

**Scientific and Professional Liaison Council**

**DRAFT Call Minutes**

**February 23, 2015**

**Call participants**

David E. Goodrich, EdD, MS, MA

Sherri Sheinfeld Gorin, PhD - Chair

Sara J. Knight, PhD

Erika A. Waters, PhD, MPH

Julie A. Wright, PhD

**Guests**

Ellen Beckjord, PhD, MPH

Catherine L. Davis, PhD

Julie E. Volkman, PhD

**Regrets**

Jennifer K. Carroll, MD, MPH

Martin D. Cheatle, PhD

Mary A. Driscoll, PhD

Paul B. Jacobsen, PhD

**Staff**

Amy Stone

**Minutes**

The January 26, 2015, SPLC minutes as edited by Sherri Sheinfeld Gorin, PhD, were unanimously approved.

**Guest Introductions**

**Dr. Sheinfeld Gorin welcomed Ellen Beckjord, PhD, MPH, and asked her to talk about her background and new SBM role.**

Dr. Beckjord has been an SBM member since 2002. She served as SBM’s Web editor for three years, overseeing the growth of SBM’s social media outlets, including twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and SBMConnect. After participating in the SBM board’s strategic planning process in November 2013,

Dr. Beckjord worked with Technology SIG members to create a new Digital Health Council, an action prompted by one of the strategic goals identified by board members: “Bring behavioral science into the digital health world and bring digital health into health care. Expand the important roles of technology and social media and better define how their use can lead to novel research.”

Among other things, Dr. Beckjord noted, the council is responsible for identifying and pursuing opportunities, partnerships, and endeavors that strategically position SBM and its members to be leaders in the field of digital health. For additional information about the council, she referred SPLC council members to an Outlook article at <http://www.sbm.org/outlook/0215/articles.php?article=6>

During a recent American Medical Information Association (AMIA) conference, Dr. Beckjord delivered a presentation that highlighted the SBM Digital Health Council. Dr. Sheinfeld Gorin suggested that perhaps Digital Health Council members and SPLC members could jointly submit a session proposal to AMIA for presentation during its upcoming conference. Julie Wright, PhD, noted that she, too, is interested in strengthening the connection between SBM and AMIA.

**PUBLIC HEALTH LAW RESEARCH GROUP**

Sara J. Knight, PhD, noted that the Wednesday Annual Meeting seminar, “Advancing the State of the Science for Evaluating the Behavioral Health Effects of Laws,” is a very important one. It will train SBM members in research methods that will enable them to seek funding, which helps SBM meet one of its strategic goals: “Establish SBM as a central resource for innovative funding ideas.” Additionally seminar participants will learn methods for evaluating and analyzing policy, which is an emerging and exciting area of interest for SBM members. Dr. Knight will undertake steps to draw attendees to the session and generate interest in the topic. Dr. Wright mentioned that materials for The Obesity Society conference are color coded according to tracks and suggested that SBM consider adopting this strategy.

As a side note, Dr. Knight mentioned that the session didn’t fit well into any of the existing tracks.

***Action item:***  Amy Stone will bring the track issue to the attention of the 2016 Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

**Veterans and Military Health SIG**

David E. Goodrich, EdD, MS, MA, reported that the Veterans Administration (VA) is reorganizing its research services. Senior VA leaders in preventive care and health psychology have been meeting for this purpose. The reorganization, he noted, represents both a crisis and an opportunity. It was suggested that Dr. Carolyn Clancy be invited to the SPLC Thursday night dinner during the annual meeting.

**The Obesity Society**

Catherine L. Davis, PhD, reported that SBM has applied to Obesity Week to be a Level 2 co-sponsor of the proposed key lecture “Influences of preschool policies and practices on children’s physical activity.” There is no cost associated with this level of sponsorship and it represents an important step forward in building a scientific liaison between SBM and The Obesity Society. The application also indicated that SBM would be willing to co-sponsor the key lecture ***“***Social influence: the missing link between individual-level behaviors and population-level trends,” the symposium, “Childhood obesity interventions: Positive effects beyond physical health,” or the symposium “Game-changing e/mHealth technologies for obesity prevention and control .”

**EVIDENCE BASED BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE SIG**

Dr. Sheinfeld Gorin noted that she did circulate the abstract submission url for the APOS annual meeting prior to the submission deadline.

**Closing remarks**

* The SPLC dinner during the Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday evening; all SPLC sponsored symposia presenters will be invited.