MINUTES
MMA POLICY COUNCIL
AUGUST 27, 2019
6:00-8:00PM
MINNESOTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, JOHN MURPHY CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present
Lisa Mattson, MD, Chair
Christy Boraas Alsleben, MD
Daniel Carroll, MD
Nicole Chaisson, MD
Joshua Crabtree, MD (via phone)
Suliman El-Amin, MD (via phone)
Andrea Joplin, MD
Adrine Kocharian
Robert Koshnick, MD
Ariela Marshall, MD (via phone)
Tom Mulrooney, MD (via phone)
Noel Peterson, MD, MS (via phone)
Spencer Pruitt, MD (via phone)
Chris Reif, MD
Frank Rhame, MD
Caleb Schultz, MD, MPH
Kristene Tadese
Rebecca Thoman, MD
Verna Thornton, MD (via phone)
Kim Tjaden, MD (via phone)
Craig Walvatne, MD

Members Absent
Peter Amadio, MD
Amy Boles, MD
Tim Dempsey, MD, MPH
Britt Ehlert, MD
Bruce Gregoire
Randy Hemann, MD
Jennifer Dens Higano
Osama Ibrahim, MD
Sheila Jowsey-Gregoire, MD
Ahmed Pasha, MBBS
Ashokakumar Patel, MD
Anne Pereira, MD
Neel Shah, MBChB
Lynn Steiner, MD
Keith Stelter, MD
Niloufar Tabatabaei, MD
Jennifer Tessmer-Tuck, MD

Guests Present
Lynn Bahta, RN, PHN, Immunization Clinical Consultant, Minnesota Department of Health

Staff Present
Eric Dick
Beth Kangas
Ruth Parriott
Andrea Stoesz

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

Approve May 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes
The following motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
Presentation: Issues of Vaccine Hesitancy in Minnesota
Lynn Bahta, Immunization Clinical Consultant at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) spoke to the Council about vaccine hesitancy in Minnesota. Ms. Bahta started by discussing how immunization records are tracked by the state of Minnesota. The Department of Health tracks immunizations using both state and federal level data sources. For example, the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) combines all immunizations a person has received into one record, and stores immunization records for Minnesota health service providers and the public. Data is reported by providers, schools, and individuals.

The Department of Health also tracks the rate of non-medical exemptions for immunizations required to enroll in childcare or school. Overall, the rate of non-medical exemptions of kindergartners in Minnesota is about 2 percent. However, there are pockets of the state where the rate of non-medical exemptions is extremely high. Ms. Bahta also reviewed the rates of immunization throughout Minnesota for each type of vaccine. In general, vaccination coverage varies by type of vaccine. For example, only about 40 percent of children complete the HPV vaccine series.

Finally, Ms. Bahta addressed vaccine hesitancy. There are a wide variety of reasons why parents choose not to vaccinate their children. Parents usually refuse vaccines for emotional – not logical – reasons. There has been some research on the best strategies to work with vaccine hesitant parents. For example, using a presumptive communication style has been successful in improving vaccination rates. The Department of Health has worked to reduce vaccine hesitancy through community outreach, working with professional organizations, childcare centers, schools, and health systems. After Ms. Bahta’s presentation, Council members had the opportunity to ask questions.

Review of vaccine-related MMA policy
The Council then reviewed two MMA policies related to vaccines. There was extensive discussion, and a new policy was drafted. However, members agreed that they would like to review all MMA policy related to vaccines. Members agreed to dedicate a portion of the Council’s next meeting to re-writing all MMA vaccine-related policy.

Open issues review
Twenty-four issues were submitted to the Policy Council to be considered for discussion at the 2019 MMA Annual Conference. The Council was tasked with deciding which issues to forward to the Open Issues Forum. After much discussion, the Council decided to send 11 issues to the Annual Conference, refer 3 issues to the MMA Public Health Committee, and refer 4 issues to the Policy Council. Five issues were not sent to the Open Issues Forum because the MMA already had existing policy, and 1 issue was not sent to the Open issues Forum because it was
not related to health policy. A summary of all submitted issues and their status is below. More detailed information on all submitted open issues is available on the MMA website.

### 2019 Open Issues Submissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Workplace diversity</td>
<td>Chris Wee, MD</td>
<td>Referred to Policy Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Trainee access to health care</td>
<td>Chris Wee, MD</td>
<td>Existing MMA Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Minor consent to vaccination</td>
<td>Chris Wee, MD</td>
<td>Referred to Policy Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Elimination of gender-based discrimination</td>
<td>Dionne Hart, MD</td>
<td>Sent to Open Issues Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Communication access throughout MN</td>
<td>Denise Klinkner, MD</td>
<td>Sent to Open Issues Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Independent primary care practice</td>
<td>Dale Dobrin, MD</td>
<td>Existing MMA Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Politics</td>
<td>Gregory Snyder, MD</td>
<td>No Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Legalization of marijuana</td>
<td>Walter Dorman, MD</td>
<td>Sent to MMA Public Health Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Equal reimbursement for small practices</td>
<td>Barb Sterner, MD</td>
<td>Existing MMA Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Contraceptive and reproductive health</td>
<td>Cheryl Bailey, MD</td>
<td>Existing MMA Policy</td>
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<td>11. Ensuring herd immunity</td>
<td>Chris Wee, MD</td>
<td>Referred to Policy Council</td>
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<td>12. Health impact assessment for recreational cannabis</td>
<td>Manoj Doss, DO</td>
<td>Referred to MMA Public Health Committee</td>
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<td>13. Prior Authorization</td>
<td>Kathy Gromer, MD</td>
<td>Sent to Open Issues Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Decriminalization of Drugs</td>
<td>Mark Nupen, MD</td>
<td>Sent to Open Issues Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Shingrix vaccination given by pharmacists and not by primary care physicians</td>
<td>David Power, MD</td>
<td>Referred to Policy Council</td>
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<td>16. Barriers to abortion access</td>
<td>Kristin Chu</td>
<td>Sent to Open Issues Forum</td>
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<td>17. Parental leave in GME programs</td>
<td>Chris Wee, MD</td>
<td>Sent to Open Issues Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. Firearms policy</td>
<td>Chris Wee, MD</td>
<td>Referred to MMA Public Health Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. Denounce race-based medicine</td>
<td>Sameena Ahmed-Buehler</td>
<td>Sent to Open Issues Forum</td>
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20. Increased access to LARCs for postpartum women on Medical Assistance  
   Todd Stanhope, MD  
   Existing MMA Policy

21. Termination of parental rights when a child is conceived as a result of rape of incest  
   Riley Shearer  
   Sent to Open Issues Forum

22. Limit mental health disclosure questions on licensing and credentialing applications to current function  
   Sameena Ahmed-Buehler  
   Sent to Open Issues Forum

23. Advancing gender equity  
   Kimbery Seidel-Miller, MD  
   Sent to Open Issues Forum

24. Access to scalp cooling therapy  
   Amrit Singh, MD  
   Sent to Open Issues Forum

New Business
Lisa Mattson, MD, Chair informed members that the Council’s next meeting will be on October 21. At that time, the Council will consider the results of the Open Issues Forum at the MMA Annual Conference. The Council will also consider new MMA policy related to vaccines. Finally, there was discussion on the frequency of the meetings and the effectiveness of outside speakers. Some members felt that speakers were unnecessary, while others found them of value. Similarly, some members expressed an interest in meeting more frequently, while others thought that the number of meetings was sufficient. There was also discussion on whether the Policy Council should have the ability to review all policies passed by other MMA committees before it goes to the MMA Board for final review. Andrea clarified that current MMA bylaws do not require that policies passed by other MMA committees be reviewed by the Policy Council. Andrea will send out a survey evaluating the meetings and gauging opinion on meeting frequency, as well as gathering opinions on whether the Policy Council should review policies passed by other MMA Committees.

Adjourn
The following motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously:

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 pm.