

California Public Health/Prevention Medical Leadership Forum
18th Conference Call Meeting
Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 8:15-9:30 am PT
MINUTES

Call in: (515) 739-1015 Access Code: 457-029-043#

1. Roll Call by Institution

CAPM: Mark Horton, Ron Hattis, Robert Oldham (also HOAC)

HOAC: Kat DeBurgh

CMA: Donald Lyman (also CAPM)

Schools of Medicine: Patrick Romano, UC Davis; Maryam Othman, Western University

2. Minutes of December 5, 2017 Meeting (Handout, attached to email announcement)

Distributed, but deferred due to low attendance.

3. The Opioid Crisis: What are our Constituents Institutions/Organizations Doing and Teaching?

Patrick Romano reported that UC Davis SOM has integrated substance abuse, along with mental health and pain, into the second year module of its Population Health course. In addition, a task force is working on broader innovations.

Maryam Othman said that Western University has not yet developed special programs on this issue.

Mark Horton reported that the California Healthcare Foundation over the past two years developed a network of some 28 county-based coalitions across the state that discussed such topics as access to proper prescribing, medication-assisted treatment for substance abuse disorders, and mitigation of opioid overdoses by increasing access to naloxone. The first round of activities was evaluated and found to be effective, so a second round has just been launched, with support from the Public Health Institute, which will include Webinars, Web support, public awareness campaigns, coaching (Dr. Horton is one of the coaches), and encouragement of innovative local practices. There are currently 24 coalitions, with interdisciplinary membership.

Rob Oldham, who is on an opioid coalition, reported on the use of buprenorphine to reduce abuse and overdose potentials; and of a continued role for methadone clinics, which have a greater abuse and overdose potential but have political influence. Buprenorphine can be given combined with naloxone, in Suboxone and generics, sublingually. Intranasal buprenorphine and separate intranasal naloxone have recently been approved and are used for treatment of overdose. Providers prescribing buprenorphine must be certified, but there are fewer restrictions than with methadone.

Don Lyman noted that many substance abusers have mental health problems, and a white paper from CMA's Council on Science and Public Health (which Don chairs and on which Rob serves) reports that the mental health system in California is "in chaos." He also mentioned that mental health is a critical factor in gun violence as well, e.g., half of gun-related deaths are suicides.

4. California Medical Association; 2nd Quarter 2017-18 CMA Resolutions Impacting Public Health (deadline for testimony: end of business today)

- Resolution 105-18:
RESOLVED: That CMA petition the California Departments of Finance and Education to restore the mandatory scoliosis screening program and reinstate its funding for screening in California public schools for females twice (at ages 10 and 12) and males once (at age 13 or 14).

Don Lyman indicated uncertainty as to what authority in state government would be responsible for implementation. Rob Oldham said that his wife had a leading role in developing a White Paper for the pediatric orthopedists on scoliosis screening, which recognized value in screening but recommended screening by pediatricians and family physicians rather than in schools. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, which previously opposed screening, currently finds evidence inconclusive.

Ron Hattis suggested a position that children's primary care physicians be made more aware of scoliosis screening in the course of periodic examinations, and that if mild scoliosis is found, there be follow-up to detect any progression, especially in girls. There was no objection to this recommendation.

- Resolution 106-18:
RESOLVED: That CMA support legislation calling for secondary school start times be no earlier than 8:30, a time shown to be more appropriate for optimal sleep and learning in adolescents.

There were no opposing comments or opinions.

- Resolution 107:18
RESOLVED: That our CMA support optimal management of patients with DSD through individualized, multidisciplinary care that: (1) seeks to foster the well-being of the child and the adult they will become; (2) respects the rights of the patient to participate in decisions, (3) provides psychosocial support to promote patient and family well-being, and (4) except when medically necessary, defers surgical intervention until the child is able to participate in decision making, specifically opposing surgical interventions solely intended to define patient gender, such as clitoroplasty, vaginoplasty, labiaplasty, and gonadectomy.

Patrick Romano commented that the resolution seemed carefully worded, taking into account medical necessity and input from the child..

- Resolution 108-18
RESOLVED: That the CMA support more stringent methods of age verification to prevent online sales of e-cigarettes and other nicotine delivery devices to minors.

Mark Horton recommended expanding this to cover alcohol and guns. Ron Hattis suggested at least adding tobacco products. Don Lyman noted that heroin is also coming in through online sources, but that age restrictions are irrelevant, as it is illegal for all ages.

- Other CMA Business

The deadline for submitting new bills passed about 2 weeks ago. The Council on Legislation will meet soon to develop a list of the most important bills for CMA positions.

Follow-up: Ron Hattis will post CAPM testimony by the end of the day. Other institutions and organizations may testify if done today. Another opportunity for testimony will exist after the Council on Science and Public Health reports its recommendations and before they go to the Board of Trustees.

5. Single Payer Health Coverage and SB 562

Rob Oldham reviewed the CAPM position opposing SB 562 despite several board members being favorably inclined toward single payer. The main problem is that the bill does not identify the source of funding, which some have estimated to be as high as \$400 billion annually. Mark Horton said he believes that sufficient funding can be found, because the total spent on all health care would actually be less. The money is already being spent on individual programs and insurance plans, which would need to be merged into “one pot.” However, Dr. Horton agrees that SB 562 as written is inadequate, because it does not have specifics on how an operational plan would be put together.

The California Medical Association is leading a coalition of organizations opposed to the bill. Rob Oldham and Ron Hattis noted that CAPM has not joined because it wants to speak independently, including a more nuanced view on single payer and an emphasis on prevention. Ron Hattis supports expansion of Medicare to younger age groups and of CHIP to older age groups, “till they meet in the middle.”

6. HOAC

In response to a question from Patrick Romano, Mark Horton explained how the two health officer organizations, CCLHO and HOAC, work and the distinctions between them. He also praised Kat DeBurgh and the HOAC Board for sifting through hundreds of bills each year, to select issues to work on. The California Public Health Association looks to HOAC for guidance, as does CAPM. Kat DeBurgh expressed thanks for the recognition.

7. Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California Issues: No report

8. Updates from Schools of Medicine: See Opioid Crisis above

Maryam Othman said that Western University is emphasizing healthy lifestyle and diabetes prevention and children and adults. There have been community workshops.

9. Updates from Schools of Public Health

Mark Horton reported from UC Berkeley, with which he is affiliated though not the official representative. Dean Bertozzi is stepping down in July 2018. A search for a new dean is in progress. The school's 75th anniversary will be celebrated the weekend of April 21. A new building for the school has been built and was to be opened, but has not been approved yet by the Fire Marshall.

10. Next Meeting: A Tuesday in June 2018, tentatively 6/5/18

Topics suggested included the obesity epidemic, especially childhood obesity. Maryam Othman was asked to report further on its efforts. Further input on the opioid crisis could also be included. Mark Horton offered to help Ron to boost attendance, by making some calls.

Submitted by Ronald P. Hattis, Secretary

Approved without additions or corrections, 6/5/18