



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Advocacy Council Call Minutes

Date Thursday, December 8, 2022
Time 11 a.m. ET

ATTENDEES	
Roger Figueroa, PhD (Chair)	Brian Gonzalez, PhD
Pamela Behrman, PhD	Kristin Schneider, PhD (OPC Chair)
Joanna Buscemi, PhD	Lindsay Bullock, CAE (staff, does not count toward quorum)

Rural health ambassador liaison

Dr. Behrman requests to stop work as the liaison to the rural health ambassadors. Dr. Figueroa expressed his thanks for her work and will make the change.

Minutes approval

Dr. Figueroa made the motion to approve the October call minutes; seconded by Dr. Buscemi. The motion carried.

Discussion of vetting process for SBM sign ons/endorsements

Dr. Figueroa met with SBM President Dr. Margaret Schneider to discuss this topic in November. As the council previously discussed, there have been some inquiries from members about our vetting process and how we ensure we have the best evidence and experts. Two primary ideas from the conversation with Dr. Schneider were creation of a policy review board and creation of a reviewer form so they can indicate capability to review the specific content.

The council members expressed a desire to NOT add additional layers of review, but perhaps instead to provide specific advice or criteria to those who already review. There are likely no “perfect” criteria though, as the best evidence available may not always be a meta-analysis, or there may be compelling reasons to sign a letter because of the topic or relationship-building with the authoring entity.

Ambassador updates

Dr. Figueroa does monthly email touchpoints with the groups about things they can share, logging contacts, developing content, etc. The pain and rural health ambassadors are working together on a set of talking points. This lays a foundation for the groups to collaborate in the future. The talking points will go to the SBM Executive Committee on December 13. If approved, they could also lead to a position statement. The climate change group has had conversations



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about how climate relates to the other areas, and those ambassadors are also actively thinking about collaborations.

Dr. Figueroa and the lead ambassadors attended an AcademyHealth policy training in DC at the end of October. The event was very informative and helpful. They will be sharing resources with the ambassadors via a shared folder and a January call. They suggest more SBM ambassadors attend next year, depending on cost and funding.

Organizational collaborations updates

Drs. Figueroa and Buscemi connected with Kim Smolderen (APA SfHP). Kim was trying to gather information about our ambassador program and position statements process. Her society is starting efforts and wanted guidance. They also discussed how to collaborate in a meaningful way.

Dr. Schneider has separately been in touch with Dr. Smolderen about SfHP and AHA work. It would be nice if SfHP could be a better conduit to APA.

Dr. Schneider attend an ecoAmerica call. They can do climate ambassador trainings at conferences and have a ClimateRX program to encourage healthcare providers to start talking with patients about how climate change is impacting their health(asthma, heat stroke, etc.). At SBM's meeting, they could do free ClimateRX badges and a training. We may do a virtual training instead, but enough of our members may be providers to get the badges to give out at our conference. Dr. Schneider will follow up with the ecoAmerica contact.

Dr. Schneider said the OPC liaison to AHA, Dr. Matt Whited, attend the first AHA behavioral science committee meeting. The new chair is interested in getting more involved with SBM and especially our health policy statements.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m. ET.

Minutes respectfully submitted by L. Bullock on December 8, 2022.