



HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL CALL MINUTES

Date Wednesday, March 3, 2021
Time 12 p.m. CT

MEMBERS	
Joanna Buscemi, PhD (Chair)	Carly Goldstein, PhD (CPEC Chair)
Melanie Bean, PhD	Brian Gonzalez, PhD
Pamela Behrman, PhD	Amy Janke, PhD (SPLC Chair)
Akilah Dulin, PhD (Health Policy Committee Chair)	Leo Wilton, PhD, MPH
Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD	
	Rebecca Borzon, Lindsay Bullock (staff)

Approve minutes from February call

Dr. Buscemi made motion to approve the February minutes; seconded by Dr. Wilton. The motion carried.

Replacing Dr. Cardel on Council

Dr. Cardel had taken on a new position at Weight Watchers, and could no longer continue on the council. She had been selected due to her large social media presence, and Dr. Buscemi was looking for a new council member who had the same impact on social media as well as expertise in child nutrition. Suggestions for new members included Dani Arigo, Bertha Hildalgo, and Tiffany Carson. It was also mentioned that the council could ask Tiffany Carson for recommendations, as Dr. Buscemi would prefer to keep her as an ambassador as she has already been trained. Micro-influencers could be contacted, and the council could identify members with the most followers.

Legislative Committee Rosters Review

The Legislative Committee rosters were still clear for some and not others. A full confirmation of committee rosters was needed.

SBM Ambassador Survey

The council discussed the survey. Adding choices was mentioned, but it was determined that a qualitative route may be preferred. This way, the ambassadors would not have a preconceived response to the survey. Subsequent surveys could then be tailored using the responses to this survey.

Expanding Ambassador Program Proposal

The attached proposal to expand the ambassador program had three goals: to expand the rural and opioid ambassadors, focus more on US Senators, and broaden the program across the US.



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Rep. Sewell was to replace Sen. Jones, and Dori Pekmezi was to be invited as an AL ambassador. It was noted that legislative committee appointments were helpful, but not necessary. Dr. Gonzalez remarked that the proposal mostly included democrats, and the program may benefit from bipartisan diversification. It was stated that the lack of republican Senators was for two reasons. Democratic Senators were more willing to hear the issues. Additionally, SBM has had trouble locating members who live in republican-majority states. The rural health roster would have to be revisited. Dr. Bean mentioned that VA's Rep. Bob Good could serve as a good fit for a republican legislator. It was noted that ambassadors could approach republican legislators from a different angle to bridge the aisle, e.g. funding. The council could also ask the ambassadors if they felt that having a republican legislator impacted their relationship-building. Dr. Dulin stated that she agreed that the legislators should be more bipartisan. Republican legislators may not be receptive to the messages from SBM, but that does not mean that they should not hear them. The ambassadors would have to work to make their message more convincing. A bipartisan group of legislators would also help the council in the event of a majority-flip in 2022.

Ambassador Update

Child Nutrition Ambassadors – These ambassadors were awaiting the release of their diet quality brief to set up new meetings with their legislators.

Rural Health Ambassadors – There are currently only three ambassadors. One is on maternity leave, and one is currently relocating to a new state.

Opioid Pain Management Ambassadors – These ambassadors were currently working to draft a new set of talking points through the submission of an SBM brief. However, the first author was unresponsive.

Update on Collaborating with Policy Organizations

Child Nutrition: NOPREN – No new updates.

Rural Health: Rural Policy Research Institute – Dr. Buscemi and Ms. Bullock had met with this group. They were doing incredible policy work. This collaboration was currently in the brainstorming and relationship-building phase.

Pain/Opioid: American Physical Therapy Association – No new updates.

Updates from our other council and committee chairs

HPC – Dr. Dulin mentioned that the committee had several briefs that would be released shortly.

SPLC – No new updates.

CPEC – Dr. Goldstein stated that the CPEC was working to help authors write op-eds based on their work.

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm CT. *Minute respectfully submitted by R. Borzon on March 8, 2021.*