

NH Medical Society Council Meeting

Wednesday March 13, 2024 5-6:30 pm

2 Pillsbury St. Concord, NH

Present in person: Jane Tewksbury, Tessa Lafortune-Greenberg, John Klunk, Travis Harker, Gary Sobelson, Danielle Albushies, Maria Boylan, Ava Hawkes, Stephen Bishop, Richard Johnson, Seddon Savage, Jonathan Ballard, John Hink, Lin Brown, Audrey Kern

Remote: **Mary West, George Letterio, Melissa Martinez, Jen Christiansen, Linda Martino, Victoria Jones, Frances Lim Liberty, Kim Licciardi, William Boylan, Marie Ramas, Patrick Ho, Franklin Hubbell, Eric Loo, Alan Hartford, Robert Laflam**

**1. Presidents Report:**

**Maria Boylan, DO**

- a. Answers to questions in Seddon's minutes from last meeting with amendments, **Motion to pass addended minutes, Seconded, Approved Unanimously**
- b. Board updates
  - i. Julie Sawyer submitted her resignation but she will remain on an hourly basis to help with administrative duties
  - ii. CEO search: 8 applicants, search is closed as of 3/26/24; CEO seach committee will be meeting, interviewing and reporting back to the Council.
- c. Annual Scientific Conference – work in progress; communicate any ideas to Maria; Travis offers the idea for a keynote speaker: Lisa Rosenbaum from the NEJM
- d. AMA Resolution - Travis Harker: "The Preservation of the Primary Care Relationship" ; Issue separate from insurance contracts. Question regarding possible language to be included regarding physician autonomy in the situation that a physician declines seeing a specific patient. The language in the resolution refers only to the primary care relationship, not specialty care. Goal to get approval from the NHMS Council then spread to outside New Hampshire then AMA meeting 6/2024.
  - i. Motion to support "The Preservation of the Primary Care Relationship" as written to become NHMS policy for Travis to present to the AMA
  - ii. Motion to rescind the above motion and to table conversation until the next council meeting. As far as accepting new policies, the council should be in compliance wth the new by-laws: Article 5, Section 5. *After presentation and deliberation at the council, all official policies undergoing draft development or revision must be made available for review and commentary by the full NHMS membership. The membership should be notified and given at least one month to respond with commentary for the NHMS to take under consideration, prior to any motion for official adoption of the policy. In situations where the council must take timely/urgent position recommendations for the society in the absence of adopted policy, a general synopsis of the reasoning utilized and vote results shall be included in the meeting minutes for membership review. Official policy*

*should subsequently be developed if warranted. The council shall not forgo the policy development pathway with membership review, simply for the sake of expedience.*

- iii. **Motion made to 1. Support the concepts in “The Preservation of the Primary Care Relationship” so that the resolution could proceed with the support of the NHMS to the AMA House of Delegates. 2. Rescind the Motion to “The Preservation of the Primary Care Relationship” as written to become NHMS policy as the policy should be sent out to the membership. Seconded. Approved Unanimously; Abstained 1**
  - e. How do we post, disseminate, get comments and review prior to next meeting? Decision to share potential policies with the membership through the legislative pulse and give the membership one month to give comments.
  - f. Discussion regarding the history of membership engagement in establishing a new policy
  - g. Danielle Albushies will reach out to Mary West to make potential policies accessible to the membership to be consistent with the updated by-laws
  - h. Discussion regarding what is the burden of confidentiality. Privacy makes more sense as a term than confidentiality.
  - i. When is a policy public? Mary looking for clarity about what policies to post.
  - j. Only policies that have been approved for posting are 2 gun violence policies, repro health policy, climate change policy, nicotine/tobacco policy, prior authorization. All other policies are sunset and should not be posted.
  - k. By-laws are seen by all members; Currently, minutes are available to council members only and the membership at request. Posting minutes to the entire membership was discussed.
  - l. **Motion to research how to communicate our future policies and minutes. New committee established called Policy Process Committee. Seconded, Accepted Unanimously.**
  - m. Volunteers: Seddon, Danielle, George, Gary, Ava, Marie

## 2. Legislative Updates

**Ava Hawkes**

- a. BOM Update. History regarding group of psychiatrists who brought up that NH law is more restrictive than federal law for telehealth prescribing of opioids. The Board of Medicine decided that there was no conflict. Dr. Ballard shared that there is currently a legislative committee for the study of telehealth. Some members of the council communicated that the BOM published a guideline that is restricting care to patients
- b. NHMS presence lacking on statutory commissions.
  - i. Need new representative to State Health Assessment/State Health Improvement Plan.;**Motion for Melissa Martinez-Adorno. Alternate: Dr. John Klunk. Melissa to look into the time commitment before agreeing. Seconded. Accepted Unanimously**

- ii. Need new representative to MCAC (oversees Medicaid for the state).  
**Motion for Doris Lotz. She is a NHMS member. Seconded. Approved Unanimously**
- iii. Put out a list of vacancies through the legislative pulse vs appointment from the President of the NHMS.
- iv. HB 1222. BOM only discussed that a NP and PA should have a time frame for being observed before practicing independently, NOT accepting HB 1222.  
HB 1222 may be gaining traction based on perceived support from the BOM.  
Encourage outreach to message facts to the Legislators in the House.

Motion to adjourn @ 645 pm.

Draft completed 3/17/24.

Danielle Albushies, MD