



## HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL CALL MINUTES

Date Wednesday, May 6, 2020  
Time 12 p.m. CT

MEMBERS	
Joanna Buscemi, PhD (Chair)	Brian Gonzalez, PhD
Pamela Behrman, PhD	Carly Goldstein, PhD (CPEC Chair)
Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD	Amy Janke, PhD (SPLC Chair)

  

REGRETS	
Melanie Bean, PhD	Akilah Dulin, PhD (Health Policy Committee Chair)

### **Approve minutes from the January, February, March, and April call**

Motion to approve January, February, March, and April minutes made by Dr. Buscemi, seconded by Dr. Fitzgibbon. The motion carried.

Dr. Buscemi noted that some members of the council had completed their three-year term. Dr. Gonzales and Dr. Bean had recently joined the council, and Dr. Buscemi had recently connected with Dr. Leah Witton, who did HIV policy work at Bennington. She noted that she wanted the council to grow, and wanted members who would be excited about the ambassador program.

### **Update on rural health policy ambassadors**

Dr. Buscemi noted that she had reached out to the opioid pain ambassadors, and informed them that their program was on hold until June. This was for two reasons: the first being that the message may get lost in the overall constant discussion of the COVID-19 pandemic. The second is because in-person meetings were now canceled, which was the first step in reaching out to develop a relationship with their legislator.

Additionally, Dr. Buscemi had reached out to one person for all states to confirm if they would like to be a rural health ambassador. Dr. Lisa Bertram had confirmed for WI. Dr. Kate Hoerster had declined, as her position made her unable to do policy work. However, she forwarded the invitation to a colleague, Dr. Tiffany Carson. Training ambassadors could still continue under the current circumstances.



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Dr. Buscemi asked the council when they believed it would be appropriate for the ambassadors to continue building a relationship with their legislators. It was noted that June may be too soon, but it would be beneficial to check back in with the selected ambassadors.

It was discussed that there would always be another priority, and it would be crucial to use the current context to address needs in the ambassador's area. The council determined to draft talking points relevant to COVID-19. This way, the council could rely on the expertise of the ambassadors, as well as get their buy-in. It was noted that the talking points could be approved by the Executive Committee to ensure that they are kept in the loop on the ambassador program, and approve of the next steps that the council is taking in light of the pandemic.

Dr. Buscemi also asked that SBM Staff pull a list for the child nutrition ambassadors.

**ACTION:** Dr. Buscemi to reach out to pain ambassadors to check-in with them and to ask for their expertise in drafting COVID-related talking points. SBM Staff to pull a list of potential child nutrition ambassadors.

### **Health Policy Council Joint Statement on COVID-19**

Dr. Buscemi then updated the council on the joint statement that had been released by the Health Policy Council, Health Policy Committee, CPEC, and the Health Equity SIG on health equity during COVID-19. The brief had already been submitted to TBM, and had received quick endorsements from many organizations.

Additionally, SBM had collaborated with the PHR to call for adequate PPE for physicians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was also noted that the Health Policy Committee had created a list of potential COVID-related statements, and the committee had prioritized the ideas and would be reaching out to potential authors.

### **Updates from our other council and committee chairs**

CPEC - Dr. Goldstein noted that CPEC currently had low-attendance due to many of its members being highly-involved in SBM, and was hoping to expand the committee. Additionally, she wanted CPEC to strategize any joint efforts that were coming forward regarding COVID-19.



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SPLC – Dr. Jahnke mentioned that the SPLC also had difficulties with attendance, and wanted to partner with other organizations moving forward.

**Adjourn**

The call adjourned at 12:45 p.m. CT.

Minutes respectfully submitted by R. Borzon on May 11, 2020.