

Policy Committee Meeting

September 9, 2020 – 6:00pm MST

Minutes

Present: D. Martell A. Hamilton B. Watts A. Nidumolu
 P. Leger A. Bahji R. Tanguay B. Hebert (recorder)

Absent: N. Ali V. Primeau C. McPherson S. Dama C. Cull

Call to Order: 6:05pm – D. Martell

Adoption of Agenda & Additions:

- No additions to the agenda
- Agenda adopted and approved

Review of Minutes from July 16 & 23 (Appendix 1 & 2):

- Minutes from July 16th & 23rd, 2020 have been accepted and approved

New Business:

1. Advocacy for Decriminalization – D. Martell

- Finished writing the op-ed piece
- The submission with the CJA is still under review, if accepted it will be published in the Dec/Jan issue
 - i. Consider submitting to another journal (CMAJ or JAMA)
 - ii. We cannot submit the same copy to different journals, the content must be different
- D. Martell Submitted the op-ed piece across Canada publications
 - iii. Has had no responses from any of the submissions
 - iv. The committee needs to examine when it is a good time to publish (now and in the future), currently all the focus is on school and COVID

- v. D. Martell would like to learn the channels of this community from his connection with a freelance journalist
- vi. Stay connected with other organizations who are advocating the same topics; partner and piggyback off
- vii. The College of Family Physicians would be a good partner, but their process for producing advocacy documents is extremely slow
- viii. R. Tanguay has connections with the Globe & Mail, Calgary Herald, etc. he will reach out for more information
- ix. A. Hamilton will email Andre Picard
- x. D. Martell to submit to Air Canada Magazine and MacLeans
- xi. D. Martell to ask the CSAM BOD what process they would like to use for media requests

2. Next Policies to Focus On (Bring 3 to the September BOD meeting) – D. Martell

➤ Ideas:

- i. Regulation of treatment centres – pretty simple in the regards of what we would like to say – we would like to see evidence based regulation will other people in CSAM find this too pretentious to touch – OAT and residential advocate to help Canada where all residential addiction programs
- ii. Meds for alcohol – that they should be seeing a doctor when they are admitting
- iii. Treatment centres take \$10,000 for the first month and then kick them out – legit that they –
- iv. People should not be thrown out for exhibiting symptoms of your addiction
- v. Lack of funding for treatment and harm reduction
- vi. They need to incorporate a medical detox into the residential treatment facilities

3. New Member – R. Tanguay

- Sarah Elliot's Letter of interest (Appendix 3)
 - i. Understands balance, has lots of passion but in professional format
- All in favour of adding new member Sarah Elliot to the Policy Committee
- D. Martell will send S. Elliot a formal welcome to the committee email

4. BCCSU Cannabis Research – A. Hamilton

- <https://thetyee.ca/News/2020/08/27/Cannabis-Path-Away-From-Opioids/>

Next Meeting: Before the October CSAM BOD Meeting

Adjournment: 7:08pm MST – D. Martell