

## MINUTES

### MMA POLICY COUNCIL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2015

8:30 AM – 12:00 NOON

MIDLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

ROSEVILLE, MN

#### Members Present

Ernest Lampe, MD, Chair  
Leah Anderson  
Elisabeth Bilden, MD  
Terence Cahill, MD  
Stuart Cameron, MD  
Stephen Cragle, MD  
Alexander Feng  
Elizabeth Fracica  
Robert Grill, MD  
Daniel Heinemann, MD  
Jessica Heiring, MD

Kenneth Kephart, MD  
Kathryn Lombardo, MD  
Lisa Mattson, MD  
Kimberly McKeon, MD  
Noel Peterson, MD  
Douglas Pryce, MD  
Christopher Rief, MD  
Neil Shah, MD  
Kimberly Tjaden, MD  
Robert (Jay) Widmer, MD

#### Members Absent

David Agerter, MD  
Peter Amadio, MD  
Maya Babu, MD  
Michael Baich, MD  
James Dehen, MD  
Ramnik Dhaliwal, MD  
Laurie Drill-Mellum, MD  
Mark Eggen, MD  
Meltiady Issa, MD  
Evan James  
Christopher Johnson, MD  
Steven Meister, MD  
Jonathan Shelver, MD  
Christopher Thiessen, MD  
David Thorson, MD  
Sally Trippel, MD  
Jon Van Loon, MD  
Craig Walvatne, MD  
Thomas Witt, MD

#### Staff Present

Barb Daiker  
Juliana Milhofer  
Janet Silversmith

## I. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Ernest Lampe, MD, Policy Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:40 am. He introduced new member, Lisa Mattson, MD, who replaced Peter Dehnel, MD, who stepped down.

Dr. Lampe noted that this is the Council's fifth meeting. Since the last meeting in October, the Board met and considered the Council's recommendations and he noted that the Board found the 2/3 vote standard to be meaningful.

Dr. Lampe also shared that following a conversation he had with the Speaker of the House of Delegates (Robert Moravec, MD), he feels more grounded about the role of the Policy Council in MMA governance. In particular, he noted, it is not the role of the Council to continue the routine business of the House of Delegates (i.e., complaints, concerns), but rather to be more of a think tank for the Board – a group that can go into great depth on a few topics, rather than processing a large number of subjects.

## II. Approve Minutes of October 8, 2014

With no changes noted, the following motion was made, seconded and adopted:

<b>Motion:</b> that the minutes of the October 8, 2014 meeting be adopted.
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## III. 2014 Annual Conference Wrap Up

Ernest Lampe, MD updated Council members on the Board's actions in response to the Council's recommendations on items from the 2014 Annual Conference. Janet Silversmith, MMA Director of Health Policy, clarified communication and follow up plans for the referred topics.

Dr. Lampe facilitated a discussion on how to improve the forums moving forward. There was broad agreement on the following items:

- Establish clear goals and objectives for each forum – Council needs to define key issues (e.g., roadmap) and then articulate the input it needs from membership
- Some base education is important in order to establish some common understanding, but focus should be on member discussion and input (perhaps background information could even be distributed in advance).
- Focus should be on input, not decisions/ recommendations from attendees

With respect to the Open Issues Forum, other than broad support for more time allocated to the forum and greater vetting by staff to eliminate items that are already MMA policy, there was not clear agreement on some other potential changes. Among the items identified (but not decided) were the following:

- Whether number of submissions per person/component should be limited
- How to improve facilitation (at individual table discussions and/or with the full group)
- Whether issues without spokespersons should be considered

#### IV. **Telehealth Task Force Charge**

Barb Daiker, MMA Quality Manager, presented a draft charge for the Council's Telehealth Task Force. During discussion there was clarification of the expected timeline (to be completed by year-end) and a suggestion for adding to the charge the issue of how to define the physician-patient relationship.

The following motion was made, seconded and adopted:

**Motion:** The Policy Council approves the amended Telehealth Task Force charge.

#### V. **Workforce Forum – Continued Discussion**

The Council further discussed the topics raised during the workforce forum at the MMA Annual Conference. A brief summary was provided regarding other related efforts, including the MMA Primary Care Physician Workforce Expansion Advisory Task Force, their recommendations, and the loan forgiveness legislation that was recently introduced in the Minnesota Legislature.

No further action was taken.

#### VI. **Policy Council Structure & Processes**

Janet Silversmith presented information on the prior decisions that had been made to guide the Council's structure and processes. She posed two outstanding questions for Council input: 1) can individuals submit issues directly to PC; 2) how frequently should an Open Issues Forum be held.

After significant discussion, a motion was made, seconded and adopted as follows:

**Motion:** All new issues/ideas from members should be submitted directly to the MMA (not the Council) and should be reviewed by staff. The Council will 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.

#### VII. **Spring Council Meeting**

Janet Silversmith presented a proposed vision for the Council's spring meeting. A lengthy discussion followed regarding potential conference topics. Among the ideas were physician autonomy changes/threats; single payer; payment reform; delivery reform; disparities - best practices; liability; and the physician-patient relationship. It was strongly recommended that the conference be held on a Saturday in either late March or April. A call for planning committee volunteers was made.

#### VIII. **Adjourn**

With no time remaining, the following motion was made, seconded and adopted:

**Motion:** that the meeting be adjourned at 12:00 noon

Minutes submitted by  
Janet Silversmith