



## HEALTH POLICY COUNCIL CALL MINUTES

Date Wednesday, August 5, 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
Akilah Dulin, PhD (Health Policy Committee Chair)	

REGRETS	
Carly Goldstein, PhD (CPEC Chair)	Amy Janke, PhD (SPLC Chair)

### Approve minutes from last call

Dr. Buscemi made a motion to approve the July minutes; seconded by Dr. Wilton. Motion carried

### Ambassador Update

The talking points for the opioid pain management and child nutrition ambassadors had been approved by the EC. The rural health ambassadors would use the recently published brief on COVID-19 and rural health.

The opioid pain management group had a great initial discussion on talking points that had fizzled out. While Dr. Fox had scheduled a two separate meetings with her separate legislators, there had been little progress otherwise, despite all ambassadors now supporting the talking points. It was noted that it was likely that the ambassadors were nervous to make initial contact, but Dr. Fox's meetings may encourage them. Dr. Buscemi noted that she had offered resources and to help the ambassadors prepare prior to meetings by phone.

Dr. Buscemi stated that she had helped prepare Dr. Soriano for her August 6 meeting with her legislator. Dr. Rosenberg had a difficult time connecting with her ambassador, but continued her outreach. Dr. Bean mentioned that the AACR had released a timely brief on food insecurity. Dr. Buscemi noted that she was pleased with their progress.

While the rural health group only had three ambassadors, they had all made contact with their legislator and there had been two-way communication. Dr. Buscemi mentioned that she was hopeful about their impact.

The council agreed that the ambassadors had all made astounding progress so far. The council also discussed how to engage the opioid pain management group. It was noted that the



## SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

ambassadors should begin outreach before November. The council also agreed that the process should be normalized by outlining challenges and hurdles. It was determined that the ambassadors should begin to set up zoom calls to engage as groups.

### **Partnering with Other Policy Organizations**

Dr. Buscemi then directed the council's attention to the attached list of policy organizations. The list was a starting point for SBM to partner with other larger organizations who were more involved with policy work. This would fulfill both the strategic plan set up by BINTA and Dr. Baskin's vision for her presidency. The council should review the list of organizations to see if any were a good fit for partnerships. Liaisons could be found from SBM membership or from the council. Dr. Buscemi stated that it would be easiest for the ambassador liaisons to review the organizations to investigate who SBM should partner with.

It was crucial that the partnering organizations align with SBM's vision, and liaisons should look for a first choice of partnering organizations. Then, an exploratory call could be held. It would be good to set up the groundwork of establishing partnerships while the ambassadors made progress.

### **Updates from Other Council and Committee Chairs**

Dr. Dulin thanked Dr. Buscemi for establishing the groundwork that made her success with the committee possible. She mentioned that the position statement on Expanding SNAP would be released on August 6. The committee had also recently released two briefs: one on COVID-19 and rural health, and one on ending the use of the term "abuse." There were also two COVID-related briefs that were currently in the works.

Dr. Buscemi stated that the Health Policy Committee and Health Policy Council should continue to coordinate their efforts. There was the potential that the ambassadors would submit a brief, which would be a talking point by virtue of its approval by the Executive Committee.

### **Adjourn**

With no further business, the meeting ended at 1:00 pm CT. *Minutes submitted by R. Borzon on August 7, 2020.*