

NCMS Policy Committee

June 10, 2020, 5:30-7 pm
North Carolina Medical Society

Minutes

Members Present:

Laura Gerald, MD	Peter Morris, MD	Chris Grubb, MD
Lisa Shock, DrPH, PA-C	Genie Komives, MD	Kelley Singer, MD
Matt Martin, MD	Adam Zolotor, MD	Merritt Seshul, MD
Mitch Heflin, MD	Lynne Fiscus, MD	Justin Hurie, MD
John Lumpkin, MD	Tres Pittman, MD	Jeff Hatcher, MD
William Lawrence, MD	Holly Biola, MD	Palmer Edwards, MD
Richard Kirsch, MD	LaBron Chambers, MD	Phil Brown, MD

Staff Present:

Kristen Spaduzzi	Ashley Rodriguez, JD	Steve Keene, JD
Melanie Phelps, JD	Danielle Snyder	Chip Baggett, JD

- I Lisa Shock called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members and staff and asked for introductions of the individuals in the room and on the phone.
- II The minutes from the February meeting were approved unanimously.
- III Laura reviewed the committee charge, emphasizing that policy discussions and recommendations should align with the NCMS Mission and Guiding Principles. She reviewed the Guiding Principles, highlighting the Access and Health Equity principles as a prelude to the policies that will be discussed later in the meeting; and, shared the letter that Dr. Edwards sent out addressing the ongoing racial injustices and inequities impacting our country.
- IV Laura invited the committee members to share their thoughts and encouraged a diverse conversation about the direction of the committee's work. The committee had an in-depth discussion that centered on the appropriate approach to developing meaningful policies that lead to actionable change by identifying the desired outcome. Part of that process includes understanding the needs, the cause and effect of existing policies and fully evaluating the true impact of them so that the committee can best address any areas that are lacking or missing, and strengthen the policies so that they align with what the NCMS stands for and our Guiding Principles. It was also noted that Physicians are in a position of power and it is important to understand how can that agency and power be best exercised towards equity in the overall wellbeing and care of patients. What underlies discussions of Policy Committee is where and how is that power going to

be exercised and leveraged towards Health Equity for groups who do not have such power while still appreciating what our scope of reach is. Writing policies so that it's not focused inward at details but with the end-goal in mind so that there is room left for multiple approaches and ongoing potential. Laura reminded the group that Policy discussions should happen in Policy committee and it is important to

- V Access to Care & Social Supports for all Populations Policy draft was reviewed. Affordability and coverage of Medicaid was discussed, along with access to broadband internet for Tele-health and considerations towards undocumented populations. The policies should be focusing on being agent of change & allow a lever towards that in the recommendations from the committee. Clarifications on the background, recommendations and action items were made as well. Laura clarified that there will be a vote and while everyone will have an opportunity to speak and be heard, it will be a majority vote on what will go to the Board.

1. Specific areas that will be worked on offline by staff and have a 3rd iteration drafted for further review by the board:

- a. Keeping actual policy at a higher level
- b. Lines 1-34 to be kept

- VI Lisa and Laura proposed to vote to accept current policy with the pre-discussed friendly wordsmithing amendments – Motion from Phil Brown and motion carried with no objections
- VII Staff noted that the Upstream Letter that was previously suggested as an action item in the Maternal & Infant Health policy has been removed.
- VIII The next meeting of the NCMS Policy Committee is October 14, 2020.
- IX There being no further business, the committee was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie G. Phelps, JD