

# MINUTES

## MMA POLICY COUNCIL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2018

8:30AM – 12:00PM

MINNESOTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, JOHN MURPHY CONFERENCE ROOM

### Members Present

Lisa Mattson, MD, Chair  
Peter Amadio, MD (via phone)  
Elisabeth Bilden, MD  
Christy Boraas, MD  
Elizabeth Fracica (via phone)  
Bruce Gregoire (via phone)  
Britt Ehlert, MD  
Suliman EL-Amin, MD  
Daniel Heinemann, MD (via phone)  
Osama Ibrahim, MD  
Robert Koshnick, MD  
Kathryn Lombardo, MD (via phone)  
Kimberly McKeon, MD

Thomas Mulrooney, MD  
Ahmed Pasha, MD  
Ashok Patel, MD (via phone)  
Noel Peterson, MD (via phone)  
Christopher Reif, MD  
Caleb Schultz, MD  
Annabelle Soares (via phone)  
Kimberly Tjaden, MD  
Craig Walvatne, MD  
Lauren Williams, MD  
Doug Wood, MD

### Members Absent

Michael Baich, MD  
Stuart Cameron, MD  
James Dehen, MD  
Mark Eggen, MD  
Christopher Johnson, MD  
Anne Pereira, MD  
Douglas Pryce, MD

Nathan Ratner  
Neel Shah, MBChB  
Neil Shah, MD  
Lynne Steiner, MD  
Jennifer Tessmer-Tuck, MD  
Robert (Jay) Widmer, MD  
Thomas Witt, MD

### Staff Present

Juliana Milhofer  
Dave Renner  
Janet Silversmith

### Guests Present

George Schoephoerster, MD

## I. Welcome & Introductions

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

## II. Approve October 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes

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

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the October 24, 2017 MMA Policy Council meeting.

### III. **Council Primer: Background, Status, Next Steps**

For the benefit of both new and returning Council members, Janet Silversmith, MMA CEO, 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 2014-2017. Finally, it was noted that the Council is starting 2018 with no outstanding issues/work, and a review of the Council (including answers to the effectiveness, engagement, focus, and impact) is due to the 2018 House of Delegates.

Council discussion included how the Council stays connected to the MMA's strategic goals, the need to focus on action, the evolving role of the physician (from solo to employed physician), etc.

Dr. Mattson took some time to engage the Council members in a discussion regarding whether (1) the Council should allow members to come to meetings and present their concerns in person; and (2) an alternate should be allowed to attend a meeting if a member can't make a meeting (and whether that alternate should be able to vote). These two issues had been previously discussed by the Council, and a decision had been made that "all new issues/ideas from members would be submitted directly to the MMA (not the Council) and should be reviewed by staff. The Council would then review the issues and triage them for subsequent action, such as consideration at the Open Issues Forum, referral to MMA committees, etc. In addition, the Council will convene one Open Issues Forum per year, but issues can be submitted to the MMA on a continuous basis." In regards to alternates, this had also been previously discussed by the Council and a decision made was made by the Council to not allow this.

Council members engaged in a discussion regarding engagement and giving members an opportunity to voice their opinion. Council members did not arrive at a decision as to whether they would like to change their current policies regarding in-person presentation of issues, and alternates.

### IV. **2017 Open Issues: Updates**

Juliana Milhofer, MMA Policy Analyst, shared an update on the 2017 Open Issues recommendations brought to the MMA Board of Trustees on November 18, 2017, as well as the policy recommendation on the MinnesotaCare Buy-In Public Option. The recommendations from the Council for Issues 1-9 were unanimously adopted by the MMA Board of Trustees. Ms. Milhofer noted that at the November 18, 2017 MMA Board of Trustees meeting, they also unanimously adopted the Council's recommendation on the MinnesotaCare Buy-In/Public Option.

Finally, it was noted that Issue 7 (Audio Recordings of Patient Visits), was referred to the MMA Ethics & Medical-Legal Affairs Committee. On December 6, 2017, a quorum of the MMA Ethics & Medical-Legal Affairs Committee met and recommended that the following policy be adopted: "In recognition that the physician-patient relationship is unique and requires openness and trust, the MMA supports an all-party consent law for electronic audio and visual recordings of physician-patient encounters." This policy was adopted by the MMA Board of Trustees at their January 17, 2018 meeting.

### V. **2018 Work Plan Development**

Council members discussed potential topics for 2018 deliberation. Among the topics identified were the following:

- MinnesotaCare Buy-In (Protections for Medical Groups)
- Mental Health
- Electronic Health Records
- Principles for Health Care Reform (in discussions related to single payer health, the value of examining the MMA's principles for health care reform, and identifying potential gaps and questions.)
- Conscience and Religious Freedom Protection
- Sustainability of health systems in rural areas
- Removal of the personal belief and immunizations exemption
- Definition of a hospital community "benefit"

Noted was the possibility of forming a subcommittee of the Council to address a topic such as mental health, should that be chosen by the Council as a topic for 2018 deliberation.

Council members decided that they would vote on their top three issues electronically. Ms. Milhofer will work with Dr. Mattson on a ranking survey, and this will be sent to Council members via email.

#### VI. **Council Review Subcommittee**

Council members reviewed the charge of the Council Review Subcommittee, discussed timelines, and finalized membership of the subcommittee. Council members were informed that the Council Review Subcommittee is charged with reviewing the role and effectiveness of the Policy Council in supporting MMA advocacy efforts. The following will make up the Council Review Subcommittee (more members may be added should there be additional interest):

- Osama Ibrahim, MD
- Craig Walvatne, MD
- Lauren Williams, MD
- Douglas Wood, MD

Council members were informed that efforts of the Council Review Subcommittee would commence soon.

#### VII. **New Business**

Council members were reminded of the 2018 meeting calendar:

- Tuesday, March 6, 6-8 pm at MMA
- Wednesday, May 2, 6-8 pm at MMA
- 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 11:36 am.