



HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL CALL MINUTES

Date Wednesday, June 3, 2020
Time 12 p.m. CT

MEMBERS	
Joanna Buscemi, PhD (Chair)	Carly Goldstein, PhD (CPEC Chair)
Melanie Bean, PhD	Brian Gonzalez, PhD
Pamela Behrman, PhD	Amy Janke, PhD (SPLC Chair)
Akilah Dulin, PhD (Health Policy Committee Chair)	Leo Wilton, PhD, MPH
Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD	

Approve minutes from last call

Motion made by Dr. Buscemi to approve the minutes; seconded by Dr. Fitzgibbon; Dr. Bean abstained. Motion passed.

Dr. Buscemi asked Dr. Bean to introduce herself. She noted that she works in pediatrics as a child health psychologist. She currently is working on policies' impact on school food policy.

Dr. Buscemi also asked Dr. Wilton to introduce himself. He is a faculty member in the department of human development, and works on HIV prevention.

Update on Confirmed Rural Health and Child Nutrition Ambassadors

Dr. Buscemi noted that she had confirmed all child nutrition ambassadors. However, confirming rural health ambassadors had proved to be more difficult, as it was not a practice area that SBM tracked. She opened the floor to the council for recommendations. While the council did not have recommendations for WY, Dr. Goldstein noted that LaPrincess Brewer was a new SBM member who was looking for ways to become more involved. Additionally, she does rural health in her clinical work, although it is not her specialty. Lila Rutten was also recommended, as she is knowledgeable about the work of the council and SBM, but does not necessarily work with rural health. Dr. Buscemi also noted that Dori Rosenberg had agreed to be an ambassador. However, she was not in the exact jurisdiction of her legislator for rural health, and had also agreed to research child nutrition to be an ambassador for that area. It was noted that it was better to have ambassadors who were willing and excited to participate than having no one. Dr. Buscemi agreed, and stated that she would begin reaching out to the council's recommendations.

Update on Rural Health and Child Nutrition Ambassadors Training



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Dr. Buscemi noted that all ambassadors had been invited to indicate their availability in two doodle polls in order to schedule two training sessions. The session dates and times would be determined tomorrow, as ambassadors had until the end of day to indicate their availability.

Opioid Ambassador Response to COVID-19

The opioid ambassadors had been trained prior to the COVID outbreak, and Dr. Buscemi had reached out to all opioid ambassadors to help determine COVID-specific messaging and hoped that she would inspire conversation. However, the only response that Dr. Buscemi had received remarked that the current legislative response was adequate. Dr. Janke noted that they disagreed. Although the response was not unreasonable, there was no appropriate advocacy strategy. It was noted that one of the more senior ambassadors had made the determination that the legislative response was fine, which may have made ambassadors disinclined to disagree. It was mentioned that COVID was underscoring the need for a variety of issues, and the council did not want to overstate the value of behavioral pain work for political reasons. As such, it was determined that Dr. Buscemi would reach out to the ambassadors individually to see if they would be willing to draft COVID-related talking points.

Other Council Efforts on Current Events

It was noted that Dr. Fitzgibbon and Dr. Berhman were working to craft more statements on police brutality and anti-racism. Dr. Berhman mentioned that Sarah Miller of the Health Policy Committee had arranged a meeting with interested participants and they were currently determining whether to draft a statement for release that would be submitted to TBM. Ms. Bullock had created a google doc for the participants to utilize. They were also working to determine other anti-racism projects that would be both short- and long-term.

Dr. Dulin was also leading on the creation of a brief on obesity that was being routed by email. Other ideas included the topics of Trauma & COVID, as well as a Rural Health & COVID brief that was currently being routed to the Executive Committee for review.

Discuss Michael Diefenbach's presidential address

Dr. Buscemi mentioned that she would like to collect data on the provocative questions brought up in Dr. Diefenbach's presidential address, specifically on the topic of climate change and health, which is an important future direction. The APA had a subcommittee dedicated to the area of climate change and environmental equity. It was stated that SBM's membership had the capacity to address issues like heat death or physical distancing leading to an improved environment. It was asked what the hesitancy was, and it was determined that the council did not want to interrupt what the working group had planned, especially considering that this was still in its preliminary stages. It was remarked that the SPLC could help play a role.

Revisit Council Name Change



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Dr. Buscemi revisited the idea of changing the council name, as the Health Policy Council and Health Policy Committee were a source of confusion for many SBM members. She added that the council was started because the committee was ineffective, and updating the council name would reflect their new roles. Potential new names for the council included: Government Relations Council, Advocacy Council, Health Advocacy and Relations Council, and Health Policy and Advocacy Relations Council. It was determined that the council would take a survey to indicate their vote.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm CT.

Minutes respectfully submitted by R. Borzon on June 6, 2020.