



HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL CALL MINUTES

Date Wednesday, October, 2021
Time 12 pm 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 September call

Dr. Buscemi made motion to approve the September call minutes; seconded by Dr. Bean. The motion carried.

Ambassador Update

Child Nutrition—These ambassadors were working to develop a position statement from talking points that were recently approved by the Executive Committee. Dr. Bean is leading the development of the brief due to her previous experience working on a brief on mental health treatment access and telehealth. Ms. Adams, as the lead ambassador, is assisting in the drafting process. One ambassador had yet to take any meetings. The council agreed that taking meetings should be added to the ambassador manual when the new chair took over in April 2022.

Rural Health Ambassadors – The rural health ambassadors were to develop new talking points. Heather Hardin had taken on the role of lead ambassador, and was working to funnel monthly content to the rest of the group.

Opioid Pain Management Ambassadors – New ambassadors were taking meetings, and the group was becoming more active than before.

Talking Points for Rural Health Ambassadors

The council discussed the development of talking points for the ambassadors. The council agreed that talking points should be drafted while considering if there was any superseding legislation. The council agreed that Dr. Buscemi would reach out to our collaborating organizations, and Dr. Behrman would draft the talking points. Dr. Bean would share the child nutrition talking points for a point of reference.



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

The council also discussed which group should be the expert on talking points: the council or the ambassadors? The program is now running smoothly with lead ambassadors, and the layers of leadership helps the groups function better. For now, the council would draft the talking points, but that may be reconsidered in the future.

The council also discussed whether the talking points should always be made into position statements. Ideally, they would be. Additionally, another long-term goal would be to disseminate them to the membership in order to keep SBM members abreast of the society's policy work. This would also prevent other SBM groups from duplicating unnecessary work, especially since SBM's advocacy arm already had the infrastructure in place. Finally, the members would also need to know the rules for advocacy, as nonprofits have certain regulations that must be followed in order to maintain a 501(c)(3) status. The Pain SIG had recently sent out an open invitation for volunteers to enhance the SIG's advocacy efforts. Thankfully, this was caught early-on and the SIG would be assisting the opioid pain ambassadors by finding relevant research, etc.

Update on Collaborating with Policy Organizations

The council had found many opportunities to sign-on to coalitions' work. The council would ensure that neither Dr. Buscemi nor Dr. Dulin would be unduly burdened with this additional work.

Updates from our other council and committee chairs

HPC – Dr. Dulin noted that the committee's Student Mentoring Program was underway.

SPLC – No new updates.

CPEC – Dr. Goldstein noted that she would be going on maternity leave shortly. The council was at work creating a sci comm toolkit for members.

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm CT. *Minutes respectfully submitted by R. Borzon on October 11, 2021.*