

MINUTES

MMA POLICY COUNCIL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019

8:30AM – 12:00PM

MINNESOTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, JOHN MURPHY CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present

Lisa Mattson, MD, Chair
Amy Boles, MD (via phone)
Christy Boraas, MD
Nicole Chaisson, MD
Timothy Dempsey, MPH, MD
Britt Ehlert, MD
Suliman EL-Amin, MD
Bruce Gregoire
Randy Hemann, MD (via phone)
Jennifer Dens Higano (via phone)
Andrea Joplin, MD
Sheila Jowsey-Gregoire, MD
Adrina Kocharian
Robert Koshnick, MD

Thomas Mulrooney, MD (via phone)
Ahmed Pasha, MD (via phone)
Noel Peterson, MD (via phone)
Christopher Reif, MD
Frank Rhame, MD
Annabelle Soares (via phone)
Lynne Steiner, MD (via phone)
Keith Stelter, MD
Niloufar Tabatabaei, MD (via phone)
Kimberly Tjaden, MD
Rebecca Thoman, MD (via phone)
Verna Thornton, MD
Craig Walvatne, MD

Members Absent

Peter Amadio, MD
Osama Ibrahim, MD
Ashok Patel, MD
Anne Pereira, MD

Spencer Pruitt, MD
Caleb Schultz, MD
Neel Shah, MBChB
Jennifer Tessmer-Tuck, MD

Staff Present

Juliana Milhofer
Dave Renner

Guests Present

None

I. Welcome & Introductions

Lisa Mattson, MD, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. All attendees introduced themselves.

II. Approve October 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes

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

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the October 25, 2018 MMA Policy Council meeting.

III. Council Primer: Background, Status, Next Steps

For the benefit of both new and returning Council members, Juliana Milhofer, MMA Policy Analyst, and staff to the Council, presented background information about the Council, including its origin,

composition, fit within the broader MMA structure, and mechanisms by which members can submit issues to the MMA. Also noted were Council accomplishments from 2014-2018. Finally, it was noted that the Council is starting 2019 with a few issues from last year (*i.e.*, maternal mortality open issue retained by the Council, as well as the issue of addressing rural health).

In addition, the Council was informed that they will have a new staff person for the Council. Our new Health Policy Analyst, Andrea Stoesz, MPH, will be onboard soon. Ms. Milhofer will assist with the transition.

IV. **2018 Open Issues: Updates**

Ms. Milhofer shared an update on the 2018 Open Issues recommendations brought to the MMA Board of Trustees on November 17, 2018. The recommendations from the Council were unanimously adopted by the MMA Board of Trustees

Dr. Mattson noted that for all future Open Issues presentations to the MMA Board of Trustees, it would be beneficial to have the recommendations on the Open Issues be a regular agenda item, rather than a consent calendar item. This would allow a more in-depth discussion of each Open Issue recommendation.

V. **Legislative Session Update and Sunset of the MMA House of Delegates**

Dave Renner, MMA Director of Advocacy, provided the Council members with an update on what is happening at the Capitol this legislative session, as well as an update on the 2018 sunset of the MMA House of Delegates.

Mr. Renner noted that the Legislature convened on January 8, 2019 and is required to be done by May 20, 2019. The one thing that they are required to do is pass a two-year balanced budget.

Mr. Renner noted the various legislative priorities of the MMA for 2019:

- Preserving MinnesotaCare and Medical Assistance coverage by adopting a claims expenditure assessment as an on-going, stable funding mechanism for the expiring, outdated provider tax.
- Ensuring continuation of drug therapy for patients with chronic medication needs by limiting the ability of health plans or pharmacy benefit managers to restrict access to drugs once a patient begins a therapy.
- Supporting legislation that ensures prescribers receive real-time notifications on formulary changes and alternative covered drugs.
- Supporting funding to address the opioid crisis, including funds to ensure Prescription Monitoring Program access through the EHR and to address addiction treatment, prevention, and education.
- Supporting changes to the Minnesota Health Records Act to align with federal HIPAA laws to improve efforts to better coordinate patient care and reduce duplication of services.

Other issues that Mr. Renner noted will likely be part of this year's session discussions included the following:

- MinnesotaCare Buy-In
- Gun violence

- Tobacco
- Conversion therapy
- Recreational marijuana

Finally, Mr. Renner noted that the MMA House of Delegates was sunset during the 2018 MMA Annual Conference. Noted was that Becca Branum, MMA Policy Counsel, was working to update MMA bylaws to reflect this action. The bylaws would then be brought before the membership via member-wide elections. Mr. Renner reminded the Council members that although there is no longer a House of Delegates, there are a variety of ways that issues can be brought to the MMA, year-round.

VI. **Mental Health Task Force Charge**

Ms. Milhofer took some time to update the Council members on their recommendation from 2018 to create a mental health task force. Noted was that the MMA recently joined the Minnesota Health Action Group's "Mental Health Guiding Coalition."

As the MMA will be lending its voice to the work of this coalition, Ms. Milhofer asked that a task force charge be put on hold at this time.

Sheila Jowsey-Gregoire, MD, a new Council member appointed by ZVMS, and a psychiatrist at the Mayo Clinic, shared some information regarding mental health, and ways that the medical community could lend a hand. The following input was provided:

- Struggles for psychiatrists
 - Mental health beds - loss of state provided beds
 - Acute beds filled with patients on commitments
 - Patients staying in rooms for extended periods of time
- Need to collaborate with others
- Create a psychiatric unit in the emergency department to meet the needs of patients who need this level of care.
- NP and PAs are providing chronic psych care -
 - We should make sure to have NPs and PAs sitting at the table, as they are part of the continuum of care.
- The impact of synthetic marijuana and methamphetamines have affected levels of psychosis in many patients.
- One of the leading causes of death is suicide
 - Need statewide training and knowledge about this epidemic
- Transferring patients from prisons to emergency departments is not ideal
- Partnership opportunity with the Minnesota Psychiatric Society
- Telemedicine as a bridge to deal with the shortage of psychiatrists
 - Average age of psychiatrists is 57
 - Need to create models to bridge the gap
- Failed models
 - Integrated behavioral health model - closing state beds and the repercussions associated with this action
- Opioid epidemic
 - Best practices for managing these patients

- Public health initiatives and other efforts within the MMA to raise awareness throughout the state
 - Bring in concept of health equity
- Focus on prevention
- Significant amount of mental illness among women (particularly in rural Minnesota)

Ms. Milhofer thanked Dr. Jowsey-Gregoire for her feedback and noted that it would be shared with the Mental Health Guiding Coalition.

VII. 2019 Work Plan Development: Discussion

Council members took some time to discuss various areas/issues that they would like to explore in 2019.

The preliminary list (and related feedback) that came from the discussions included the following:

- Maternal health
 - Maternal mortality and morbidity
 - Transfer of patients
 - Perinatal collaborative at MDH (potential information source)
- Reproductive health
 - Birth control availability (over the counter)
 - Getting long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC) paid for and ensuring that coverage for this drug remains
 - Education related to reproductive health – is the education being provided in schools early enough?
- Scope issues
 - Delegation of duties/scope regarding LPNs
 - Competency
- Vaccine hesitancy
 - Vaccine refusal is the issue, not vaccine hesitancy
 - Messaging campaign opportunity (*e.g.*, social media, MPR, etc.)
 - Partnership opportunity with MDH and various minority communities
- Drug costs
 - Is there an opportunity to have additional policy discussions in this this space?
- Misinformation given to patients
 - Examples: providing accurate information regarding when PAP smears and mammograms should be given.
 - Payers asking providers to perform tests that may be inappropriate.
 - Could the MMA assist in getting accurate information out to providers, who can then relay this information to their patients.
- Health literacy
 - MMA's top ten list of what doctors should know.
 - Top 10 things that doctors care about

Ms. Milhofer and Dr. Mattson thanked the Council members for their input. They will work with Ms. Stoesz on next steps for issues to address in 2019, based on Council feedback.

VIII. **New Business**

Ms. Milhofer provided the list of upcoming meetings to the Council members:

- Thursday, March 14, 2019 (6-8PM) at MMA
- Wednesday, May 1, 2019 (6-8PM) at MMA
- Tuesday, August 27, 2019 (6-8PM) at MMA
- Monday, October 21, 2019 (6-8PM) at MMA

IX. **Adjourn**

The following motion was made, seconded, and adopted:

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned at 12:02 pm.