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Guidance and Regulations: Impact On Medical Physics

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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 a 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.—ss. 3, 5, ch. **95-231**; s. 446, ch. **97-103**; s. 171, ch. **97-264**; ss. 137, 218, 247, 286, ch. **98-166**; s. 153, ch. **99-397**; s. 69, ch. **2000-158**; s. 197, ch. **2000-160**; s. 60, ch. **2000-318**; s. 48, ch. **2001-277**; s. 80, ch. **2002-1**; s. 23, ch. **2005-240**; s. 98, ch. **2008-6**; s. 30, ch. 2016-230.

Persistence

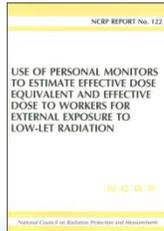


- She was consulted by the Department of Health Medical Quality Assurance Board on many related topics (without fee)
- Work tirelessly to review applications and continuing education programs for approval in the early days
- When her services were no longer needed she advocated for the advisory board 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



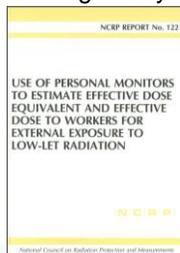
- Increased use in worker exposure do to increase use of interventional radiography
- Current regulations allowed for only one personal radiation monitor (film badge)
- Interventional Radiologists were exceeding their dose limit (rules changed in 1992) and quit wearing dosimeters
- Challenges to providing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



Publication of NCRP No. 122



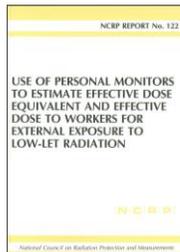
- Publication allowed the use of 2 dosimeters and weighting factors for determining occupation exposures
- Novel idea not well received by the regulatory authority (value of medical procedure is not considered in decision making for regulations)
- Introduced at advisory meeting with like warm response.



Outcome of Several Meetings



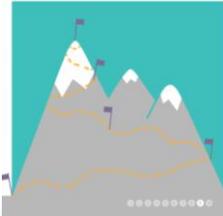
- BRC staff not convinced that the use of 2 dosimeters were ALARA
- Study conducted at U of FL indicated the use of 2 dosimeters more effectively represented the dose to the worker
- Interventionist were exceeding annual limits and not using their dosimeters
- Change the process, allowed individual facilities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

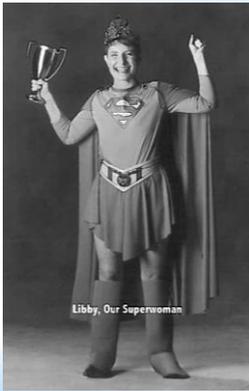


What I learned from Libby



- 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





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Thank you!