



HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL CALL MINUTES

Date Wednesday, April 7, 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 March call

Dr. Wilton made motion to approve the March call minutes; seconded by Dr. Gonzalez. The motion carried.

Legislative Committee Rosters Review

Rosters had still not been updated.

Review of SBM Ambassador Survey Results

The ambassador survey had been disseminated. Ten ambassadors had participated out of a total of 14. Most feedback was positive. The ambassadors wanted to be fed content, as well as have a lead. It was suggested that SBM staff research content, and staff noted that their staff time for policy research was limited. Additionally, staff does not have the same level of expertise in these areas. The council discussed using a student, or engaging the SIGs more. It was mentioned that the chairs shouldn't be overburdened. Additionally, some SIGs were more active than others, and it would be easier to secure volunteers from more active SIGs. The council noted that this could be a role created within the SIGs to diffuse the responsibility. Plus, SIGs need to create more impact, and the role of assisting the ambassadors could be framed around the annual meeting. The council would determine the proposal for the SIGs and how to formalize a position within them.

Ambassadors also noted their difficulty working with republicans and how it was a barrier to doing their job. Additionally, ambassadors had trouble creating rapport with their legislators, as well as moving the conversation to the next step. The council agreed that the ambassadors needed to learn how to reframe the conversation. More rapport between the ambassadors was needed.



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

All virtual meetings had been good so far, but planning was difficult. Dr. Buscemi stated that she could hold office hours for the ambassadors. The council did note that the ambassadors weren't using resources that were already available.

Overall, the feedback on the program was positive. Ms. Bullock reminded the council that it was a difficult year to begin a pilot-test. Additionally, this was the reality of working with volunteers.

Review of Updated Proposal Expanding Ambassador Program

The council reviewed the Updated Proposal. The update included more Republican Legislators. It was noted that Rep. Sinema from AZ and Sen. Mancin could also be appropriate choices for legislators, as they were both more moderate democrats.

SBM staff mentioned that they had reached out to the Health Equity SIG to see if there were any members who were involved in rural health initiatives. The Health Equity SIG chair suggested that Dr. Sabrina Ford be contacted either as an ambassador, or as someone with contacts to other SBM members who work in rural health.

Policy-Related Sessions at SBM's Virtual Conference

The council had two meetings during SBM's Virtual Conference, which was taking place next week. The first was a networking session with the ambassadors on Wednesday, April 14 at 1:00 – 1:50 pm ET. The next was a panel on Thursday, April 15 at 2:00 – 2:50 pm ET. All council members were encouraged to attend both policy-related sessions.

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm CT. *Minutes respectfully submitted by R. Borzon on Monday, April 19, 2021.*