



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Advocacy Council Call Minutes

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

MEMBERS	
Roger Figueroa, PhD (Chair)	Lisa LaRowe, PhD
Elizabeth Adams, PhD	Leslie R.M. Hausmann, PhD, FSBM (OPC Chair)
Joanna Buscemi, PhD	Kristi White, PhD
Brian Gonzalez, PhD	

Quorum = 7

Staff: Lindsay Bullock, CAE
Amy Myers

Approval of the Minutes

Dr. Gonzalez made the motion to approve the June call minutes, seconded by Dr. Buscemi. The motion carried.

Ambassador Tracking Link:

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

Link to Advocacy Council Google Drive:

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

Ambassador Updates

Policy Ambassador Engagement Update

Dr. Figueroa reviewed the previous meeting and discussed the survey results that led to the decision to hold regular monthly meetings. The first of these meetings is scheduled for this Thursday, August 15th, with 6-7 attendees expected. Dr. Figueroa created a one-page guide to help ambassadors engage with lawmakers, compiled from various resources. Dr. White, Dr. LaRowe, and Dr. Adams also updated relevant materials in the Google Drive. Dr. Figueroa emphasized the importance of language in starting conversations with lawmakers and introduced listservs to assist in priority areas. Dr. Gonzalez suggested saving resource links in a central folder to avoid broken links, which the council agreed would be beneficial. Dr. LaRowe recommended



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adding participation requirements and benchmarks to the mission statement, which Dr. White updated during the meeting. Dr. Figueroa reminded the group that the document is a living resource and can be updated as needed.

Follow-up on Next Policy Champions

The group discussed the confidential list of potential new ambassadors from the member database. Dr. Figueroa explained the plan to identify 3-5 candidates for ambassador slots and send out invitations. Dr. Figueroa confirmed that he would be handling the invitations directly. Ms. Bullock emphasized that ambassadors must be SBM members, and there was a discussion on the possibility of allowing students to "tag team" the role. Dr. Figueroa planned to consult lead ambassadors for input before finalizing selections. The group agreed to target a small, focused number of ambassadors initially, filtering out previous ambassadors or council members.

The council discussed the strategy for selecting policymakers to engage with, focusing on those aligned with SBM's priorities. Dr. White suggested looking at bills with bipartisan support and researching policymakers who have supported relevant legislation. Dr. LaRowe raised the question of whether SBM should engage with policymakers who oppose their priorities, but the group agreed that, given limited resources, it would be more impactful to focus on those already supportive of SBM's goals. Dr. Buscemi reiterated that the strategy should center on building relationships to bring scientific knowledge into policy.

Child Nutrition Ambassadors

Dr. Figueroa provided an update on recent Child Nutrition activities, including the resubmission of the position statement on the Eat Local Foods Act, which advocates for a USDA program to support small and mid-sized farms. Dr. Figueroa mentioned that a couple of ambassadors had successfully used previous policy briefs to engage with lawmakers, which had a positive impact.

Opioid Pain Management Ambassadors

Dr. LaRowe reported that a position statement on opioid pain management has been under review since May, and she will follow up to check on its status. Another position statement, which was initially rejected, will be resubmitted to Translational Behavioral Medicine (TBM) and the Position Statements Committee.

Dr. Buscemi wanted to let the group know that the Position Statements Committee had some trouble meeting quorum this summer and as well as for the past two years, but they did meet recently and went over everything that was submitted. Dr. Buscemi suggested if you have not heard about the status of your statement, please to reach out to Dr. Shen.

Dr. Figueroa asked the group if anyone else has received feedback from their lawmakers regarding SBM Position Statements. Dr. White shared positive feedback from lawmakers who found the briefs on the Plant Act and Food is Medicine helpful in translating scientific research into policy. She also highlighted a recent collaboration with the National Climate Adaptation



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Forum, where SBM policy briefs were shared as examples of how to translate science into digestible content for policymakers. An individual that was in attendance from the state of Maine reached out to her for support around creating Maine's climate adaptation plan, Dr. White shared the SBM policy briefs with them as an example of how they could translate science into something that is digestible for policy victors.

Climate Change and Health Ambassadors

Dr. White is working on an article for the journal PIBBS, the flagship journal for FABBS, the article is due in November. Dr. White's focus is on promoting climate change and health policy from an environmental justice lens using access to green space and transportation. She is also collaborating on a position statement with the Behavioral Medicine Research Council, which will be published in major behavioral medicine journals. Dr. Figueroa suggested that the PIBBS/FABBS studies could be used as the basis for a symposium at the next SBM annual meeting, a proposal that was supported by the group. Dr. Figueroa will follow up with the group regarding this idea.

Organizational Partnerships

Dr. Hausmann provided updates on the Organizational Partnerships Committee (OPC), including discussions with the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). It was decided that the relationship with NIMHD does not require OPC management, as NIMHD partnerships typically occur at the leadership level. Dr. Hausmann noted that NIMHD is interested in advocacy efforts related to NIH-funded behavioral science and health equity research. The OPC will submit a networking session for the AM25 meeting and invite NIMHD representatives. Ms. Bullock shared that the primary organizer from the NIMHD is Ariel Gillman, she will be submitting an abstract to the Annual Meeting for a "Meeting the Funders Panel" and directly after that panel the Scientific Education Council is planning another a meet the Funders Networking session. Ariel will also be looking for other ways to submit the NIMHD research. They will also be connecting SBM with their director, who Ms. Bullock believes is from San Francisco.

Dr. Hausmann also mentioned the renewal of SBM's partnership with the AAMC, focusing on the Center for Health Justice, Dr. Baskin is our Liaison. This year they will be adding another SBM member to join Dr. Baskin. Dr. Hausmann emphasized the value of this partnership, especially in areas of climate change, health, and environmental justice. Dr. Hausmann will attend the AAMC meeting in November and suggested further integrating SBM into AAMC's activities. Dr. Figueroa highlighted the importance of maintaining and strategically growing these partnerships, and the group agreed that Dr. Hausmann should lead the initial meetings with AAMC representatives before developing a detailed partnership plan.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:55 pm ET

Minutes respectfully submitted by A. Myers on August 13, 2024.