



# SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

## Advocacy Council Call Minutes

Date Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
Time 12 p.m. ET

ATTENDEES	
Roger Figueroa, PhD (Chair)	Lisa LaRowe, PhD
Melanie Bean, PhD	Kristin Schneider, PhD
Pamela Behrman, PhD	Lindsay Bullock, CAE
Joanna Buscemi, PhD	Amy Myers, SCMM
Brian Gonzalez, PhD	

*(Staff does not count towards quorum)*

### Minutes approval

Dr. Behrman made the motion to approve the November call minutes, seconded by Dr. Schneider. The motion carried.

### Ambassador updates and collaborations

#### Child Nutrition Ambassadors

Dr. Figueroa shared that there is activity in all nutritional priority areas. Drs. Mandelbaum and Bean are working together on the New Brief re: aligning School meals with Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) and not allowing riders (in any form) to include in Talking points with Food Labeling Act (brief already made)

1. Align School meals with DGAs (include new CSPI study that showed benefits of this)
2. Don't allow riders or other means of veering from this (Whole Milk Act, Budget Riders [school breakfast potato rider, sodium rider]) -
3. Do CNRA every 5 years so that school meal guidelines will realign with DGAs every 5 yrs - don't keep delaying this process.

Dr. Bean suggested that she circle back with Dr. Mendelbaum to check on the status.

Drs. Figueroa, Landry and Adams are interested in representing SBM at the Food is Medicine Congressional Advocacy Day 2024 is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2024, in Washington, DC. This event is a day to bring together people who have experience in all facets of food is medicine (FIM).

#### Climate Change and Health Ambassadors



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Dr. Figueroa shared that Dr. Brooke Bell et al published the policy statement, “SBM Urges Passage of the PLANT (Peas, Legumes, And Nuts Today) Act” stating the position of the Society of Behavioral Medicine in supporting the passage of the PLANT Act (H.R.5023), legislation aimed at bolstering the production, research, and development of plant-based foods.

### Opioid Pain Management Ambassadors

Dr. LaRowe shared that the policy ambassador infographic was completed and shared with the ambassadors in January. She said that the piece was very well received and helpful in explaining the value of working with an SBM policy ambassador. Dr. LaRowe also shared that they have three pieces in the works TREATS Act, as well as a couple of partnerships /endorsements with American Telemedicine Association, National Association for Behavioral Healthcare.

One of the aides working on the letter drafted by Reps. Trone and Joyce’s offices left. That opportunity is on hold at the moment. Dr. LaRowe shared that the aid she has been working with on the TRUTH Act communicated that there has been opposition to the act. Dr. LaRowe is asking around to find out what the counter arguments are and what the status is. Lastly, Dr. LaRowe acknowledged the new process of publishing policy briefs through TBM and how smooth the process was for publishing the RESTORE Act in the journal.

#### **Ambassador Tracking Link:**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11oPftU6S4k99kSt-tbJBkBXuVvkqtHDjuANKc-pGHiXk/edit?usp=sharing>

#### **Link to Advocacy Council Google Drive:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1w\\_bEe5u7NJh4GUR9EZLDjYfEgJFpmTzg?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1w_bEe5u7NJh4GUR9EZLDjYfEgJFpmTzg?usp=sharing)

### Committee Chair Updates

#### Position Statements

Dr. Figueroa shared that the “SBM Supports Mandatory Front of Package Nutrition Labeling to Promote Healthier Food Purchasing” position statement has been submitted to the Executive Committee and is awaiting final approval.

Dr. Buscemi thanked Dr. Shen for her part in facilitating the new process of submitting Policy Statements to TBM, however, shared a different experience from Dr. LaRowe. There was another author that experienced a “kink” in the process, even though the correct information was in the cover letter for submission.

#### Organizational Partnerships

Dr. Schneider had a nice meeting with individuals from The Network for Public Health Law. They bring expertise to the table that our position statements and ambassadors could use. There is also a mutual interest in climate change and opioids. In the context of the relationship, the network would not be collaborators but would sign on to positions or endorsements.



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Dr. Schneider's term as chair of the Organizational Partnerships Committee is winding down, Dr. Leslie Hausmann will be her successor. Dr. Schneider is happy to remain as a liaison. Dr. Hausmann will attend the Advocacy Council breakfast session at the Annual Meeting.

### FABBS Journal (PIBBS) Co-Editing Opportunity

Dr. Figueroa shared that FABBS (the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences) is launching its 9<sup>th</sup> edition of PIBBS (Policy Insights from Behavioral and Brain Sciences) for this effort they asked SBM to suggest 25-30 early- to-mid career researchers to write brief, reader-friendly, evidence-based papers on health psychology for their March 2025 volume. The readership audience is federal Congressional policymakers and well as career federal agency staff (NIH, NSF, etc). Ms. Bullock shared that this is an invite only opportunity, shared with SBM thanks to our membership in FABBS. FABBS needs a list of initial suggestions by February 29, 2024. Authors will be invited by PIBBS and will have until November 1, 2024, to write their papers. Logistically, SBM gives FABBS the initial list and FABBS will take it from there. Dr. Figueroa has agreed to be the guest co-editor for this effort.

Dr. Figueroa has consulted with TBM and our Publications Council to ensure that our publications do not conflict with those of PIBBS. Dr. Figueroa proposed focusing on evidence synthesis or policy analysis. Dr. LaRowe recommended that each ambassador group could sponsor two or three papers, each with a different structure, and noted that while co-authors could be non-SBM members, the main authors must be members of SBM. These articles could either highlight the evolution of the ambassadorship program or discuss methods for disseminating the policy work conducted on behalf of the council. Dr. Gonzalez pointed out that SBM has numerous position statements available, providing ample content that could be revised and updated. Dr. Figueroa mentioned the possibility of selecting a few position statements for restructuring. Ms. Bullock added that the Position Statements Committee has considered updating several key topics, which could be beneficial for this initiative. Dr. Bean emphasized that our efforts should aim to inform congressional stakeholders through general and broad policy statements.

Dr. Figueroa will identify the key individuals to invite, selecting from interested ambassadors and the authors of highly-relevant and/or most-read SBM position statements. Dr. LaRowe advised having the ambassador leads inform their groups in advance. Dr. Schneider requested that our communications to the ambassadors highlight FABBS's focus on NIH-related interests. Dr. Figueroa, along with the ambassador leads, will identify interested individuals, and provide Ms. Bullock and Ms. Myers with their contact details by February 19.

### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. ET.



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*Minutes respectfully submitted by A. Myers on February 13, 2024.*