

MINUTES

MMA Task Force on Obesity
Minnesota Medical Association
John Murphy Conference Room
1300 Godward Street NE, Suite 2500
Minneapolis, MN

Monday, January 29, 2007
6:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Charles J. Billington, M.D., Chair
J. M. Gonzalez-Campoy, M.D., Ph.D.
Paul Pentel, M.D.
Bruce Cantor, M.D.
Julianne Seiber, MD (Minnesota Dietetic Association)

Members Present Via Conference

Call:

Mary Winnett, M.D.
Milan Schmidt, M.D.

Staff Present:

Lorrie Holmgren

Members Not Present:

Tiffany Beckman, M.D.
Charles Bertel, M.D.
Vincent Collins, M.D.
Karen Dickson, M.D.
V.F. Garry, M.D.
Teresa Gurin, M.D.
Donald Hensrud, M.D.
Howard Lederer, M.D.
Marc Manley, M.D.
Elizabeth Melin, M.D.
Sarah Jane Schwarzenberg, M.D.

I. Call to Order

Charles Billington, M.D. chair, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

II. Approved Minutes

The minutes of the November 6, 2006 meeting were approved.

III. Assessment Tool for Health Care Facilities.

The task force discussed an email message from LuAnn Heinen of the National business Group on Health that said it would cost about \$200 per hospital to use their assessment tool. The task force decided to take the following action:

- A. Recommend that the MMA attempt to collaborate with the Minnesota Hospital Association, and propose a collaboration during a regularly scheduled MMA/MHA meeting.
- B. Dr. Billington will talk to LuAnn Heinen.
- C. Consider enlisting the assistance of Dr. Donald Hensrud, who gave a presentation to the AMA about Mayo's efforts to improve food choices for employees and visitors to the clinic.

The task force also discussed the possibility of suggesting the idea for an article on the healthiness of food for the staff and public to a reporter, but did not make a recommendation on this.

IV. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommendation that Young Children Not Eat Raw Vegetables

- A. Dr. Winnett clarified her reasons why she thinks the task force should ask the AAP to revise its recommendation that children under age 4 should not eat raw vegetables:
 - Introducing children to fresh vegetables at a young age makes them more likely to enjoy and accept a variety of tastes and textures.
 - Some vegetables lose nutrients as they cook.
 - Some soft vegetables such as cucumbers do not present a choking hazard.
- B. Since the AAP will only provide research supporting its recommendations to AAP members, Dr. Cantor will follow up and try to find more information.

V. Participation in Mayo Clinic's Action on Obesity Summit

- A. The task force decided to submit and present an abstract that describes the work of the task force and the tools it has available.
- B. The task force directed staff to:
 - Develop an abstract outlining the work of the task force for submission by February 15.
 - Have a poster printed saying: Do you know your BMI? With logos of the MMA, MDH and Council of Health Plans to have displayed during the presentation.
 - Check on the cost of having CDs made of the presentation on how to diagnose and treat obesity for possible inclusion in summit participant's folders.

VI. Reimbursement for Obesity Drugs

- A. The task force discussed the importance of passing legislation that would remove change the Minnesota statute that excludes from the state formulary all drugs used for weight loss except for medically necessary lipase inhibitors for patients with type 2 diabetes.
- B. The task force directed staff to:
 - Repeat the task force's offer to give a presentation to the MMA Committee on Legislation in order to convince them that changing this statute should be a higher priority for the MMA
 - Encourage task force members to lobby during MMA Day at the Capitol and during Capitol Rounds

VII. BMI Assessments

The task force reviewed an article about the Arkansas Act 1220 that requires Arkansas public schools to report each students' BMI to his or her parents and

provide families with information about the importance of nutrition and physical activity. The task force strongly supported the intent of the law but noted that Minnesota schools would have a hard time complying with such a law because there are so few school nurses.

VIII. Promotion of the PowerPoint

The task force directed staff to generate articles in MMA publications and let members know about the PowerPoint. The PowerPoint would also be promoted during the Mayo Summit.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.