

## Policy Committee Meeting

February 12, 2020 – 6:00pm MST

### Minutes

Present: Dave Martell            Angie Hamilton            Sumeet Dama            Barbra Watts  
             Philip Leger                Rob Tanguay              Valerie Primeau           Becca Hebert (recorder)

Regrets: Anees Bahji            Adi Nidumolu

Call To Order: 6:03pm MST – Dave Martell

Adoption of Agenda & Additions:

- Changes to last minutes
  - Spelling mistake in Naved Ali's name
- No other additions to the agenda for February 12, 2020

Review of Last Minutes (Appendix 1):

- Review of action items
  - Dave
    - All completed, except the following items
      - Invite Naved Ali to the CSAM Policy Committee
      - Circulate the choosing wisely recommendations (not everyone received the shared Google document Dave originally sent out)
      - Will send out a poll to the CSAM board to score each of the choosing wisely recommendations
  - Rob
    - All completed, except the following items
      - Still to connect with Chris Cull (Sits on the CCSA board and raise profile of people with lived experience)
      - Rob to let Dave know what comes of the call with Chris Cull
  - Sumeet
    - Circulate the methamphetamine paper again

## New Business:

1. Welcome New Members (Dave):
  - Very excited to welcome everyone to the Policy Committee
  - The committee is now comprised of 9 members in total
  - All committee members on the call introduced themselves
  
2. Direction to The Committee from Last BOD Meeting (Dave):
  - Choosing Wisely Recommendation – the board suggested including a recommendation on cannabis
    - The individuals at Choosing Wisely like to avoid contentious topics (nudge us away from creating arguments)
    - Dave's first draft of the recommendation is as follows "Don't prescribe cannabinoids as a first line treatment for co-occurring mental health disorders or chronic pain."
  
3. Update from SOGC Collaboration (Rob/Sumeet):
  - Sumeet and Rob are on two different task teams writing on two different topics
    - Writing guidelines on the effects of different substances in the female life cycle (non - pregnancy, menopause, pregnancy)
    - Sumeet – Topic Cannabis
    - Rob – Topic Opioids
    - Each paper topic meets independently
    - Once completed the alternating group will be the editor on the file submission
  - The environmental scan has been completed
  - The literature search has just been circulated
  - The goal is to have a preliminary draft completed in the spring and have it ready to be reviewed for the in-person meeting in Ottawa this summer
  - These guidelines will be published in the Journal of the SOGC
    - There could be a link or abstract shared to put into the CJA
  - Courtney Green from SOGC has approached Dave to ask if we have any interest in cross pollinating/collaborating/participating in their quarterly conferences
    - This is a great opportunity for CSAM to gain more exposure
  - Dave to circulate the SOGC gatherings / If anyone from this committee would want to or can attend to represent CSAM reach out to Dave
  - CAPE (Canadian Society Emergency Physicians) – would benefit from input from CSAM
    - Rob to connect Eddie Lang and Barbra Watts
    - Barbara tasked with creating the connection of CSAM and CAPE

#### 4. Discussion About Legalization/Decriminalization of All Drugs:

- Advocating for the legalization of all drugs?
  - This may be something our committee becomes more involved with
  - A consensus with the CSAM board was that this is something they are interested in, but realize we do not have an enormous amount of resources to put towards this initiative – they would like to look for partners who have already started this process
  - Who are these partners? Who would we want to join forces with?
    - The CSAM board was unsure of these partners
    - The policy is tasked with a fact-finding mission – What organizations have already or is willing to move this agenda forward
      - Public Health
      - 3 major city's public health organizations have already come out with decriminalization statements
      - Board of Health
    - Angie – to suggest organizations to partner with
- Angie – Decriminalization is a no brainer – is there a difference between decriminalization and regulating – do we have a position on both?
  - Angie – to circulate different definitions with the meaning of all the terminology
  - Explain the basics and the languages

#### 5. Other Business:

- Angie – You cannot discuss decriminalization and regulating drugs without having a look at our privacy laws and guidelines dealt with together.
- Dave to connect Angie with Selene Etches to try and bring some of these types of conversations to CSAM
  - Articulate a way of what she just talked about to have a more wholesome discussion within the Policy committee

Next Meeting: Becca to get dates from Dave and send out next doodle poll

Adjournment: 7:00pm MST – Dave Martell

## **Action Items**

### **Dave Martell**

- Invite Naved Ali to the CSAM Policy Committee
- Resend the choosing wisely recommendations (not everyone received the shared Google document Dave originally sent out)
- Connect Angie with Selene Etches to try and bring types of conversations (decriminalisation and regulating) to CSAM

### **Rob Tanguay**

- Connect with Chris Cull (Let Dave know what comes of this call)
- Connect Eddie Lang and Barbra Watts

### **Barbra Watts**

- Establish the connection of CSAM and CAPE
- Create suggestions of different organizations to partner with regarding the discussion about Legalization/Decriminalization of All Drugs

### **Angie Hamilton**

- Create and circulate different definitions (decriminalization, regulating, etc.) to understand the terminology
- Create suggestions of different organizations to partner with regarding the discussion about Legalization/Decriminalization of All Drugs