



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

SIG Council Conference Call MINUTES

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

1 p.m. PT/2 p.m. MT/3 p.m. CT/4 p.m. ET

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

In Attendance

Brian Gonzalez, PhD – *Chair*

Robert L. Newton Jr., PhD – *Incoming Chair*

Kathi Heffner, PhD – *Aging*

Jaime Hughes, PhD, MPH, MSW – *Aging*

Amber Blackwood, MPH – *BIT*

Danielle Jake-Schoffman, PhD – *BIT*

Amy Leader, DrPH, MPH – *Cancer*

Karen Syrjala, PhD – *Cancer*

Matthew Whited, PhD – *CVD*

Melanie Bean, PhD – *CFH*

Nora Henrikson, PhD, MPH – *EBBM*

Carrie Patnode, PhD – *EBBM*

Courtney Scherr, PhD – *HDM*

Kassandra Alcaraz, PhD, MPH – *Health Equity*

Megan J. Shen, PhD – *Health Equity*

Cerissa L. Blaney, PhD – *IPC*

Katherine Hall, PhD – *MVH*

Rebecca Krukowski, PhD – *OED*

Andrea Graham, PhD – *OED*

Kathryn Ross, PhD, MPH – *OED*

Ahnalee Brincks, PhD – *OBBi*

Angela Pfammatter, PhD – *OBBi*

Jessica Breland, PhD – *PHS*

Candyce Kroenke, ScD, MPH – *PHS*

Jessica Dietch, PhD – *Sleep*

Martin S. Hagger, PhD – *TTBCI*

Ryan E. Rhodes, PhD – *TTBCI*

Bushra Sabri, PhD – *Violence and Trauma*

Veronica Njie-Carr, PhD – *Women's Health*

Andrew Schmidt (staff)

Minutes

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

Proven Science – Better Health Giving Campaign

Dr. Gonzalez reminded the council that SBM's new giving campaign was currently underway, with several activities planned during the Annual Meeting. As an additional incentive for SIG participation, the Development Committee instituted a "Battle of the SIGs" to run through the end of the week by which the SIG with the highest percentage of members making a donation will receive bragging rights and special recognition during the closing celebration, in emails, on the SBM website, and on social media.

Health Policy Ambassador Program

Dr. Gonzalez notified the council that SBM's Health Policy Council has been considering strategies to increase the impact of the Health Policy Ambassador program, and that during a recent Health Policy Council call, the group discussed leveraging the expertise of the SIGs. Interested SIGs could be invited to share publications or other resources suitable for a lay audience that the ambassadors could then pass along to policymakers.

Dr. Gonzalez asked the council whether scheduled calls for resources would be useful, or if a procedure should be put in place by which SIGs can provide relevant materials to the ambassadors on an ad hoc basis. Several chairs noted that it would be difficult to anticipate what resources would be useful for this purpose, while Dr. Bean reported that in her experience as an ambassador, policymakers are keen to share the type of information that they're looking for. Either having a repository of SIG-recommended materials, or having a quick and easy way for ambassadors to get in touch with SIGs when policymakers ask for particular data, would allow ambassadors to effectively respond. The council also considered the benefit of certain SIGs adding an officer position to liaison with the Health Policy Committee or defining health policy outreach as an existing chair/co-chair responsibility.

Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Gonzalez provided a preview of an upcoming presentation on SBM's new strategic framework, which was to be shared in full with the membership during the SBM Business Meeting on the final day of the Annual Meeting. In summary, SBM leadership identified three strategic outcomes (Awareness and Impact, Public Education, and SBM as a Professional Resource) and charged particular groups within the society with working toward those outcomes in the first year of the plan.

Having taken a quick look at the society-wide strategic plan, Dr. Gonzalez asked the council for any new thoughts regarding strategic planning at the SIG level. Council members agreed that any SIG strategic planning exercises should remain optional, but questioned whether a strategic planning component could be incorporated into the existing annual reports or renewal applications. Dr. Whited also asked whether the annual reports or renewal applications could be adjusted to align with the new SBM strategic framework instead of, or in addition to, individual SIGs developing their own strategic plans.

Best Practices for Recruiting SIG Officers/Increasing Engagement in SIG Activities

After a number of chairs reported considerable difficulty with identifying new SIG officers in time for this year's elections, Dr. Gonzalez invited the council to revisit its ongoing discussion of best practices for SIG leadership recruitment and engaging members in SIG activities. Some of those chairs noted that it seemed particularly difficult to find candidates interested in standing for a SIG election; Dr. Gonzalez asked the council whether moving away from direct elections and either appointing officers or selecting new chairs at random from among interested members would eliminate that hurdle.

Several chairs commented that removing the membership's voice in elections would represent too much of a tradeoff. While it is important to ensure that the nomination/election process is as easy as possible for potential candidates, more prospective candidates might be reached by making SIG leadership roles more appealing rather than eliminating the election process.

Dr. Graham noted that the OED SIG had adopted a one-year term for student chairs, which represents less of a barrier to entry than other leadership positions. Additional SIG roles with fewer responsibilities and a shorter time commitment than the chair/co-chair position could be useful for engaging more SIG members and developing a leadership pipeline.

Several council members mentioned using their SIGs' business meetings as recruiting events, introducing any standing committees and sharing other regular opportunities for involvement with the SIG. In addition, members of the Cancer and Physical Activity SIGs reported success with directly recruiting new co-chair candidates rather than relying on open calls for nominations. SIG members who might not otherwise consider themselves for a leadership role may be more likely to volunteer after being asked by the current chair(s).

As diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts become a greater focus of SBM's strategic framework, Dr. Gonzalez also suggested that SIGs look for ways to incorporate DEI principles into their leadership recruitment, while the SIG Council could explore formalizing a commitment DEI throughout the SIG program as a whole in the coming years.

Open Forum

Dr. Gonzalez closed by welcoming incoming SIG Council Chair Dr. Robert Newton.

Next meeting: June 16, 2021; 11 a.m. ET