

## MINUTES

### MMA POLICY COUNCIL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2017

8:30 – 11:30 AM

MINNESOTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, JOHN MURPHY CONFERENCE ROOM

#### Members Present

Lisa Mattson, MD, Chair

Peter Amadio, MD (via phone)

Elisabeth Bilden, MD

Elizabeth Fracica (via phone)

Robert Grill, MD

Dionne Hart, MD (via phone)

Daniel Heinemann, MD (via phone)

Christopher Johnson, MD

Kenneth Kephart, MD

Ernest Lampe, MD

Kathryn Lombardo, MD

Kimberly McKeon, MD

Ahmed Pasha, MBBS

Salma Patel, MD

Noel Peterson, MD

Christopher Reif, MD

Erica Sanders

Annabelle Soares (via phone)

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

Leah Anderson, MD

Michael Baich, MD

Terence Cahill, MD

Stuart Cameron, MD

Stephen Cragle, MD

James Dehen, MD

Ramnik Dhaliwal, MD

Mark Eggen, MD

Alexander Feng

Evan James

Matthew Kruse, MD

Douglas Pryce, MD

George Schoephoerster, MD

Caleb Schultz, MD

Neil Shah, MD

Lynne Steiner, MD

#### Staff Present

Juliana Milhofer

Janet Silversmith

#### Guests Present

Roger Day, MD

### I. Welcome & Introductions

Lisa Mattson, MD, Policy Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:40 am. All attendees introduced themselves. New members were welcomed – Erica Sanders (TCMS); Annabelle Soares (Medical Student Section); Ahmed Pasha, MBBS (at-large appointee); Sasha Patel, MD (ZVMS); Lynne Steiner, MD (at-large appointee).

II. **Approve Minutes of November 1, 2016**

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

**Motion:** that the minutes of the November 1, 2016 meeting be adopted.

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

For the benefit of both new and returning Council members, Janet Silversmith, MMA Director of Health Policy, 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 was the action from the 2016 House of Delegates; the House has directed the Council to review ways it can increase its effectiveness by looking at items such as its size, composition, term lengths, interaction with members, scope, and others items as it sees fit. A lengthy discussion followed. Among suggestions for short-term improvements to the Council’s activities/processes were the following: standing agenda item for new issue identification; running list of submitted topics; sharing of topics discussed at MMA committees.

IV. **Urgent Policy Discussion – Impact of DACA and H-1B Visas on Physicians, Trainees**

In response to the recent immigration executive orders signed by President Trump, as well as campaign statements regarding the future of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, also known as the “dreamers”), Council member Dionne Hart, MD asked for the Council’s urgent consideration of MMA policy.

It was noted that the AMA has engaged on this issue and has submitted a letter to the Department of Homeland Security in support of DACA and any DACA-eligible physicians or trainees; similar AMA comments have been submitted with respect to the impact of the immigration ban. Several Council members noted that these policies, as well as changes to DACA, could challenge access to care; other Council members questioned whether immigration issues were outside of MMA’s scope.

Ultimately, a motion was made, seconded and adopted (with at least a 2/3 majority):

**Motion:** The MMA opposes deportation of undocumented medical students, residents, fellows, and practicing physicians who came to the United States as children due to the actions of their parents and have or are eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status (“dreamers”). The MMA supports the J-1 and H-1B visa programs that support graduate medical education training for international medical graduates and that further provide access to physician care for thousands of people in rural and underserved communities. The MMA delegation to the AMA will submit a resolution to the AMA urging the Trump Administration to immediately reinstate “premium processing” of H-1B visas for physicians to prevent any negative impact on patient care in underserved communities. .

V. **2017 Work Plan Development**

Council members discussed potential topics for 2017 deliberation. Among the topics identified were common clinical data set for EHRs (a data set that is focused on and supports patient care); health care access (broadly defined); health information technology; drug importation (request to the Council from MMA delegation to the AMA); other prescription drug costs (it was noted that the MMA’s MARCH

Steering Committee is already focused on this topic). Janet Silversmith noted that federal health care reform may trigger other issues that will require MMA consideration (e.g., Medicaid block grants) – an MMA forum on reform is planned for April.

VI. **New Business**

After some discussion about whether or not the Council should meet more frequently, for which there were differences of opinion, it was agreed that the Council will meet next on May 1, 6-8 pm, as previously scheduled.

VII. **Adjourn**

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

**Motion:** that the meeting be adjourned at 11:35 am.