

---

# Yasuko's Notes

Thoughts from your AAP District IX Chair

August 30, 2019

---

It has been 6 months since my first blog expressing my thoughts to our California District, Chapter and National Committee leaders. I hope to continue to keep you informed of the latest issues and activities at the state and national level. You will get a different and complementary perspective from Kris Calvin, our AAP CA CEO in her "Three for Thought".

Feel free to share this communication with others. You can also reach me by email at [yfukuda@aap.net](mailto:yfukuda@aap.net) or call me at my office 415-752-8038 or home 415-883-2614. My Twitter handle is @D9Sushi and I hope to keep you engaged. For process issues, please contact our AAP-CA team at [office@aap-ca.org](mailto:office@aap-ca.org)

## Vol. 2 - 2019

### 1) Chair of District IX – the past 6 month...

It has been a blur of activity as District IX Chair.

We have monthly board conference calls, policy statements, technical reports and clinical practice guidelines to approve. I was also involved with an AAP book publication review. I travelled to Niigata, Japan in late Spring as liaison from the AAP to the Japan Pediatric Society, working on Bright Futures, the medical home and immunizations. I also presented on the AAP Pediatric Research in Office Settings (PROS) Network.

The work of the 4 AAP board committees is ongoing: Governance, Policy and the 2 on which I serve – Membership Value and Engagement as well as Finance.

In addition, a new fifth board committee on Strategic Planning was established.

The May Board meeting discussion included:

1. Review and discussion of the proposed budget for year 2019-20
  2. Appointment of new committee members and reappointment of current committee member
-

3. Approval of requests to elevate the Disaster and Preparedness Advisory Committee and the Immigrant Health Special Interest Group to councils with board-appointed Executive Committees
4. Updates on the Board Policy Manual revision
5. National Nominating Committee recommendations for upcoming President-Elect and At-Large Board Members
6. Board's and staff's progress in the AAP's strategic plan now in its third year
7. AAP's current child health priorities
8. Planning of our Board Retreat this fall
9. Board's responses to the Top Ten Resolutions from the Annual Leadership Forum (ALF)
10. Intents for policy and inventories of policies and clinical practice guidelines
11. Process for endorsement of external organizations policies and guidelines
12. Process for review of "Choosing Wisely" statement inventory
13. Looking at Cost-effectiveness and policy statements

Updates were provided on:

1. The CHILD Data Registry – a longitudinal clinical record on individuals from childhood
2. The Gun Safety and Injury Prevention Initiative
3. Final Report from the Task Force on Bias and Discrimination
4. Women's Wellness through Equity and Leadership (WEL) project
5. The Physician Health and Wellness Advisory Group held their first meeting to discuss initiative and future direction
6. Global Child Health – ongoing projects and potential to involve residents and young physicians
7. Digital Transformation Initiative (DTI) Update: AAP.org Content Migration and Communication
8. Advocacy Update –
  - The April 2019 Legislative Conference involved a record 320 AAP members and the largest Pediatric Subspecialty Advocacy Track to date.
  - A reception honoring Rep Kim Schrier (D-Wash), the first ever pediatrician in Congress, and Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett Giroir, the highest-ranking pediatrician at the Department of Health and Human Services.
9. Ongoing Advocacy priorities include:
  - Child Welfare – 2018 landmark Family First Prevention Services Act implements changes in the Welfare system to improve prevention and keep children safely with their families, working to deauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to focus more on primary prevention of maltreatment with a public health approach.
  - Vaccines – Hearings were held in the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Senate Committee on Health Education Labor and Pensions on the importance of vaccinations in light of the ongoing measles outbreaks. Pediatricians were asked to comment on the importance of vaccines. Multiple states have been active on vaccine exemptions. Washington state removed the personal exemption. Oregon and Maine have bills eliminating non-medical exemptions moving through their legislatures.

Colorado also has a process for making the non-medical exemption application more rigorous passed in the House. Finally, California's Dr. Richard Pan has introduced SB276 to create a statewide standardized medical exemption process and requirements for approval or denial of medical exemption requests.

- Gun Violence - Prevention – Advocating for \$50 million in federal gun violence prevention research, and universal background checks for sales and transfers of firearms.
- Access to Care - Continued work with AAP Chapters against Medicaid Waivers which would create barriers to care. Continued to monitor Medicaid Block Grants/Per Capita Caps which can create a significant threat to Medicaid financing. Ongoing monitoring and defending of the Affordable Care Act.
- “Ace” Kids – Advancing Care for the Exceptional Kids Act signed in 2019 addresses challenges facing children with complex medical conditions by improving the best practices and coordination of care across multiple clinicians and services.
- Tobacco – Combatting youth use of e-cigarettes (especially newer high nicotine content products like JUUL). The FDA ordered to act on the graphic warning labels. Multiple states enacting Tobacco 21 legislation (to raise the minimum age of purchase to 21.
- Immigration – Family Separation, Conditions in CBP Custody and supporting continued terms of the Flores Settlement Agreement. Issues with Public Charge and the harmful impact of the proposed rule on vulnerable populations. There is so much work to do to continue to protect these children.
- Child Nutrition/SNAP preservation of nutrition programs and the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee to include pediatricians in key positions.
- Priority Health Bills: Over the Counter Drugs, Pandemic Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program, Autism CARES and Newborn Screening Acts reauthorization.
- Advocacy communication: Fisher-Price Recalls the Rock ‘n Play Sleeper which was tied to 32 sleep-related infant deaths amid pressure from AAP.

10. AAP Chapters Affairs and Services to support operations, Chapter EDs Conference, ALF introduced Virtual Reference Committee hearings prior to the meeting. DVCs Mentor and Networking session with Chapter Vice Presidents. Grants programs on Adolescent vaccination and Nutrition Education. Ongoing support of a Chapter Champion model of engagement.

As you can see, much is happening on the national scene.

Next on the agenda is our Strategic Board Retreat in the Fall and the annual National Conference and Exhibition (NCE) in New Orleans October 25–29, 2019.

I hope to see you at our District IX Town Hall on Sunday morning of the NCE!

## 2) Back in California with AAP CA...

In **May**, the leaders of AAP California met in Sacramento for Strategic planning as well as an Advocacy Day in Sacramento. The AAP CA Board (including Chapter officers) as well as the members of State Government Affairs (SGA) committee attended.

Strategic Planning Day was on Sunday to brainstorm our priorities for children and pediatricians in California. Continued advocacy on multiple issues affecting children and pediatricians in our state remain top priority. Senator Richard Pan also participated in discussion – we are lucky to have this pediatrician advocate in office. The challenge is to be effective with what resources we have and to continue promoting our partnerships. Communication and engagement of our members needs to be enhanced. Finally, we need to be innovative about financing to continue to fund our activities – promoting our successful Las Vegas educational conference and create other opportunities. Subgroups met to dive into the areas of Advocacy, Communication, Membership and Finance and we hope to move forward.

Our second day was focused on Advocacy. In the morning, we gathered around to hear about updates and current status on many issues from our CEO, Kris Calvin, who has reviewed a record of hundreds of bills this legislative session! Our hard-working SGA committee led by Drs. Jacques Corriveau and Mona Patel meet monthly to implement our advocacy efforts.

Highlighting our session was hearing from Nadine Burke-Harris, MD the first Surgeon General of California who was recently appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom. She discussed her goal of addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and how to help impacted children. We are very lucky to have both pediatricians, Drs. Burke-Harris and Pan as allies to affect policies in the state of California! The second speaker was Erin Haney, JD the National Policy Director for the nonprofit cut50.org (and daughter of our CEO, Kris Calvin) who discussed alternatives to incarceration for parents and caregivers and minimizing the traumatic experience to their children.

At the luncheon, we honored my mentor, Dr. Stuart Cohen, our Immediate Past District Chair. I hope (and know) he will continue to be involved. He has been an amazing leader and advocate for children in California. Thank you for all you have accomplished!

I would also like to recognize Dr. Bob Black from Monterey who chaired our SGA committee for over a decade and recently passed away. The many efforts of individuals including Dr. Black, our current SGA Co-Chairs and members of the committee as well as the residents in the 10 programs who train with Kris Calvin make our successful advocacy possible. Thanks to all!

Attendees had over 30 appointments with their legislators in the afternoon to meet and offer AAP CA as a resource on various child health issues. Discussions included Immunization (and exemptions), the



impact of pesticides on public health, criminal diversion programs for primary caregivers of minor children, and sugar-sweetened beverages. Many important contacts were made that afternoon.

In **July**, AAP California District IX met with AAP New York District II at the AAP National Headquarters in Itasca for our annual Combined District Meeting. National AAP President Dr. Kyle Yasuda and the AAP interim CEO Mark Del Monte reported on the current state of affairs. The President-Elect Candidates, Drs. Lee Beers and Pam Shaw, presented their thoughts. There was ample time for networking and leadership development and help with Chapter branding.

Additionally, there were sessions on:

- Vaccine Hesitancy and impact on public health by Leslie Rodrigues, PhD from the CDC National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
- Physician Suicide – with a very personal powerful talk from Dr. Alan Nager (ER at Children’s Hospital LA) who lost his daughter during her pediatric intern year, and Dr. Stuart Slavic with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)
- Oral Health – by Dr. Susan Fisher-Owens from the Exec Committee of the Committee on Oral Health
- ACEs – by Dr. Alice Kuo UCLA and current President of California Chapter 2.
- Global Health – from Dr. Janna Patterson AAP Senior Vice President of Global Child Health

AAP California also met separately to allow the four chapters to network and share issues.

Chapter Presidents who just ended their terms include Dr. John Takayama (Chapter 1) and Dr. Eric Ball (Chapter 4) and we thank them for their leadership.

- Reports were given by the Residents, Early Career Pediatricians, and CATCH and ALF representatives.
- Advocacy issues and current status were presented and discussed.
- In an update to our Strategic Planning meeting on Communication – there was a presentation on our newly designed website which will also include a place for members to find the latest on positions on various legislative bills. We have an Executive Assistant for Kris Calvin – Eileen Rendahl who is primarily responsible for this new website.
- Lastly there were reports on the business of our District from myself (as Chair), Dr. Paula Whiteman (District Vice Chair) and Dr. Ed Curry (Treasurer)

We had a successful networking meeting with New York - enjoyable also for Friday night dinner at the Arlington Horse Race Tracks (where I won my first race ever- betting to win on Rosie Bear) and Saturday night at the Zanie’s Comedy Club in Rosemont.

### 3) Family, Roots and End of Summer...

The end of summer and the start of school approaches. I hope you had a wonderful time connecting and spending time with your family.

In June, my cousin from Japan came to visit – her first time in the US. She LOVED meeting my 2 Shiba Inu dogs. Her uncle had multiple pets of the breed and is why we have them now.

ONLY when I have visitors, I do the tourist activities in San Francisco, We rode the Cable Car to Fisherman's Wharf, walked around Ghirardelli Square and Cannery Row and shopped at the Ferry Building including the outside market on Saturday. Meanwhile, I had a great opportunity to spend time with my cousin who I do not see very often.

We ended one day hiking to Land's End near the base of the Golden Gate Bridge. Looking out on the Bay, I pointed out the sights – including Alcatraz and Angel Island. The fog was rolling in and the water was dotted with sailing ships and windsurfers. A beautiful sight which I take for granted every day.

As I was explaining the various landmarks to my cousin, it dawned on me that Angel Island is now a place one can take a picnic and hike around. However, the island has a very different past. It was designated as Fort McDowell by the army in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During World War II the island was used as a detention station for the Japanese, German, and Italian immigrant residents and in 1891 a quarantine station to screen Asian passengers due to the threat of the Bubonic Plague. From 1910 to 1940, the Angel Island immigration station was used primarily to control Chinese entry into the United States and investigate Chinese who had been denied entry from the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Immigrants had to prove that they had husbands or fathers who were US citizens in order to not to be deported. Over one million Chinese immigrants were detained at Angel Island for from a few weeks up to 2 years needing to pass a medical examination and an immigration hearing. Those detained were predominantly Chinese, Japanese, and other Asian immigrants who sailed across the Pacific Ocean. A person's racial identity and social class determined the intensity of the examination imposed, resulting in fewer white Europeans and American citizens being subjected to the inspections. My husband Peter's grandparents came from China to the US through Angel Island. When I asked him how long they were there, he said "my grandmother never ever talked about her experience going through Angel Island." I can only imagine what she must have endured.

This makes me reflect on the current state of the immigrants at the borders. We have not learned from our history with Angel Island or the Japanese Internment. Groups of people endure hardship to come to our country for a better, safer life. They do not deserve to be detained like criminals in substandard facilities to endure an unimaginable existence.

I am proud to belong to an organization that speaks out against the atrocities and inhumane conditions that are not good for families and children.

---

I also think we can all be grateful and proud to be the descendants of immigrants who came here and succeeded so we can do what we want today. In the midst of my day-to-day work, often feeling overwhelmed – I try to stop and remember this. I come home to Peter and our dogs who give me unconditional love. All they want is to be fed and petted and they are happy!

Please take the time to spend with your family, children, puppies and friends. What you all do is amazing!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by the letters 'MD'.

Yasuko