



## HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL CALL MINUTES

Date Wednesday, December 1, 2021  
Time 12 pm CT

MEMBERS	
Joanna Buscemi, PhD (Chair)	Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD
Melanie Bean, PhD	Brian Gonzalez, PhD
Pamela Behrman, PhD	Leo Wilton, PhD, MPH
	Rebecca Borzon, Lindsay Bullock (staff)

REGRETS	
Akilah Dulin, PhD (Health Policy Committee Chair)	Amy Janke, PhD (SPLC Representative)
Carly Goldstein, PhD (CPEC Chair)	

### Approve minutes from November call

Dr. Buscemi made motion to approve the November call minutes; seconded by Dr. Gonzalez. Motion carried.

Dr. Buscemi noted that Dr. Figueroa had been nominated and confirmed by the BOD as the new chair of the council. He was an active child nutrition ambassador, and had led the position statement their team had created in Q1 of 2021. He was responsive, collaborative, and would make a great chair of the council. The transition plan was set, and Dr. Buscemi and Dr. Figueroa would work together for a seamless transition.

### Ambassador Update

Child Nutrition Ambassadors – The newest child nutrition ambassador had met with Senator Warren’s office. One of the ambassador’s legislative offices had asked for research on dyes and non-nutritive sweeteners. Dr. Bean had reached out to the Child and Family Health SIG, and the council noted that she should reach out to the Obesity and Eating Disorders SIG.

Rural Health Ambassadors – A new ambassador had not met with their legislator, but had begun tweeting and @ing them on twitter while they tried to schedule a meeting.

Opioid Pain Management Ambassadors – The opioid pain management ambassadors were a less active group, but were still making progress. Dr. Buscemi and SBM staff were working to set a call for Q1 for this group, where a lead ambassador would be nominated.

### Talking Points for Rural Health Ambassadors

These talking points focus on telehealth accessibility and are directed toward two separate bills. The council determined that this would be the best approach, as sometimes bills do not move through Congress quickly. The council also advised on adding a short sentence at the end to



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more broadly advise on the issue of telehealth accessibility, as well as noting that it may be wise to mention the Moms Act. The finishing touches were being added to these talking points, and they would be sent to SBM staff shortly. The talking points would then be sent to the Executive Committee for review and approval.

It also discussed whether the council or the ambassadors should lead drafting talking points. Drafting talking points was a skill that the ambassadors needed. The council agreed that the ambassador's liaison should manage feedback from the council on talking points drafted by the ambassadors.

### **Adjourn**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1 pm CT. *Minutes respectfully submitted by R. Borzon on December 7, 2021.*