



# SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

## Advocacy Council Call Minutes

Date Thursday, April 13, 2023  
Time 11 a.m. ET

ATTENDEES	
Roger Figueroa, PhD (Chair)	Amy Janke, PhD
Pamela Behrman, PhD	Kristin Schneider, PhD (OPC Chair)
Joanna Buscemi, PhD	
Lindsay Bullock, CAE (staff, does not count toward quorum)	Amy Myers, SCMM (staff, does not count toward quorum)

### Minutes approval

Dr. Schneider made the motion to approve the December and March call minutes; seconded by Dr. Buscemi. The motion carried.

### Vetting process for SBM sign ons/endorsements

Dr. Figueroa had the council review the criteria that would be sent to reviewers as guidance for recommending whether SBM should sign on or endorse various policy statements. The group discussed using the descriptor “strong evidence” in the criteria and decided saying “best available evidence” would be most clear and useful. The priorities criteria should also link to SBM’s priorities webpage.

**ACTION:** Dr. Figueroa will rewrite the criteria for consideration on the next call.

### Ambassador updates

#### Rural Health and Pain/Opioid Ambassador Collaboration

Dr. Figueroa shared that the Rural Health and Opioid Pain Ambassadors worked together on a set of talking points recently used in a letter requested by Congressional aides in support of the NOPAIN Act. Dr. Figueroa stated it is very exciting that there is continued engagement around writing output from both the Congressional Office and the Ambassadors.

#### Child Nutrition and Climate Change and Health Collaboration

Dr. Figueroa shared that the Nutrition Ambassadors and the Climate Ambassadors are currently collaborating on a position statement ahead of the upcoming Farm Bill legislation this summer. One of the priorities of the position statement is to think about food as medicine as a new framework to advance nutrition security. The other addition that brings climate scientists to the



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table is thinking about sustainability in the context of promoting nutrition security. The recommendations that are going to be drafted are meant to be complimentary of both promotion of planetary and public health outcomes as well as how do we use the Farm bill as an opportunity for policies that could be both supportive of climate resilience as well as nutrition security. The goal is that it could be submitted to the Position Statements Committee, before the end of the month, for their review and further vetting.

### **Health Policy Advocacy at the State and Local Level**

Dr. Figueroa shared that SBM has so far purposely prioritized advocacy at the federal level but has not engaged in state or local advocacy. However, some council members and ambassadors have inquired about expanding to states. Dr. Figueroa mentioned the specific case of Dr. Adams, the lead ambassador from the Nutrition Group. As her relationship with her assigned Congressional office lost momentum, Dr. Adams identified an opportunity to work with a policymaker at the state level who aligns with her priority area, is closer in proximity to her home and may be poised to take more immediate action. Dr. Adams can connect with this state policymaker on her own, but not as an SBM representative. She could also ask to be assigned to a different federal lawmaker.

Ms. Bullock stated that adding state or local advocacy would require discussions and approvals at the board level as well as clear and specific state-level goals about exactly what we want to change and who has jurisdiction over that item. Based on those goals, SBM would also need to identify and prioritize certain states, rather than attempt to do this work in all 50.

Council members noted an increase in resources, especially for state-level research, would be required to move in this direction. SBM may be able to join existing state-level work being done by our partner organizations or may be able to learn from them. The council will continue discussions about this on future calls.

### **Organizational collaborations updates**

Dr. Schneider had some initial conversations with the American Physical Therapy Association and needs to follow up on that. Dr. Schneider shared that ecoAmerica will be providing ClimateRX badges at the Annual Meeting. They have a movement to get physicians and other providers to talk with their patients about climate change and how it can impact their health.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. ET.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by A. Myers on April 13, 2023.*