



HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL CALL MINUTES

Date Thursday, June 6
Time 2 p.m. ET

IN ATTENDANCE	
Joanna Buscemi, PhD (Chair)	Sara Knight, PhD
Akilah Dulin, PhD (Health Policy Committee Chair)	Judy Ockene, PhD, MEd, MA
Marian Fitzgibbon, PhD	

STAFF	
Lindsay Bullock	Robert Carroll

REGRETS	
Amy Janke, PhD (SPLC Chair)	Monica Wang, ScD, MS (CPEC Chair)

Approval of the minutes

Dr. Buscemi moved to approve the May call minutes. Dr. Ockene seconded. The motion carried.

Health policy strategic priorities

Dr. Buscemi shared a draft priorities document, which was crafted based on input from the council and staff, to adhere to the guidelines from our policy consultant. It outlines three priorities for SBM ambassadors to work on the next 3+ years:

1. Educate lawmakers about research-based ways to best manage pain and combat opioid misuse.
2. Educate lawmakers about the unique healthcare needs of rural populations and evidence-based strategies to improve their health outcomes and quality of life.
3. Educate lawmakers about nutrition science and why it's critically important that children from all income levels have access to healthy foods.

Council members suggested the third item be broadened to include physical activity and/or nutrition across the lifespan. However, it was decided a more specific and narrow priority would be more actionable. Plus, SBM members can still write policy briefs about any topic, including physical activity. Council members also suggested the third item use the same "evidence-based" language as the others and include kids having access to food and actually eating it.



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Council members suggested the word “educate” feels too top-down and not participatory enough. Via brainstorming on the call, the group decided to rewrite the priorities to say “work with lawmakers on ...” rather than “educate.” Working together would also better acknowledge the very important relationship-building part of the ambassadors’ role, and the desire for SBM members to also learn from policymakers (about the legislative process, for example).

Council members also suggested a figure be added to explain who is talking to whom, and at which stages in the ambassador relationship-building process.

→ **ACTION ITEM:** Dr. Buscemi will work with staff to update the document based on council feedback, for presentation to the Board in July.

Responding to requests for comments

The council discussed a recent call for comments on nutrition bills that were to be authored jointly with the Society for Health Psychology. The process was difficult due to unclear deadlines and uncertainty over who would be the lead author. Dr. Buscemi said the situation begged the question of if a more formal process should be put in place for responding to requests for comments where there is no clear lead author within SBM or one of its SIGs. The council decided it would be very difficult to have a set process since so much of responding to comments is case by case.

→ **ACTION ITEM:** Drs. Buscemi and Dulin will be explicit in their responses to anyone contacting them about comments, making sure to set a clear deadline and clear expectations about authorship and SBM’s internal review process, which includes Executive Committee review.

Adjourn

The call adjourned at 2:02 p.m. ET. The council’s next call is on July 4 and will be cancelled.

Minutes submitted by L. Bullock on June 6, 2019.