

## MINUTES

### MMA POLICY COUNCIL

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2016

6:00 – 8:00 PM

MINNESOTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION – JOHN MURPHY CONFERENCE ROOM  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

#### Members Present

Ernest Lampe, MD, Chair  
Peter Amadio, MD (via phone)  
Leah Anderson, MD  
Elisabeth Bilden, MD (via phone)  
Terence Cahill, MD  
Stuart Cameron, MD (via phone)  
Stephen Cragle, MD (via phone)  
James Dehen, MD (via phone)  
Alexander Feng  
Elizabeth Fracica (via phone)  
Dionne Hart, MD  
Daniel Heinemann, MD (via phone)  
Jessica Heiring, MD  
Kenneth Kephart, MD  
Matthew Kruse, MD (via phone)

Kathryn Lombardo, MD (via phone)  
Lisa Mattson, MD  
Kimberly McKeon, MD (via phone)  
Steven Meister, MD (via phone)  
Noel Peterson, MD (via phone)  
Douglas Pryce, MD  
Christopher Reif, MD  
Caleb Schultz, MD  
Neil Shah, MD  
Kimberly Tjaden, MD  
Sally Trippel, MD  
Jon Van Loon, MD (via phone)  
Craig Walvatne, MD  
Robert (Jay) Widmer, MD (via phone)  
Thomas Witt, MD (via phone)

#### Members Absent

David Agerter, MD  
Michael Baich, MD  
Ramnik Dhaliwal, MD  
Mark Eggen, MD  
Robert Grill, MD

Meltiady Issa, MD  
Evan James  
Christopher Johnson, MD  
Christopher Thiessen, MD

#### Staff Present

Teresa Knoedler (via phone)  
Bob Meiches, MD (via phone)  
Juliana Milhofer  
Janet Silversmith

#### I. Welcome & Introductions

Ernest Lampe, MD, Policy Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. All attendees introduced themselves.

## II. **Approve Minutes of April 26, 2016**

With one minor typographical error noted and changed, the following motion was made, seconded and adopted:

**Motion:** that the minutes of the April 26, 2016 meeting be adopted as amended.

## III. **Policy Conference Evaluation & 2016 House of Delegates Resolution**

Janet Silversmith, Director of Health Policy, presented a summary of Council activities to date, including membership changes, number of meetings, meeting attendance, number of policies/actions addressed, alignment between Council and Board actions, and a listing of policy topics examined.

Discussion followed regarding the status of the physician aid-in-dying issue (tabled by MMA Board of Trustees in November 2015; task force has been convened to develop a policy recommendation and to plan a forum for the 2016 MMA Annual Conference); the comparative number of resolutions considered by the House of Delegates; and, attendance at House of Delegates meetings (Governance Evaluation Work Group reported HOD attendance in 2013 at 126, with physician attendance at annual meetings in 2014 of 152 and 205 in 2015).

Janet also presented the results from the council evaluation survey – 28 out of 39 Council members completed the survey. Ernest Lampe, MD, Chair, then reviewed the resolution that will be considered by the House of Delegates (HOD) as part of the 2016 Annual Conference. He noted that the delegates have an opportunity to influence the resolution and is interested in Council members' perspectives on the resolution to the extent it impacts the future of the Council.

Dr. Lampe noted that, personally, he would like to see the HOD continue, and would like to see the Council converted to a standing reference committee of the HOD that operates throughout the year. There was some discussion as to whether this was an appropriate topic for Council consideration, with some noting it is a governance issue and not a policy issue. Janet Silversmith clarified that the purpose of sharing the resolution was not to debate its merits, but rather to make the Council aware of the resolution language and the planned HOD process.

A lengthy discussion followed, but no Council action was taken. Among comments shared during discussion were the following:

- The HOD allowed physicians to be heard. The Council has worsened the process for submission of resolutions. Are we ensuring that the voice of members can be heard?
- The Council processes make it easy for someone to bring an issue forward, have the Council consider it and influence the MMA.
- An advantage of the Council is that it meets several times during the year, and we can look at things as they come up. Council may not be perfect, but it's better than what the HOD had become.
- Council is fairly efficient at dealing with issues.
- Not sure that the open issues forum topics are discussed in as much detail as they would have been at the HOD. Solo and small practice physicians do not know how to bring their issues forward. We need to have everyone at the MMA know who their Council representative is.

- Restrictive covenants discussion by the BOT noted – are we willing to have the BOT have the final say? Under the proposed resolution, the HOD would end. If that happens, the BOT is the final decision maker.
- It is an open question whether the HOD is a superior way to get physician input compared to the Council.
- Bob Meiches, MD noted that many state medical societies are eliminating their HODs. Not sure if anyone has found a perfect solution.
- We need to ensure that physicians in the state don't feel like they are losing control of their professional association.
- Maybe we need more data and experience – should we do another 3-year extension?
- Even if MMA doesn't succeed on a particular topic, the MMA goes to legislators and speaks about issues that matter to medicine. The MMA is doing a lot. We can't solve all the problems at any one time.

#### IV. **Annual Conference Planning: Open Issues Forum**

Janet Silversmith provided a summary of the submitted open issues, and those that are expected to be submitted. She noted that one issue had been submitted by a non-member who has not yet registered to attend the annual conference. The question was posed whether there is an obligation to consider a submission from a non-member who is not present to address it? The Council members agreed that if the submitter does not attend the conference, there is no obligation to consider the issue.

After discussion of other potential topics, the Council members agreed not to submit any additional topics for consideration at the 2016 Open Issues Forum.

#### V. **New Business**

The next meeting of the Policy Council is as follows:

- Wednesday, October 12, 5:00 – 8:00 pm *[date was subsequently changed to Nov. 1, 2016]*

#### VI. **Adjourn**

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

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