Objectives

- Discuss the profound impact Libby Brateman had on the guidance and regulations on radiation protection in Florida.

Libby Brateman

- The voice of reason is small, but very persistent. Sigmund Freud
- Success does not come over night it needs a lot of hard work, persistent efforts, overcoming obstacles and failures to climb up the ladder. Anurag Prakash Ray
- The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible. Unknown
- It’s much easier to be convincing if you care about your topic. Figure out what’s important to you about your message and speak from the heart. Nicholas Boothman
Mammography Quality Assurance Act

- Libby was passionate about quality of mammography images and supported the training of inspectors to perform their duties in FL.
- Florida was one of the first states to agree to perform the FDA inspections.
- Libby met with the Bureau Chief Lyle Jerrett.
- She became a confidant and a person he would contact with issues of concern.

Libby made an impression

- Invited as an ex-official to the Florida Bureau of Radiation Control Advisory Committee.
  - Committee made up of physicians, medical physicists, radiologic technologists, environmental specialist and a member of the public.
  - Made recommendations to the Bureau of Radiation Control for authorization, inspection and compliance.

Medical Physicist in Medical Facilities

- Early discussion of the need to license medical physicists in FL. (1993)
- Several medical physicists came to TLH for an all day meeting.
- Discussed the pros and cons and how it might be best to proceed. Dr Jerrett was influenced by the passion and dedication of the participating Medical Physicists.
- BRC agreed to support the bill and provide a positive bill analysis.
Medical Physicists Licensure

• Discussed where to “house” the responsibility
• Cost
• Board or Advisory Council
• How to handle those currently working with certification
• Methodology
• Finding support in the house and senate
  – (Elaine Gordon, Senate)
• Lobbying and support from other professional organizations

Passion

• Libby travel I 75 and I 10 many times to Tallahassee to provide testimony at house and senate committee meetings.
• Lots of outreach: Florida Radiology Society, Florida Society of Radiologic Technologists, FL Hospital Association and others who could impact and influence the outcome of the bill.
• History:

Persistence

• She was consulted by the Department of Health Medical Quality Assurance Board on many related topics (without fee)
• Work tirelessly to review applications and continuing education programs for approval in the early days
• When her services were no longer needed she advocated for the advisory board to meet and attended some generic meetings
• Unfortunately much of the task of licensure has been contracted or automated and the duties of the advisory board members were not needed.
Worker Protection in Interventional Radiography

- Increased use in worker exposure due to increased use of interventional radiography
- Current regulations allowed for only one personal radiation monitor (film badge)
- Interventional Radiologists were exceeding their dose limit (rules changed in 1992) and quit wearing dosimeters
- Challenges to providing healthcare and meet the regulations

Publication of NCRP No. 122

- Publication allowed the use of 2 dosimeters and weighting factors for determining occupation exposures
- Novel idea not well received by the regulatory authority (value of medical procedure is not considered in decision making for regulations)
- Introduced at advisory meeting with like warm response.

Outcome of Several Meetings

- BRC staff not convinced that the use of 2 dosimeters were ALARA
- Study conducted at U of FL indicated the use of 2 dosimeters more effectively represented the dose to the worker
- Interventionist were exceeding annual limits and not using their dosimeters
- Change the process, allowed individual facilities to request exemption to the regulations.
Influencer

- Meeting directly with staff of BRC
- Agreement to allow individual medical facilities to request and receive a variance from the regulations
- Policies changes are never a direct path

Influencing change and policy

- Identify a need
- Study the issue
- Propose a solution
- Indicate the support you can bring to the table to achieve the outcome
- Know what resources and assets will be needed
- Know your enemies and co-op them
- Stay on topic
- Create an action plan
- Feed it
- Sustain it
- Improve it

Libby’s Legacy

- Continued to be invited as a nonofficial member of the BRC advisory board for many years after Dr Jerrett retired
- Continued to be accessible to the BRC
- Continued to educate and train others in radiation protection of patients and workers
- Advocated for stronger involvement in radiation protection issues (dentistry with hand held equipment and CBCT)
- Continued to try and improve radiation protection regulations in Florida
What I learned from Libby

- Have passion for what you believe
- Timing is everything
- Persistence is key to changing behavior
- Provide the science and have a common sense approach to change
- Love your profession

Truly a Florida Superwoman

Thank you!

Thanks to the Art Glenn and staff of the Florida Bureau of Radiation Control for their help in preparing this presentation.