

NHMS Council Meeting Minutes

8/14/2024; Zoom and in person

Scheduled 5-6:30 pm

Present via zoom: George Letterio, Audrey Kern, Linda Martino, Victoria Jones, Alan Hartford, Lin Brown, Audrey Kern, Angela Yerdon, Jonathan Ballard, Patrick Ho, Jen Christiansen, Lisa Patterson, Todd Morrell, Oge Young

Present in person: Maria Boylan, Danielle Albushies, Gary Sobelson, John Hink, Seddon Savage, Tessa Lafortune-Greenberg, Stephen Bishop, Kirsten Singleton, Ava Hawkes

1. President's Report

Maria Boylan, DO

- a. Motion to Approve minutes from 7/2024, seconded, passed unanimously.
- b. Introduction of new CEO, Cathy Stratton; Official start 8/21/24. Currently working for the Maine Medical Association the last 15 years. Hired to work with clinicians who have challenges with substance abuse x 10 years. Now working with health care attorneys who represent physicians. Also working with ER physicians regarding substance use disorders.
- c. The Nominating committee is looking to review positions. Email Maria if stepping down. If interested in staying on - nothing to do.

2. NHMS Annual Scientific Conference

Maria Boylan, Kirsten Singleton

- a. Agenda included in the packet. Lectures are centered on women's health. Highlights: Reproductive Health and Advocacy panels. Musical entertainment Friday and Saturday nights. Keynote speakers reviewed.
- b. Looking for one more speaker for Opioid CME.
- c. Spread the word on social media about the conference.
- d. Kirsten and Cathy hope to bring new members to the society. Option to accommodate one day passes or to just come for the entertainment and dinner? Option for a new membership rate to decrease cost? Income based cost? Medical student engagement? Looking to increase sponsorship. Potential sponsorship from DHHS discussed.

3. Director of Advocacy

Ava Hawkes

- a. Updates on the NH Physicians PAC – As a Council we voted to re-invigorate the PAC. The Board was charged to start to organize this effort. The Board voted to get legal counsel towards this endeavor. As the PAC was unregistered for a few years, past issues need to be rectified. After meeting with legal counsel, we need a PAC Board. There are funds in the account currently which cannot be accessed as there is no treasurer of a PAC Board. Interested members for the PAC Board need to communicate their interest. The NHMS can contribute to candidates but there are high tax rates as a 501(6). With consultation with Lucy Hoddard and investigation by Ava it is concluded that the NHMS should not contribute to candidates outside a PAC even

though this process is allowable and legal. Any volunteers? Minimum of 3 are needed. Stephen Bishop has volunteered to be involved.

b. Advocacy Updates

- i. Advocacy engagements: Advocacy panel for year 3 psychiatric residents through Patrick Ho; Kent Street Coalition has educational talks. Ava spent time with Representative Webber during an hour-long presentation for 200 viewers for the Kent Street Coalition. Ava communicated the NHMS legislative proprieties on this call.
- c. OPLC /BOM updates – HB 322 created a study committee to study the BOM. Nick Perencevich has previously come to a council meeting to discuss the history of the BOM and OPLC. Op-ed pieces by Neil and Oge Young shared with the council members on the call. Dr. Young reviewed his Op-ed to discuss the importance of physicians in the role of peer review. The Committee just formed. Their work must be concluded by 11/1/24. The Speaker of the House appoints the members of this Committee. Appointments already made were reviewed. Ava and Jonathan Ballard will discuss this further to advocate for representation on this committee.
- d. AAP members have worked hard to make a requirement for CME to include child abuse and neglect. NHMS has not historically advocated for specific mandatory CME. No quorum to vote on the stance of the NHMS about required CME through the legislature. We can advocate for important knowledge requirements outside of required CME through the legislature.
- e. Thank Audrey Kern for stepping up on the telehealth services committee. Consensus to support the NHMS to lean into the federal legislation regarding telehealth services.
- f. The NHMS has a seat on the PDMP. David Strang has served in this role for a long time. His term is coming to an end. The PDMP has created term limits: 5 years. Presence from our membership is needed. David Strang's final meeting is 9/2024. Recommendation for Ava to email the council with the required time and explanation of role. The person for this position is appointed by the NHMS council. The appointment should be communicated by the council.

Motion to adjourn 6:30 pm, seconded and approved.

Next meeting 9/11/24; 5:00-630 pm.

Submitted by Danielle Albushies, MD