



## HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL CALL MINUTES

Date Wednesday, October 7, 2020  
Time 12 p.m. CT

MEMBERS	
Joanna Buscemi, PhD (Chair)	Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD
Melanie Bean, PhD	Brian Gonzalez, PhD
Pamela Behrman, PhD	Leo Wilton, PhD, MPH
Carly Goldstein, PhD (CPEC Chair)	

REGRETS	
Akilah Dulin, PhD (Health Policy Committee Chair)	Amy Janke, PhD (SPLC Chair)

### Approve minutes from September call

Dr. Buscemi made motion to approve the September call minutes; seconded by Dr. Wilton. Motion carried.

### Ambassador Update

Dr. Buscemi mentioned that the ambassadors had all been invited to participate in Advocacy Day, where those who signed up met with their state legislators to advocate for NIH funding. She added that this program was very well done, and remarked that the other advocates had done a great deal of sharing stories, which is an area the ambassadors could improve upon. Additionally, all three groups of ambassadors had gone through the same process getting started: they initially had trouble getting calls, they were nervous about taking the first meeting, and then saw other successful members of their group. Additionally, it was noted that the ambassadors should have quarterly calls and monthly contact with their legislators.

Child Nutrition Ambassadors – The ambassadors held a debrief call on October 6 to discuss what went well, where to improve, and next steps. The group was very enthusiastic, and the ambassadors enjoyed being to connect with one another virtually. The ambassadors had determined to write a health policy brief on the implementation of SNAP to increase diet quality during COVID.

Rural Health Ambassadors – These ambassadors had debriefed in the summer, as their group was smaller than the others, and they had quickly made contact with their legislators.

Opioid Pain Management Ambassadors – Dr. Buscemi noted that thought this group had been lagging initially, they had really picked up the pace. The ambassadors would have debrief on October 15 to discuss what went well, where to improve, and next steps. She noted that opioid misuse could be increasing due to COVID, and the



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It was also discussed that the ambassador program may be expanded after the election. There are currently 14 ambassadors in 11 states connecting with 16 legislators. This could be updated after the election, as the outcome was not yet known, and the legislators were all currently up for reelection.

It was remarked that the tracking document google form would likely become unwieldy soon. The council noted that it may be beneficial to create a web form. This way, the council could run a report for easy data collection. However, the ambassadors would have less accountability if the tracker is not used. It was determined that there could be a monthly update via email that gave an update on all ambassador's progress. A slack channel could also be created so that the ambassadors could move away from email.

### **Update on Review of Other Policy Organizations**

Child Nutrition: Dr. Buscemi stated that SBM should collaborate with the Healthy Eating Research NOPREN COVID-19 School Nutrition Implications Working Group. They had a large group of other organizations working together, and sent out an email via listserv weekly. There were a lot of opportunities present with this collaboration as a result of SBM's other work.

Rural Health: Dr. Behrman noted that the best organization for collaboration would be the Rural Policy Research Institute, which had a research background. They also partnered with the Rural Health Association. They had a small, collaborative community. Dr. Behrman would schedule the initial meeting with Dr. Buscemi, Ms. Bullock, and their contact.

Pain/Opioid: Neither Dr. Buscemi nor Dr. Wilton were enthused with the organizations that had been provided. Additional research had been done to select the American Physical Therapy Association. The organization had a large number of dedicated lobbyists, and they also write position statements similarly to SBM's. They also advocate for telehealth coverage and non-pharmacological pain treatments and have a huge impact with youth. It was noted that the organization may not be right for the council's movement, but could be collaborated with in another capacity. The organization was a part of NOPREN, so the structure was already present. The council would just have to determine the correct person to contact to begin collaborating.

### **Review and Approval of Sign of White Paper**

<https://academic.oup.com/ajcn/article/112/3/721/5873352>

The Health Policy Council reviewed the white paper from The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition entitled "Strengthening national nutrition research: rationale and options for a new coordinated federal research effort and authority" to determine if SBM should endorse. The council noted that they did not see anything alarming from the paper. The council did note that several other companies that had signed-on had raised a yellow flag. However, there were sign-ons from several other nonprofits and organizations that aligned with SBM values. Dr. Buscemi made motion for the council to approve the sign on of this white paper for Executive Committee review; seconded by Dr. Gonzalez. The motion carried.



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**Adjourn**

With no further business, the meeting ended at 1:00 pm CT. *Minutes respectfully submitted by R. Borzon on October 9, 2020.*