



# SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

## Advocacy Council Call Minutes

Date Thursday, July 14, 2022  
Time 11 am ET

ATTENDEES	
Roger Figueroa, PhD (Chair)	Kristin Schneider, PhD (OPC Chair)
Melanie Bean, PhD	Megan Shen, PhD (PSC Chair)
Pamela Behrman, PhD	Sarah Gilbertson (staff)
Joanna Buscemi, PhD	

### Minutes Approval

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

### Ambassador Updates

This month Dr. Figueroa has started quarterly calls with every ambassador group. They will continue to meet in October, January, and April.

The child nutrition group is working on finalizing two position statements (one from Dr. Matt Landry about WIC programs and another from Dr. Elizabeth Adams about nutrition security), and Dr. Sara St. George has budgeted time to start a third statement about healthy hydration efforts.

The rural health group ambassadors have been having a hard time logging their meetings with representatives but are still connecting with them. Dr. Figueroa told the committee that he sends out monthly emails reminding the ambassadors to enter data in the spreadsheet. There are more interactions happening than we are seeing on the spreadsheet. The council discussed that the liaisons should be encouraging their ambassadors to go back and add the dates. It was mentioned that when the lead ambassador sends their monthly touch point email, to remind them to add their touch points in the spreadsheet and have the link readily available. Dr. Figueroa will send an email to remind them to retroactively add the dates. Another pain point that was brought up during the quarterly call was how to handle a policymaker who doesn't see eye to eye with the ambassador and has different views on certain policies, i.e., telehealth. Discussion continued with the council regarding how to handle not necessarily changing the talking points, but tailoring the conversation around it. Dr. Bean mentioned it would be beneficial to find out why it is a hard no on discussing certain policies. Dr. Buscemi recommended asking: what's the reason, what's the barrier, and what's the data you need?

The opioid and pain management group is meeting for their quarterly call today. Dr. Figueroa is still working on finding a liaison. Dr. Amy Janke has been asked to be the liaison and if she



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declines Dr. Figueroa will take recommendations. A set of talking points have been approved for this group and the MAT Act was also shared with the group.

The new climate change and health group is being populated. Dr. Figueroa has sent out invites. 5 members committed, 3 declined, and 1 wants to continue the discussion before committing. Dr. Bean asked if the hydration statement should be paired with someone from this group. The council discussed the position statement could be intertwined with the rural health group as well.

During Dr. Figueroa's quarterly call with the ambassadors, one of the members inquired about SBM's Roe v. Wade email and position statement. Position statements do not move through the Advocacy Council, but through the Position Statements Committee. However, Dr. Buscemi shared that if anyone asks about SBM's stance that you can direct them to the anonymous survey link for them to share their thoughts and opinions. Discussion continued around the Protect Abortion Rights position statement. It was mentioned that the statement made connections to other healthcare and mental health issues and therefore keeps SBM "in its lane." Position statements are always being grounded in science, data, and the best health outcomes. SBM also talks about other controversial issues, i.e., gun violence, police brutality, climate change, and masking during COVID-19.

### Update on Collaborating with Policy Organizations

Dr. Schneider shared they discussed this during the OPC meeting and the committee members discussed their concerns. They ultimately wanted more information on what this would actually look like. For example, would it be emails to the right people or specific things they want to get out of these groups? Discussion continued around the need to identify a specific person as a liaison. Dr. Schneider could be the natural liaison but needs to get a better sense on the specific organizations that we are looking to build relationships with versus just share materials. Dr. Figueroa, Dr. Schneider, and Dr. Buscemi will meet separately to follow up about specific organizations.

### Committee Updates

Dr. Shen shared the Position Statements Committee has many statements in the pipeline. They are also starting to see the student mentorship program take off and are discussing steps to grow it this year and into the fall. Dr. Bean mentioned that it might be beneficial to start having a call to action for every position statement. For example, "send this statement to your senator (link)." They could work on developing a one-time letter and an algorithm on the back end where if you put in a zip code, it pulls up your local representative. The SBM official Twitter account and the statement authors could also tweet a call to action. Dr. Shen inquired about who would create this – the Position Statements Committee, the Advocacy Council, or the position statement authors? Dr. Bean mentioned that authors could come up with a bulleted short



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version to share with the link of where to find your representatives. Dr. Shen will take this back to the Position Statements Committee to discuss creation.

Dr. Schneider shared the OPC is working to strengthen their partnership with the American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM) and connecting SBM's SIG's with ACLM's MIG's. Next steps are figuring out the best way to move this forward. Dr. Schneider will meet with a few members to strategize and she is also working with a member of a specific SIG who works very closely with ACLM. The OPC is also looking to have a few SIGs (aging and palliative care) put together a webinar on opioid addiction and pain treatment. They will connect with some of the opioid and pain management ambassadors as well.

### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12 p.m. ET.