

MINUTES

MMA POLICY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2018

6:00PM – 8:00PM

MINNESOTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, JOHN MURPHY CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present

Lisa Mattson, MD, Chair
Debbie Allert, MD (via phone)
Stuart Cameron, MD
James Dehen, MD (via phone)
Mark Eggen, MD
Elizabeth Fracica (via phone)
Britt Ehlert, MD
Randy Hemann, MD (via phone)
Christopher Johnson, MD
Andrea Joplin, MD
Robert Koshnick, MD (via phone)
Kathryn Lombardo, MD

Thomas Mulrooney, MD
Ahmed Pasha, MD (via phone)
Ashok Patel, MD (via phone)
Anne Pereira, MD
Noel Peterson, MD (via phone)
Spencer Pruitt, MD
Nathan Ratner
Neel Shah, MBChB (via phone)
Kimberly Tjaden, MD
Craig Walvatne, MD
Lauren Williams, MD
Doug Wood, MD

Members Absent

Peter Amadio, MD
Michael Baich, MD
Christy Boraas, MD
Suliman EL-Amin, MD
Bruce Gregoire
Daniel Heinemann, MD
Osama Ibrahim, MD
Kimberly McKeon, MD
Douglas Pryce, MD
Christopher Reif, MD
Caleb Schultz, MD

Annabelle Soares
Lynne Steiner, MD
Jennifer Tessmer-Tuck, MD
Robert (Jay) Widmer, MD
Thomas Witt, MD

Guests Present

Karen Crabtree, LSW
Beth Kangas (via phone)

Staff Present

Juliana Milhofer
Dave Renner
Janet Silversmith (via phone)

I. Welcome & Introductions

Lisa Mattson, MD, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. All attendees introduced themselves.

II. **Approve March 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

The following motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 6, 2018 MMA Policy Council meeting.

III. **Mental Health**

Dr. Mattson read through the list of potential focus areas in the mental health space. Areas included the following:

- Crisis management/crisis teams
- Access
- Resource distribution
- Collaboration/coalition with other entities/organizations
- Shortage of providers
- Telemedicine

Council members had expressed an interest in learning more about mental health crisis teams at their last meeting. To provide background on work that has been done in Becker County, Council members heard from Karen Crabtree, LSW, staff at Essential Health St. Mary's. Ms. Crabtree shared information about the effort to create mental health crisis teams in Becker County, and the path to get these teams functioning in their community. Noted was that mental health needs have grown over the past five years, and mental health crisis teams have been able to play a role in addressing those needs.

Council members engaged in a discussion about mental health care in Minnesota, and what possible role the MMA could play. Noted was the need to assess what Minnesota is doing in the mental health space and assess where the MMA could possibly lend a hand. Also noted was the importance of integrating social services and medical services – and finding alternate funding sources. Council members asked what is necessary to expand this model, and whether the MMA, in partnership with the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) could be leaders in this regard. Council members reiterated the need for data to support where the greatest needs are, and where the greatest points of assistance for the MMA could potentially be.

Kim Tjaden, MD, Council member, shared an effort that is taking place in St. Cloud. The effort is in the space of prison health, and it is being led by CentraCare, Stearns County Public Health, and the Stearns County Sheriff's Office. The effort centers on how to coordinate medical care for inmates - and is an example of the medical community coordinating with a public health department and the prison system.

Council members also noted the importance of recognizing the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on behavior, and the need for physicians to receive education on this topic.

Finally, the Council members noted that the MMA could serve as a convener, and bring together organizations such as MHA, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Minnesota, the Minnesota

Psychiatric Society, etc. to examine the mental health needs of Minnesota. In addition, a potential future forum/education event on ACEs was noted.

The following motion was made, seconded, and passed with a greater than 2/3 majority vote of the Council members.

Motion: To recommend the creation of a mental health task force to the MMA Board of Trustees.

Dr. Mattson and Juliana Milhofer, MMA Policy Analyst and staff to the Council, thanked Ms. Crabtree for the information she provided and thanked the Council members for their input.

IV. **Rural Health**

Dr. Mattson and Ms. Milhofer engaged the Council members in a discussion regarding the issue of “rural health.”

Doug Wood, MD, MMA President-elect and Council member provided some information regarding an idea for alternative payment models, and the potential role for this in addressing Minnesota’s rural health care needs. Dr. Wood discussed how the approach would start from a fundamental understanding of the potential burden of disease in a population and then pool resources to provide the revenue to finance the care. A somewhat similar approach was used by BHCAG in the 1990s with its exclusive contract with the provider system; spending targets were established based on burden of illness and money was then provided to practices along with flexibility to innovate solutions. The idea was to understand what the expected cost of care would be and encourage the providers to work within the projected spending corridor, with a reward for good performance and risk for poor performance.

Council members asked what the MMA could do in this space, and whether the MMA, in a “convener” role, could be effective.

There was not enough time left for the discussion, so Dr. Mattson and Ms. Milhofer thanked the Council members for their initial thoughts and were informed that the discussion on rural health would be continued at their August 27th meeting.

V. **Policy Council Review Work Group Report**

Dave Renner, MMA Director of State and Federal Legislation, shared the report of the Policy Council Work Group. The report included an examination of the following items:

- Council purpose and scope
- Council size
- Council representation/composition, including slotted positions for trainees
- Term lengths
- Membership engagement and communication with Council members
- Role of policy forums and open issues forum
- Interaction with MMA standing committees
- Voice of the individual
- Authority of the Policy Council

Mr. Renner then shared the recommendations of the Work Group:

- The work group recommends adoption of the following improvements and, with these changes, the Policy Council should continue in its current role of advising the Board of Trustees on policy development and the House of Delegates should be permanently sunset:
 1. The MMA Policy Council should continue its role of providing a representative mechanism and simplified process for obtaining broad member input, feedback, and recommendations on critical health policy issues facing Minnesota physicians. This function can best be accomplished by a Policy Council that focuses on issues that have the greatest impact on the most members and for which deliberate, in-depth discussion is needed.
 2. As members submit issues for MMA consideration, not all of them should be dealt with by the Policy Council. Each issue should be triaged to determine whether it is best addressed by the Council or a standing committee (the Public Health Committee, the Ethics & Legal Affairs Committee, or the Medical Practice & Quality Committee).
 3. A key role of the Policy Council is to gather input from a broad representation of MMA members, which can best be accomplished with the current 40-person size.
 4. The current appointing process for Policy Council members, which includes appointments from the staffed component medical societies, the medical student section, the resident/fellow section, and the Board of Trustees should be maintained. The specific number and proportion of members from each of these groups may need to be adjusted in the future to reflect current membership, but no changes should be made until further discussion about MMA and component medical society structure is completed.
 5. The MMA must continue to be diligent in its efforts to communicate the role of the Policy Council to members, including communication that explains the processes available for any member to submit issues for consideration throughout the year.
 6. The MMA must continue to be deliberate in its efforts to engage all members, both those practicing in larger population centers and those in more remote areas. This can be done using more policy forums throughout the state, the use of more streaming opportunities, and other means.
 7. The MMA should incorporate in its Annual Conference a member business meeting to report the strategic direction of the MMA, its annual activities, and the financial wellbeing of the organization. There should be an opportunity for members to ask questions and provide feedback at this business meeting.

After discussion by the Council members, an additional recommendation was added, noting that if a Council recommendation is overturned, that issue must be returned to the Council for further discussion.

The following motion was made, seconded, and passed with a greater than 2/3 majority vote of the Council members.

Motion: To approve the report of the Policy Council Review Work Group.

Council members were thanked for their input and were informed that their recommendation would be taken to the MMA Board of Trustees, May 19, 2018 meeting.

VI. **Wrap-Up and Next Steps**

Dr. Mattson and Ms. Milhofer thanked the Council members for their input. Next steps will include the following:

- **Rural Health:** The discussion on this topic will continue at the August 27th meeting.
- **Open Issues Submissions:** Will be brought to the Council at their August 27th meeting.

Council members were thanked for their input and feedback throughout the meeting.

VII. **New Business**

Council members discussed policy forums at the 2018 MMA Annual Conference. Discussed was the option of having no specific policy forum topics developed by the Council, and rather incorporating policy into sessions topics already being planned for the conference.

Council members were reminded of the 2018 meeting calendar:

- Monday, August 27, 6-8 pm at MMA
- Thursday, October 25, 6-8 pm at MMA

VIII. **Adjourn**

The following motion was made, seconded, and adopted:

Motion: that the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 pm.