



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

Advocacy Council Call Minutes

Date Thursday, March 9, 2023

Time 11 a.m. ET

ATTENDEES	
Roger Figueroa, PhD (Chair)	Nutrition Lead: Elizabeth Adams, PhD
Melanie Bean, PhD	Opioid/Pain Lead: Lisa LaRowe, PhD
Brian Gonzalez, PhD	Staff: Lindsay Bullock, CAE
Kristin Schneider, PhD (OPC Chair)	

Welcome, lead ambassadors!

Dr. Figueroa noted the lead ambassadors will be joining council calls for consistency and planning.

Final update on vetting process for SBM sign ons/endorsements

Dr. Figueroa shared that after much discussion by the council and then with the SBM presidential line, there are no changes planned to the process. Due diligence in discussion and vetting of the process has been completed. There was not enough of a concern to overburden the current process. These opportunities are time-limited so must move quickly, and the process already includes review by Dr. Figueroa and others who are expert in the area (other council members, ambassadors, SIG chairs) before additional review by the SBM Executive Committee. The goal with sign ons is to follow the evidence and also prioritize being at the table and collaborating with partner organizations.

Dr. Gonzalez expressed interest in a written set of criteria that reviewers could use, to inform their review and provide context if members complain about a particular sign on.

ACTION: The following criteria were suggested. Dr. Figueroa will refine this and share via email before the council's next call.

- Is this letter/statement evidence based?
- Does it align with SBM's mission? (Mission Statement: SBM is a multidisciplinary organization of clinicians, educators, and scientists dedicated to promoting the study of the interactions of behavior with biology and the environment, and the application of that knowledge to improve the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities, and populations.)
- Does it come from a reliable partner?



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

- Note: Exceptions are allowed but should be explained.
- Note: Staff separately evaluate if the letter/statement raises any legal concerns.

Separately, the Position Statements Committee was lacking capacity and expertise based on the volume of statements submitted and the topic areas. Dr. Shen is instituting changes for the proposal review process and emphasizing adding additional expert authors at the proposal phase.

Health policy advocacy from a constituent's perspective

Dr. Figueroa shared [a paper he wrote](#) and [an Outlook article from Dr. Gonzalez](#), and encouraged the council to think broadly about advocacy and to consider if/how SBM might begin to focus advocacy efforts at the community-level to effect real change. This might involve, for example, partnering with relevant organizations in SBM Annual Meeting host cities to have some engagement during the conference.

Dr. Schneider said Society for Health Psychology is considering a local policy angle. Dr. Kim Smolderen will be attending SBM's conference and Dr. Schneider will invite her to the council's breakfast.

Dr. Bean suggested SBM's existing federal position statements and talking points could have state-level calls to action, including an easy way for members to send form emails to their legislators. Dr. Adams noted this would provide another metric for tracking our policy work/impact.

SBM's current focus on federal policy work comes from a Board-approved fall 2018 strategic plan. It could be time to refresh the plan and add local components (while not abandoning the federal work).

Ambassador updates

Dr. Figueroa noted activity on the ambassador tracking spreadsheet. Dr. LaRowe noted a position statement is in the works, and ambassadors will draft text for one Congressional office to use as a basis for a letter to CMS about the NOPAIN Act implementation.

Dr. Figueroa discussed turnover with council liaisons to the ambassador groups, and noted he will be adding lead ambassadors to the council as official members for more consistency and training.

Organizational collaborations updates

Dr. Schneider said ecoAmerica is providing ClimateRX badges for the SBM Annual Meeting. They provide ways to talk to patients about climate change and health, and will be handed out at all



SOCIETY OF BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

climate-related sessions. They are also creating an SBM-specific online training on climate change advocacy.

Dr. Schneider said APHA does position statements and has an interest in climate change and health equity. This could be a way to actually connect with APHA in a meaningful way, since that organization is so large.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m. ET.

Minutes respectfully submitted by L. Bullock on March 9, 2023.