



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Advocacy Council Call Minutes

Date Tuesday, November 14, 2023
Time 12 p.m. ET

| ATTENDEES | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Roger Figueroa, PhD (Chair) | Megan Shen, PhD |
| Melanie Bean, PhD | Kristin Schneider, PhD |
| Pamela Behrman, PhD | Kristi White, PhD |
| Joanna Buscemi, PhD | Lindsay Bullock, CAE |
| Lisa LaRowe, PhD | Amy Myers, SCMM |

(Staff does not count towards quorum)

Minutes approval

Dr. Bean made the motion to approve the October call minutes, seconded by Dr. Buscemi. The motion carried.

Ambassador updates and collaborations

Child Nutrition Ambassadors

Dr. Figueroa shared that there is activity in all nutritional priority areas. Dr. Jennifer Mandelbaum, a new ambassador, had a great first interaction with her respective lawmaker's office. Dr. Mendelbaum was one of our ambassadors that migrated from rural health into a new priority area. This was a successful pivot for her.

Climate Change and Health Ambassadors

Dr. White shared that the last time she met with the Climate Change ambassadors there was a lack of clarity around advocacy and what "is" and "what is not" lobbying.

Ms. Bullock shared that SBM, as an organization, is allowed to lobby, so there does not need to be a distinction made between advocacy and lobbying. As a non for profit 501c3, we can say all we want around issues, but we cannot be "for" or "against" certain candidates or campaigns. As an individual they can say anything they want, however if they say "SBM supports...", they need to make sure it is an approved SBM talking point or position statement.

Dr. White would like to establish a set of SBM approved talking points for the Climate Change group. Dr. Figueroa suggested using SBM position statements as a resource that can be used for talking points. Dr. White suggested ambassadors ask themselves before answering questions "in what role am I answering this question?" on behalf of "SBM, my institution, as a scientist, etc." and that will help individuals keep their focus on the correct language to use with lawmakers.



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Opioid Pain Management Ambassadors

Dr. LaRowe shared that she received a letter drafted by Reps. Trone and Joyce's offices and was asked to help circulate. However, Medicare did release their final rule that did not include the No PAIN Act in 2024 and that they are going to delay implementation until 2025. Reps Trone's office then turned back and asked for help in rewriting the letter, which is very encouraging that they continue to ask for our help.

Dr. LaRowe met with the Pain and Opioid ambassadors, it was agreed that they would like to strengthen their reciprocal relationships with lawmakers. Dr. Schneider had the idea of developing an infographic to outline all the different resources/values that SBM ambassadors can offer. Dr. Figueroa agreed this would be a nice value add. Ms. Myers asked Drs. LaRowe and Schneider to send her the values that they would like included in this piece and staff will create an infographic for the ambassadors to use. The council agreed that this would be a generic document that all the ambassador groups could use to introduce to lawmakers.

Ambassador Tracking Link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11oPftU6S4k99kSt-tbJBkBXuVktqHDjuANKc-pGHiXk/edit?usp=sharing>

Link to Advocacy Council Google Drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1w_bEe5u7NJh4GUR9EZLDjYfEgJFpmTzg?usp=sharing

Committee Chair Updates

Position Statements

Dr. Figueroa shared that on November 15 a new position statement will be released regarding the RESTORE Act and SNAP. Please share statement with your partners and on social media. Dr. Shen added that there are no major updates this month. They are putting together an Outlook article that will be speaking to the exciting new TBM opportunity to submit statements for publication as well as current trends in policy hoping to garner more interest in submission of position statements as well as increase the membership community's interest in submissions.

Organizational Partnerships

Dr. Schneider thanked Drs. Bean and Figueroa for agreeing that SBM should sign on to a CSPI letter in opposition of the cheese carve-out rider in FY2024 agriculture appropriations. SBM also recently signed on to the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act. The OPC is evaluating a potential new partnership with the Network for Public Health Law, which would bring in unique collaborations with legal expertise. They have a particular interest in climate change. The OPC will be evaluating them at its next meeting.



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Winter 2023 Outlook Article

Dr. Figueroa asked for feedback on the Outlook article by Lisa LaRowe et al. The article is due November 16. Dr. Shen suggested having direct links at the end of the article for how to get involved and for how to donate. Dr. La Rowe will update the article.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m. ET.

Minutes respectfully submitted by A. Myers on November 14, 2023.