

ACCV Quarterly Meeting March 6, 2014  
Report of the Process Work Group  
Prepared by Luisita dela Rosa, Chair

The Process Work Group had a brainstorming session on February 3, 2014. The Work Group focused on how the Commission can support the Recommendations already submitted to the Secretary.

1. Review of the Recommendations submitted in 2013:
  - a. The third membership of each category of membership in the Commission:  
The Commission recommends that the Secretary consider appointing -
    - i. General public member - a vaccine-injured adult or a representative of a vaccine injured adult;
    - ii. Medical member – a medical person who has experience with vaccine-injured adults;
    - iii. Attorney member – a lawyer who has experience with the vaccine injury program.
  - b. Lengthening the statute of limitation
  - c. Increasing the award cap on death and pain and suffering.
2. To support the Recommendation on the membership to ACCV, the Commission can bring to the Secretary's attention the existence of pools of potential members to widen the scope of the search for new members. The Work Group deems that the three separate letters of Recommendation on each category of membership that were already submitted to the Secretary are sufficient.
3. The Work Group proposes that the Commission as a whole seek feedback from the Secretary on the other two Recommendations, because these two are critical to improve the Program's ability to help the vaccine-injured individuals and their family. Vito Caserta advised that this could be done through a letter formally requesting the Secretary's opinion/position on these matters. The request for feedback, if we get any response, should help guide us on the next steps the Commission can undertake, within its advisory capacity, to move the Recommendations to the next stage.
4. The Work Group suggests that further discussion of these Recommendations take place during the ACCV meeting and that the Commission seek the opinions of other key players, such as the Office of the Special Masters and the vaccine manufacturers, in the changes being recommended. The latter's input is essential because they would be impacted by these Recommendations becoming legislation. The Work Group also suggests that parents and legal representatives of vaccine injured individuals, interested individuals, and members of the Vaccine Injured Petitioners Bar be invited for this discussion.
5. David King suggested inviting parents to participate in informal conversation during the public commentary section of the ACCV meeting. This strategy could also help bring the Recommendations to public awareness. Andrea Davey pointed out that this strategy is better suited to get strong support and better language for future Recommendations.