

January 10, 2024 – NHMS Council Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Maria Boylan, Patrick Ho, Eric Loo, Tessa Lafortune-Greenberg, Danielle Albushies, Travis Harker, John Klunk, Melissa Martinez, James Bartels, Eric Kropp, Gary Sobelson, Richard Johnson, Neil Meehan, Seddon Savage, Amy Lee, George Letterio, Victoria Jones, Ross Bickford, Terra Wilkins, Linda Martino, Lucy Hodder, Jonathan Ballard, Audrey Kern, Lin Brown, Oge Young, Lisa Patterson, Francis Lim-Liberty, John Hinck, Xiali Dong, Rebecca Zuurbier, and Kim Licciardi

Staff: Jane Tewksbury, Julie Sawyer, Ava Hawkes, and Mary West

President's Report:

Approved minutes from last meeting, second, approve, no opposition.

Council members not present last meeting introduced themselves.

Discussions of expectations with testifying on behalf of NHMS

Testifying on behalf of the NHMS must align with the policy decided upon by the council. Fact check information before testifying that comes with our own expertise. If opinions of the council members are in opposition to the policy, then testifying should occur personally not on behalf of the NHMS.

The possibility to offer practice with oral or written testimony at the annual scientific conference.

Majority to pass a policy is >50%. There is no formal timeline when to revise or revisit policy.

Ava's thoughts: The legislators appreciate and respect our medical expertise. It is ok to not answer a question. Some questions are meant to be politically motivated so not engaging in a response is acceptable.

Updates from BOD:

The prior building is sold, CEO search is on with a group of board members organizing the search, focusing on increasing membership and corporate sponsorships.

Legislative Updates:

17 bills across a range of issues. Physicians at all bills to educate and share expertise.

Dr. Feder gave a moving testimony regarding the day of the shooting at NH Hospital.

PRIORITIES established at the last council meeting.

Reproductive health

Gender affirming care

Gun violence prevention

Prior authorization reform

Health care workforce challenges

Review of upcoming bills/issues of pertinence

Topic 1.

1. BOM and OPLC discussion regarding controlled prescriptions.

State law is more restrictive than the DEA regarding telehealth options.

BOM Declaratory Ruling Request will be discussed at the next meeting.

Can the NMHS engage in the conversation before the BOM ruling?

First Wed of the month are public hearings for the BOM.

2. HB 518 – floor amendment to repeal the wording of the law to reflect current practice. NMHS no longer doing CME audits, this will be taken over by the OPLC. This was passed in the house and will go to the Senate. NHMS will work on being informed about the new logistics of the process and communicate this to the membership.
3. HB 322 – bill would create a study committee (all legislators) would allow legislators to have input to the general function of the BOM. The NHMS will have a seat on this committee (non-voting) Passed the house, going to the Senate.

We can register the NH Physician PAC: Need a Treasurer and a Chair.

Question: Do we need one? Whether we want the attachment of our priorities to politics or not, they would be via a PAC

Pros: Would advance our policies, Keeps channels open with legislators in a bipartisan way

Cons: How would it derail our efforts?

In the past focused on the Senate as the House is too large.

Dr. Sobelson recommends that this discussion is more appropriate for the BOD rather than the Council
As there is no one who is interested in being the chair of a future PAC and there is no way to disassociate the NHMS from politics we will not be requesting forming a PAC. Future potential for a PAC will be tabled.

Topic 3.

Ava requesting feedback about how to engage the council. Ava does not want to infer what the council wants and take positions for the NHMS.

Discussed based on Ava's request. Conclusion: Ava can make inferences when the issues are clear. Ava can use her judgment so that she does not have to send an email regarding every bill.

Ava will utilize the legislative tracker and will move forward on bills without input from the council that are not controversial.

Motion to adjourn: 635 pm, seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted, 1/15/2024

Danielle Albushies

