

February 8, 2022
Full NCECA Board
ZOOM

In attendance: NCECA Board members Pete Pinnell (President), Rhonda Willers, Merrie Wright, Reena Kashyap, MaPó Kinnord, Chanda Zea, Heidi McKenzie, PJ Anderson, Simon Levin, Brett Binford, Lauren Sandler, Michelle Castro, Jeff Vick, Nancy Servis, Ray Gonzales, Pam Kravetz, Cal Cullen, Shoji Satake, Executive Director Josh Green, NCECA Staff Helen Anderson, Dori Nielsen, and Allyson Hoffelmeyer, and guest Joseph Nierenberg.

Absent: Absent: Alex Hibbitt, Dina Perlasca, Ife Williams, & Edith Garcia

7.05 pm EST meeting called to order by NCECA President Pete Pinnell.
A quorum is present.

Business

1. Update from The NCECA Ad Hoc Safety Committee on the 2022 Conference (Helen, Pete).

Helen presented the work of the committee: (Josh, Pete, Rhonda, Nancy, Dori, Helen)
The Covid compliance committee formed in early January, with Attorney Joe Nierenberg and covid compliance contractor Diane Niggli joining the group. The committee has been charged with exploring the covid environment as it pertains to the conference and has met weekly, pulling together data and meeting various specialists and consultants, gathering quotes.

The committee recommends that the conference go forward in Hybrid form with following measures in place:

- Security and safety compliance enforcement
- Health screening
- Signage posted at entrance and throughout convention center

This is based on many factors including national and regional covid infection trends data, onsite and hotel registrations, climate conditions in Sacramento that support outdoor gathering, the high level of HVAC safety compliance and monitoring at the newly renovated convention center and data from other large events planned in this time period.

Helen outlined additional measures that will be implemented in support of attendee health safety; A covid testing site run by RokketMed and Security and covid compliance handled by MIB (Members in Black), who come highly recommended by the convention center.

Proof of vaccination or a negative test by an authorized testing facility are currently required by the State of California for Mega events, this may change before the conference. Diane Niggli, NCECA's covid compliance specialist, will oversee vaccination records and admissions process and the committee recommends hiring an additional staff member to work with Diane, additional volunteers and an MIB team member. The committee does not recommend temperature screening stations as they have not proved effective against Omicron and also does not see the benefit in purchasing standalone vaccination records software as California Department of health guidelines include a number of different formats to access vaccination cards. Discussion with Vairs continues about possible vaccine card uploads for attendees, but questions remain on several fronts before NCECA decides if this is feasible. Programmatic changes include replacing the Friday Night dance with a curated storytelling experience produced in collaboration with Capital Storytelling. All of the covid compliance measures fall within our planned line budget.

There was discussion about vaccination and testing guidelines and attendee status, attendance numbers and vaccination or testing verification and social distancing strategies. The board also discussed policies and obligation to provide resources to an attendee who tests positive at the conference. Attendees must have vaccination records or negative tests before entry to the conference center. Joe alerted the board that the definition of fully vaccinated in California at this time is two weeks past the date of their second Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccination dose, or a single dose for Johnson & Johnson to be considered fully vaccinated. PCRs must be taken within 48hrs and Anitgen tests 24hrs. (self-administered home tests are not acceptable in California at this time.) In addition, there will be no other conference at the conference center at the same time as NCECA and the conference center capacity is much larger than any attendance we are expecting.

2. Update from the Sacramento Onsite Liaisons (Nancy, Ray)

Over 80 exhibitions are being installed and the community is excited. California is an outdoor place, with weather in March looking favorable and with many outdoor dining options available for conference goers. The onsite folks are currently working with *Visit Sacramento* to arrange for food trucks and possibly a farm stall near the conference center to encourage people outside for their meals while staying close to the center. Nancy let the board know that Sacramento is ready for the conference. The convention center has the same air filtration system as hospitals and NCECA's covid prevention procedures are excellent.

Announcements

1. **Board report reminder** - Board reports from October 1, 2021 to March 1, 2022 are due March 1, to be approved and posted before conference.
2. **Reminder to board members** to register for the conference as soon as possible. (Rhonda)
3. **Board events & board roles at conference** (Rhonda)
Let Josh, Rhonda, and Pete know if unable to attend in person so duties can be assigned for both in person and virtual conferences. At the March 8th meeting , we will review board roles and needs at the conference.

4. Update from the ad hoc committee for conference management search
(Reena/Josh/Chanda)

The Committee has been meeting weekly and working diligently to identify a conference manager/management consultant. Their report is very detailed. NCECA is currently preparing a contract with an individual from the committee's recommended organization to begin working with Dori this year and then take over next year for conference management.

The board thanked the committee for their diligent work.

Meeting adjourned at 8.12pm EST by NCECA President Peter Pinnell.

With thanks to Allyson Hoffelmeyer for taking notes.