



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Advocacy Council Call Minutes

Date Tuesday, May 14, 2024
Time 12 p.m. ET

ATTENDEES	
Roger Figueroa, PhD (Chair)	Lisa LaRowe, PhD
Melanie Bean, PhD, FSBM	Megan Shen, PhD, FSBM (PSC Chair)
Pamela Behrman, PhD	Kristi White, PhD
Joanna Buscemi, PhD	Lindsay Bullock, CAE (SBM Staff)
Brian Gonzalez, PhD	Amy Myers, SCMM (SBM Staff)
Leslie R.M. Hausmann, PhD, FSBM (OPC Chair)	

(Staff does not count towards quorum)

Minutes approval

Dr. Gonzalez made the motion to approve the February call minutes, seconded by Dr. Bean. The motion carried.

Ambassador Tracking Link:

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

Link to Advocacy Council Google Drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1w_bEe5u7NJh4GUR9EZLDjYfEgJFpmTzg?usp=sharing

Ambassador updates and collaborations

Listserv Update

Dr. Figueroa introduced the ambassador updates, expressing gratitude to SBM staff for establishing a dedicated listserv for policy ambassadors. This platform facilitates communications and resource sharing among the ambassadors. The ambassador leads confirmed that they have been receiving the communications distributed via the listserv.

Update on Policy Ambassador Groups/Turnover

Dr. Figueroa reported low engagement among volunteers across the organization and opened the floor to discuss strategies for improving engagement. There has been a noted lack of activity



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

in the touchpoint logs, which has raised concerns. Dr. Figueroa suggested that reminding ambassadors of their expectations might be a starting point for re-engagement and would like to include a survey form in an email reminder to ambassadors. The inclusion of the policy ambassador mission statement could help reinforce the importance of recording their touchpoints. Dr. Behrman inquired about including a section in the form asking if there are potential obstacles that might be hindering effective communication. Dr. White clarified that while ambassadors are expected to make contact at least once a month to their respective lawmaker to foster relationships, the approach has been more relaxed to avoid pestering. She proposed a more organic and less transactional relationship approach. Dr. Bean pointed out that engagement isn't only about conversations but also includes emails, which some might find less personal. Dr. Buscemi expressed concerns about the transactional nature of some touchpoints with lawmakers, which might not foster genuine relationships. Ms. Bullock emphasized that the goal from SBM's perspective is to build organic relationships with lawmakers, not just focus on specific legislative actions. Dr. Figueroa concluded that while not all ambassadors have achieved an "organic connection" yet, the collection of these touchpoints over time should foster change with the assigned lawmakers. Dr. Figueroa committed to sending an email message along with a survey form to ambassadors to remind them to create touchpoints as well as collect other information regarding individual touchpoints. Ms. Myers will create the form in Google Docs and monitor for results.

[Follow-up on Next Policy Champions](#)

Dr. Figueroa would like to identify new policy ambassadors who could serve as champions, mentioning efforts to engage with Senators Cory Booker, Jack Reed, Jim McGovern, David Trone, and Tim Kaine, as well as Representative Bobby Scott. These individuals represent Virginia and Rhode Island, and efforts will continue to identify policy champions. Ms. Myers will examine the membership database to create a report of members located in the respective lawmakers' districts to support this initiative.

[Committee Chair Updates](#)

[Position Statements](#)

Dr. Shen noted an increase in submissions and expressed curiosity about whether some might be originating from the Special Interest Groups (SIGs). She plans to reach out to the SIG council chair. The committee is also strategizing submissions for next year's Annual Meeting. Dr. Bean mentioned she is supporting a group with their submission and queried about the availability of a Position Statement request template, suggesting a PDF format that outlines each section and its word count requirement. Dr. Shen asked if there is a diagram of the process on the website and a template for the request form. She committed to putting together a template and finding ways to secure endorsements, suggesting the creation of a Google Doc link for endorsements that could be updated as needed. Dr. Bean agreed to share this document with Dr. Shen to facilitate the process.



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Organizational Partnerships

Dr. Figueroa discussed a recent engagement with personnel at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), noting that their leaders have expressed interest in expanding their relationship with SBM. They participated in a symposium in Philadelphia and are keen to continue the collaboration. Dr. Figueroa facilitated their introduction to Dr. Hausmann and the OPC. Dr. Hausmann reported that a conversation with NIMHD is scheduled for June 3rd and inquired about a meeting with the American Telemedicine Association scheduled for May 21st, for which she is awaiting an invitation. The OPC will meet tomorrow to discuss strengthening connections with the ATA and other strategic initiatives, inviting partner liaisons to these meetings. Dr. Shen mentioned she would follow up with the ATA to schedule the discussed meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. ET.

Minutes respectfully submitted by A. Myers on May 15, 2024.