

Policy Committee Meeting

July 16, 2020 – 5:00pm MST

Minutes

Present: D. Martell A. Hamilton C. Cull B. Watts
 P. Leger A. Bahji B. Hebert (recorder)

Absent: R. Tanguay N. Ali V. Primeau C. McPherson S. Dama A. Nidumolu

Call To Order: 5:05pm MST – D. Martell

Adoption of Agenda & Additions:

- No additions to the agenda
- Agenda adopted and approved

Review of Last Minutes (Appendix 1):

- Minutes from June 2nd – June 9th meeting did not require minutes as it was a sub committee working meeting
- Minutes from June 2nd, 2020 have been accepted and approved
 - Reviewed by A. Hamilton and D. Martell

New Business:

1. Advocacy For Decriminalization – A. Hamilton - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kk3yoEZsFLLTMjs1Jz5lpwGc4TdkWoSe3PxxhJbvTNJY/edit>
 - Update from the CSAM BOD: All in favour of the policy
 - i. Suggested to submit in 3 different formats: CSAM Website, CJA Journal Publication, and as an Op - Ed
 - The report is ready to be submitted – everyone is keen to get it done and out
 - A. Hamilton – read out the document to everyone
 - ii. Round table thoughts after reading through the policy:

- P. Leger: On the section of decriminalization – how many references should we use? There are many points that are only citing one or two studies – does it matter?
- B. Watts: Agrees with the edits A. Hamilton made. Overall, great work
- A. Bahji: Comments about the language that is used is especially important – A. Bahji to circulate a guide put out by British user of the addiction journal focusing on less stigmatizing language
- C. Cull: Document is well put together. The CCSA also put out a document regarding language and less stigmatizing vocabulary – will circulate if he can find the document
- D. Martell: Reflecting on national stats - BC has come out with more - may want to bring the document up to the minute – relevancy
 - a. Comment on recidivism – would like use of different language
 - b. In the conclusion add possession for personal use in the ending sentence
 - c. Most important part is the last sentence – currently reads as a call to action, but should read as a statement from CSAM
- Does the CSAM BOD need to ask the CSAM memberships for their opinion/ approval?
 - a. Currently there is no procedure for this, the CSAM BOD is happy to push this policy forward without membership consensus
 - b. Policy committee to help guide the CSAM BOD with a process as we continue to move forward – as topics become more controversial a more anchored process must be created
- General public – Op-Ed piece – B. Watts, A. Hamilton and D. Martell will write a 1st draft
- Need guidance from the CSAM Executive:
 - iii. Who will sign off on the Op-ED?

iv. Who will be the CSAM figurehead backing this policy?

v. How do we give credit to the writers of this piece, but also have it come from within CSAM?

➤ P. Leger will update A. Hamilton's edits on the document for the next meeting

➤ Public Health Physicians of Canada Webinar on Decriminalization – CSAM Volunteer Request

vi. A. Hamilton to put request out to the rest of the Policy Committee

vii. D. Martell to circulate to his connections

2. Process for choosing the next Policy to focus on – D. Martell

➤ Pushed till next meeting

Next Meeting: July 23, 2020 at 5:00pm MST. – B. Hebert to send out call in coordinates

Adjournment: 6:00pm MST – D. Martell