



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

SIG Council Conference Call MINUTES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

8 a.m. PT/9 a.m. MT/10 a.m. CT/11 a.m. ET

Call in number: <https://zoom.us/j/96341511103>

In Attendance

Robert L. Newton Jr., PhD – *Chair*
Kathi Heffner, PhD – *Aging*
Jaime Hughes, PhD, MPH, MSW – *Aging*
Chuka Emezue, PhD, MPH – *BIT*
Amy Leader, DrPH, MPH – *Cancer*
Bernardine Pinto, PhD – *Cancer*
Karen Syrjala, PhD – *Cancer*
Allyson Hughes, PhD – *Diabetes*
Melissa Little, PhD, MPH – *EBBM*
Courtney Scherr, PhD – *HDM*
Tiffany Carson, PhD, MPH – *Health Equity*
Patricia Rodriguez Espinosa, PhD, MPH – *Health Equity*

Andrea Graham, PhD – *OED*
Ahnalee Brincks, PhD – *OBB*
Laura Porter, PhD – *Palliative Care*
Katherine Ramos, PhD – *Palliative Care*
Jessica Gorzelitz, PhD – *PHS*
Candyce Kroenke, ScD, MPH – *PHS*
Jessica Dietch, PhD – *Sleep*
Kathryn Knoff – *Student*
Angela Bryan, PhD – *TTBCI*
Martin Hagger, PhD – *TTBCI*
Derek Hevel, MS – *TTBCI*
Jodie Lisenbee – *Women's Health*
Andrew Schmidt (staff)

Minutes

The August 2021 SIG Council call minutes were approved as written.

SBM Health Policy Initiatives

The SIG Council welcomed Dr. Joanna Buscemi, SBM Health Policy Council Chair, for a series of updates on SBM's current health policy activities and opportunities for SIGs to become more involved.

First among those activities are SBM's policy position statements, which form the primary output of SBM's Health Policy Committee. Dr. Buscemi walked the council through the process of proposing, drafting, refining, formatting, and publishing a position statement, and discussed how position statements can serve as excellent practice in science communication and writing persuasively for non-scientific audiences. While many past position statements have been developed in collaboration with one or more SIGs, Dr. Buscemi encouraged council members who haven't yet engaged with SBM's health policy efforts to consider potential topics for a future statement.

A second major component of SBM's health policy portfolio is the National Health Policy Ambassador Program. In 2019, SBM began the process of identifying three priority areas within which it would focus its health policy efforts: 1) Educating lawmakers about research-based ways to best manage pain and combat opioid misuse; 2) Educating lawmakers about the unique healthcare needs of rural populations and evidence-based strategies to improve their health outcomes and quality of life; and 3) Educating lawmakers about nutrition science and why it is critically important that children from all income levels have access to healthy foods.

After establishing these policy priorities, the Health Policy Council identified key legislators working in each area and recruited SBM members who reside in those legislators' districts to serve as policy ambassadors. The ambassador program has been highly successful in establishing relationships with staff in key policymakers' offices, however the ambassadors have recently reported a need for more research from SBM members within each of the priority areas. As such, the Health Policy Council hopes that the SIGs might already be aware of impactful science relating to one of the three policy priorities or might be able to help funnel relevant research from their members to the appropriate ambassadors.

SIG Council members interested in collaborating on a position statement were invited to reach out to Dr. Buscemi directly, while all SIGs were encouraged to ask their members for research relevant to SBM's policy priorities that could be shared by the ambassadors in future meetings with legislative staff.

Ongoing SIG Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Discussion

Dr. Newton encouraged the council to continue thinking about ways to incorporate principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion into their SIGs' activities, particularly as SIGs begin to prepare for their 2022 awards and leadership elections.

Other Business

Dr. Newton reminded the council of his intention to continue meeting individually with each SIG before the end of the 2021-22 SBM year. Any SIGs with upcoming leadership meetings were encouraged to reach out to Dr. Newton with call details.

As mentioned during the previous SIG Council meeting, SBM's SIG Renewal Review Committee has been tasked with reviewing the regular SIG annual reports in non-renewal years. Reviews of the 2020-2021 reports are nearing completion, and feedback on those reports will be shared with the SIG chairs before the next SIG Council meeting. Dr. Newton invited the council to share which types of feedback they thought would be most helpful to receive about their reports, with members expressing interest in information about overlap between SIGs and in examples of successful SIGs in each of the review areas.

Dr. Newton also invited council members to share suggestions for additional guests from among SBM's councils, committees, or society leadership to present during upcoming SIG Council meetings.

Next meeting: December 15, 2021; 11 a.m. ET