



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Advocacy Council Call Minutes

Date Tuesday, July 11, 2023
Time 12 a.m. ET

ATTENDEES	
Roger Figueroa, PhD (Chair)	Lisa LaRowe, PhD
Elizabeth Adams, PhD	Megan Shen, PhD
Melanie Bean, PhD	Kristin Schneider, PhD
Pamela Behrman, PhD	Kristi White, PhD
Brian Gonzalez, PhD	Amy Myers, SCMM (staff, does not count toward quorum)

Minutes approval

Dr. Gonzalez made the motion to approve the July call minutes, seconded by Dr. Schneider. The motion carried.

Update on the final decision to sunset the Rural Health Policy Group

Dr. Figueroa reviewed the history of the decision to sunset the Rural Health Advocacy group. With the inclusion of the Climate Change and Health Advocacy group into the ambassador's program in 2023, this left the program with four priority areas. We noticed that resources were limited, and capacity was being tested, necessitating a decision about which policy areas should take precedence in SBM's efforts. After conversations with the Rural Health Ambassadors and Dr. Buscemi, the founder of Rural Health, the decision was made to sunset the Rural Health group.

Dr. Figueroa was happy to share that the current members in the Rural Health group, 2 of the 4 ambassadors decided to transition into the Child Nutrition priority area.

The council agreed that SBM is still addressing rural health issues within the current priority groups but collaborating in different ways.

Report on attending the APHA Policy Action Institute

Over the summer, Dr. LaRowe attended the APHA Policy Action Institute. She shared that it was excellent for understanding overall federal priorities, with representatives from the CMS, CDC, and Health and Human Services in attendance. Most of the priorities centered on pandemic preparedness. There were also sessions focused on engagement and effective strategies for engaging lawmakers. The information presented was akin to that of the Academy Health orientation. Dr. LaRowe found the information about



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the FrameWorks Institute particularly intriguing. The [FrameWorks' website](#) is replete with invaluable resources beneficial for all our ambassadors.

Ambassador updates and collaborations

Updates:

Child Nutrition Ambassadors

Dr. Figueroa shared that the most recent policy brief which was a collaboration between Child Nutrition and Climate Change was published in September. There is another policy brief on school nutrition guidelines being drafted, hopefully to be published later this month.

Opioid Pain Management Ambassadors

Dr. LaRowe shared a success story that she and Dr. Fox had been working on collaboratively. They were able to connect Congressman Trone's office to Congressman Joyce's office. Each had been working separately on several opioid policies, specifically the "No Pain Act" implementation. Dr. LaRowe and Dr. Fox brought the congressman's aides together and are working on a letter to send to Medicare to accelerate the implementation of the "No Pain Act".

Climate Change and Health

Dr. White has been organizing the Advocacy Council's shared drive on Google. Each of the Priorities areas has its own folder with useful information specific to each area. There are orientation materials, engagement resources, talking points, etc. Please feel free to use the drive and add to it. [Link](#) to the shared drive.

Dr. Figueroa shared that Dr. Bean had been in touch with CSPI for a policy brief. The Climate Change ambassadors, as well as Dr. Diefenbach, have been in contact with ECO America to put together an SBM specific training that will be open to all SBM members.

Updates from committee chairs

Position Statements

Dr. Shen shared that we formally have a pipeline through TBM for anyone who has a Position Statement that has been approved by SBM to have that statement translated directly into TBM as a submission.

Dr. Shen also shared that the PSC has observed a new trend in interest concerning position statements on topics related to the environment and climate change, sustainability, and health equity, with the potential to create a new priority around climate change and health.



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Winter 2023 Outlook Article

The Advocacy Council will submit an article in the winter Outlook highlighting the roles of our ambassadors and the variety of activities they are involved in. Dr. White will begin the document, convert it to a Google doc, and share it with the council so members can add their personal experiences as policy ambassadors for SBM.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. ET.

Minutes respectfully submitted by A. Myers on October 27, 2023.