

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 3-5 p.m. ET
Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE (ALPHA ORDER)

Ellen Beckjord, PhD, MPH, FSBM – President	Christine Hunter, PhD, ABPP – President-Elect	
Joanna Buscemi, PhD – Member Delegate	Jun Ma, MD, PhD, FAHA – Chair, Publications Council	Megan McVay, PhD – Secretary/Treasurer
Bernard Fuemmeler, PhD, MPH, FSBM – Immediate Past-President	Scherezade Mama, DrPH – Chair, Scientific Education Council	Angela Pfammatter, PhD, FSBM – Chair, Membership Council
Charles Jonassaint, PhD, MHS – Member Delegate	Sharon Manne, PhD, FSBM – Chair, Professional Advancement Council	

*quorum = 7 members

REGRETS (ALPHA ORDER)

Courtney Bonner, PhD – Member Delegate	Michael Diefenbach, PhD, FSBM – Chair, Development Council	Roger Figueroa, PhD – Chair, Advocacy Council
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STAFF AND GUESTS (ALPHA ORDER)

Lindsay Bullock, CAE Executive Director, SBM	Amy Myers – Senior Communications and Membership Manager	Sam Wilson – Senior Meetings Manager
Fiona Cismesia – Meetings Manager	Andrew Schmidt – Senior Program Manager	Tara Withington, CAE – Consulting Partner
Olivia Flood – Administrative Coordinator	Jamie L. Studts, PhD, FSBM – Chair, Audit Committee	
Eli Gonzalez-Rehorst, MS – Development Manager	Emily Takerian – Communications Manager	

CALL TO ORDER, CALL FOR DISCLOSURES, AND CONFIDENTIALITY REMINDER

Dr. Beckjord called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. ET. No new disclosures were reported.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING THEME

Dr. Beckjord introduced discussion of the 2025 Annual Meeting and reminded the board of the conference theme: "Context Matters: Bridging Perspectives in Behavioral Medicine." The Annual Meeting Planning Committee is currently identifying plenary speakers, while Dr. Beckjord, Planning Committee Chair Dr. Madalina Sucala, and SBM staff are preparing for a site visit to the meeting hotel later in July.

2025 ANNUAL MEETING BUDGET

Dr. McVay presented a draft 2025 Annual Meeting budget with the Finance Committee's recommendation that it be approved by the board. The budget incorporates a 5% increase to registration fees to offset higher costs for A/V and catering at the meeting hotel, with a conservative projected net revenue (excluding any potential conference grant support) of around \$50,000.

MOTION: Dr. Manne moved to approve the 2025 Annual Meeting budget. Dr. Mama seconded. The motion carried.

2023 AUDIT

Dr. Studts reported that the Audit Committee completed its review of the 2023 audit and recommends it be approved by the board. Following the committee's review of the 2022 audit and a number of bank failures during spring of last year, the Finance Committee proposed reducing SBM's total deposits at any one bank below the \$250,000 limit for FDIC insurance, and Dr. Studts reported that this was reflected in the 2023 audit as well. SBM also currently holds more than the typical best-practice amount of two years' operating budget in cash reserves and investments, with Dr. Studts conveying the Audit Committee's recommendation that the board consider reinvesting some of those reserve funds in SBM programs in future budgets as well as updating SBM's reserves policy to note a 2-year operating maximum.

MOTION: Dr. Fuemmeler moved to approve the 2023 audit. Dr. Jonassaint seconded. The motion carried.

****Drs. Studts and McVay left the meeting. Quorum was maintained.**

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Dr. Manne moved to approve the April Board of Directors meeting minutes, Sign On to FABBS letter on the next NIMH Director, and council/committee/publication/Member Delegate reports. Dr. Hunter seconded. The motion carried.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY

Dr. Beckjord reminded the board of recent changes to SBM's bylaws preventing anyone currently employed by the tobacco industry from being a member of the society. Presented to the board in this meeting were two potential policies that would also restrict submissions to SBM's journals and presentations at the Annual Meeting by individuals employed by or funded by the tobacco industry. The board had previously messaged to the membership that, should the bylaws amendment regarding membership eligibility pass, the board would continue to consider policies such as these and would be empowered to enact these changes without further votes from the members.

Dr. Beckjord contrasted the two proposed policies: The first policy (referred to as option #5) would use the same definitions of disqualifying involvement in the tobacco industry as the approved bylaws amendment, and prevent anyone who meets those criteria from submitting to SBM's journals or presenting at the Annual Meeting. An alternative policy (option #6) would include the same restrictions as option #5, but would also consider consulting work or other contractual agreements such as intellectual property licensing as disqualifying relationships.

Because the additional stipulations in option #6 exceed the definition of "relationship to the tobacco industry" used in the

membership bylaws amendment, Dr. Beckjord noted that approving that policy would compel the board to propose an updated definition for the bylaws and hold another member vote to bring the existing membership restrictions in line with the more stringent publications/conference presentation policy it subsequently adopted.

Board members spoke in favor of closing potential loopholes via option #6 that tobacco-affiliated researchers could conceivably use to circumvent the existing membership policy and any new restrictions put in place by option #5. Board members also raised concerns about possible unintended consequences associated with adopting option #6, with Dr. Pfammatter suggesting that researchers who are not personally conducting tobacco research but who are employed by educational institutions that have contractual relationships with tobacco companies or their non-tobacco-related subsidiaries could potentially be in violation of the policy as proposed.

MOTION: Dr. Manne moved to approve restrictions on submission to SBM’s journals and presentation at the Annual Meeting from authors employed or funded by the tobacco industry, as described in option #5. Dr. Fuemmeler seconded. Dr. Beckjord abstained. The motion carried.

VOLUNTEER (DIS)ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

As an update from the board’s discussion during its April meeting, Ms. Bullock reported that staff has been at work on a new volunteer portal for the SBM website intended as a resource for new and returning volunteers to search for opportunities and sign up for roles that fit their expertise and availability. Staff has also been developing an engagement tracking system to quantify members’ level of involvement with SBM and identify prospective volunteers.

In addition to these resources, staff is also preparing a series of example “leadership journeys” to promote different types of volunteering within SBM, as well as evaluations to learn more about current volunteers’ experiences in their roles.

PROGRESS ON 2024 FRAMEWORK STRATEGIES

Dr. Beckjord shared an overview of SBM’s Strategic Outcomes and current framework strategies, and encouraged the board to begin thinking about new strategies it may want to adopt when setting priorities for 2025 during its fall meeting.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. ET.

Minutes respectfully submitted by A. Schmidt on July 12, 2024.