our number one priority.

New in 2021/2022 we'll be working on legislation that would require MassHealth (Medicaid) to cover routine patient care while in a clinical trial. More information will be coming on these priorities during our November call.

On the call, there were a number of amazing questions, and a few that stumped me. 😊 I checked in with Marc and here are the answers. 😊

1. Dan asked if Step Therapy/Fail First applies just to approved treatments or to clinical trials as well. Answer: It should apply to all treatments available.
2. Steve asked if the Medicaid coverage for routine care during clinical trials could be changed via state regulations or if it has to go through the legislature. Answer: It's possible it could be changed via regulations, and Marc is looking into this option, however we are going to file legislation in January to ensure that we have multiple paths to the desired outcome.
3. Alice asked if Medicaid picks up the bill for the patient routine care during clinical trials,

who does the cost removal benefit? Is it the drug manufacturer who currently pays these costs, or the patient? Answer: The cost savings will benefit the patient only. They are the ones currently responsible for those costs.

WRAPPING IT UP

- **Questions?**
- **Next Call: November 18 at 7pm**



Our next call is November 18th at 7pm. We look forward to talking with you all then.

Thanks for joining us tonight and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.