



SPE Advisory Committee Meeting August 24, 2023 (Virtual) Notes

In attendance: Paige Smith, Alicia Armijo, Jared Abdirkin, LeAnn Detillier, Cyd Grua

Absent: Shelley Plutto, Sean Seepersad, Amy Spies

NC-SARA Staff: Marianne Boeke, Terri Taylor-Straut, Rachel Christeson, Ray Audett, Emily Jacobson

Agenda:

I. Welcome, Review of Agenda – Terri

II. SPE Conference Update – Marianne

- a. Attendee information
 - i. 80 people registered; 40 states are represented and 4 board members are attending.
- b. Review [final agenda](#) (must log in to SPE Website)

III. Helping SPEs Educate Institutions about SARA – Marianne & Terri

- a. Institution Welcome Kit – Terri
 - i. Modeled after the SPE Welcome Kit – includes welcome, who to contact for what, “What I need to do as a SARA participating institution”, and About SARA and NC-SARA.
 - ii. Will be on website and attached to the institution participation letter.
- b. New policy changes coming out of October board meeting – Marianne
 - i. Will be announcing after Sept 4 which policies are going to board via email; will also do eblast after the board vote in October.
 - ii. How else to communicate:
 - 1. Webinar would be very helpful – for institutions and SPEs.
 - a. Should they be one, or separate webinars? One might be fine, but a separate time for discussion with SPEs.
 - 2. Would be helpful to present by section in the *SARA Policy Manual* – it’s been difficult to track the larger impact of individual policy proposals.

3. The communication could look like a Quick Start Guide – maybe with a grid of what, how, impact.... especially for institutions and SPEs.
4. Communication should discuss the reasoning – why did some policies get voted on and not others? What will be coming back in the future?
5. There are three categories of policies at this point: institutions, SPEs, and NC-SARA-related.
6. What we need to prepare for SPEs and institution staff will really depend on the magnitude of changes – won't know until after the board votes.

IV. SPE Annual Survey – Rachel

- a. See attached “final survey.”
- b. Discuss confidentiality in sharing results.
 - i. Need to share up front if it's confidential – give people the option to opt out.
 - ii. Be very clear who results will be shared with.
 - iii. Sharing the results will increase transparency and goodwill between NC-SARA, compacts, and states.

V. SARA Portal Knowledge Base Concept – Ray

- a. Demo of SARA Portal Knowledge Base concept
 - i. All guidelines would live right within the portal instead of being separate documents – we could replace the Portal Handbook.
 - ii. Should documents be on a dedicated help page or right in the portal?
 - iii. Would be helpful to have a list of who to contact for what within NC-SARA.
 - iv. No need for hard copy Portal Handbook if the information is all right there – one or two options of how to get the information should be enough. Some SPEs reported liking to have the handbook in hard copy form. Perhaps test the online articles for several months and then determine whether we need to update the Portal Handbook in the spring of 2024.

VI. SARA Portal SPE Summit 2024– Marianne

- a. Brainstorm topics & timeframe
 - i. Past topics included financial issues, accreditation... can be a broad workshop or focused on one specific topic.
 - ii. Ideas:
 1. What's in the future for SARA, both short- and long-term?
 2. The policy votes could impact what we need to talk about.

- iii. We will be holding off on the SPE Workshop in June and will instead plan webinars as needed – federal negotiated rulemaking is highly likely, as well as branch campuses.

VII. Next Steps & Adjourn (Terri / All)

Future meetings:

- October 30, 10-11:15am MT
- December 14, 11am-12:15pm MT