



HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL CALL MINUTES

Date Wednesday, September 1, 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 Representative)
Akilah Dulin, PhD (Health Policy Committee Chair)	Leo Wilton, PhD, MPH
	Rebecca Borzon, Lindsay Bullock (staff)

REGRETS	
Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD	

Approve minutes from June and August calls

Dr. Gonzalez made motion to approve the June and August minutes; seconded by Dr. Wilton. Motion carried.

Review of Ambassador Roster

Dr. Buscemi shared that she was able to significantly increase the amount of ambassadors. There were now 30 total. The ambassadors had been recruited with consideration to their geographic location. The ambassadors had also been selected in an attempt to make them more bipartisan. All had completed their training. There was one group of three ambassadors who were forming a relationship with one legislator per their request, which had been approved by SBM staff. Overall, there were more ambassadors, more structure, and more information, which the council hoped would lead to renewed enthusiasm.

The child nutrition ambassadors had met to determine strategies for their next meeting and monthly contact. The meeting set the expectations for the ambassadors. Elizabeth Adams would now be the lead ambassador for the child nutrition cohort, and would ensure that there was monthly content. She would also be responsible for maintaining the relationships with coalitions. The group meeting was helpful. The council determined that a quarterly meeting may be beneficial, but it would be best to schedule these after more talking points were developed by each group.

Additionally, the opioid pain management's position statement would be released tomorrow.



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

It was noted that there were still a few ambassadors who were disengaged with the program. These ambassadors had little to no output, which was a source of frustration. The council noted that these ambassadors should receive one final chance to become active, but then could be rotated off the ambassador roster if they did not make any progress.

The council agreed that the ambassador program would be more sustainable with more staff resources. Data should be collected for the board to determine if SBM could provide full-time policy advocacy staff.

Partnerships Update

The CSPI had been a great resource; they have had ample sign-on opportunities for SBM.

The APTA had not been in contact since the initial meeting. Both Dr. Buscemi and SBM staff had reached out to seek a co-endorsement on the latest position statement from the opioid pain management ambassadors, but had not heard back. The council noted that it would be worth another try to contact them, as the summer season often proved difficult to maintain contact for many.

SBM Annual Meeting Submission

Dr. Buscemi planned on submitting an abstract demystifying the process of building legislative relationships. This would be a panel session. It could also serve as a recruitment opportunity.

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm CT. *Minutes respectfully submitted by R. Borzon on September 7, 2021.*