

# PUTTING PREVENTION INTO PRACTICE

Working Through Organizations (Including CAPM) for Better Health Laws and Policies

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# Learning objectives

- At conclusion of presentation, the resident will be able to:
  - Describe the process of how specialty and other medical organizations adopt policy decisions
  - Participate in the process of a medical organization's policy deliberations
  - Describe the basics of how a bill becomes law, and how physicians can influence the process
  - Decide whether to accept a free offer to join CAPM, our state specialty society for Preventive Medicine, and/or to inquire about becoming a fellow of Beyond AIDS Foundation

# Ways to influence policy as an individual

- Send e-mails and letters
- Make calls
- Establish personal networks
- Do presentations to influence small groups
- Testify as an individual
- Write a personal blog
- Others?

# Advantages of working through groups

- Public employees often otherwise prohibited from involvement with legislation, political activity
- Organizations but not individuals can sponsor bills (and be listed as supporters) in state legislature
- Testimony on behalf of organizations carries more weight (legislators and officials don't know how big)
- Larger organizations may have staff or lobbyists to work on the issues or bills (e.g., ACPM, AMA, CMA)
- Multiple people can be motivated to support the effort
- May establish practice guidelines, standards for a “population” of providers

# Organizations available to Preventive Medicine Physicians

- Organized medicine (general)
  - National: American Medical Association (AMA), American Osteopathic Association (AOA)  
National Medical Association (NMA, African-American)
  - State: California Medical Association (CMA), Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of California (OPSC)
  - Local: County medical societies (work as local components of CMA)
- Specialty-specific for Preventive Medicine
  - National: American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM)
  - **State: California Academy of Preventive Medicine (CAPM)**

# Organizations available contd.

- Allied specialty societies
  - American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM)
    - Regional: Western Occupational and Environmental Medical Association (WOEMA, 5 states)\*
  - American College of Lifestyle Medicine\*\*
  - American Society of Addiction Medicine\*\*
- Disease-specific (not limited to physicians)
  - Examples: **Beyond AIDS Foundation**; AHA; ACS)
- Public health (physicians only small component)
  - American Public Health Association and affiliates

\*Recognized by CMA    \*\*Not recognized by CMA; boards not part of ABMS or AOA

# How to influence the policy of an organization

- Persuade officers or board members to support
- Become elected to a board or become a delegate
- Submit resolutions, and contribute toward other decisions that set policy on specific issues
  - AMA, AOA, CMA, ACOEM, CAFP: Annual “house of delegates”
    - CMA now has online submission/review for resolutions
    - Generally, any member may be author; usually requires a delegate or delegation (or specialty) to introduce
  - ACPM: Submit to Policy Committee
  - CAPM, Beyond AIDS Foundation: Submit to Board of Directors



# How smaller groups influence larger ones

- County medical societies select delegates to state medical association
- State specialty associations have representatives at national medical association
  - CAPM is represented in CMA House of Delegates and supports/sponsors resolutions
  - ACPM (and CMA) represented in AMA House of Delegates and does same



# Kinds of prevention, public health policies that can be influenced

- Social determinants of health
- Structural racism
- Crises: **Climate change**, heat, guns/violence, wildfires, floods
- Communicable Diseases
  - HIV/AIDS: reporting, partner services, screening
  - Immunization and dealing with resistance, opposition
  - **COVID-19 pandemic**
- Health care reform, funding, and reimbursement
- Nutrition, smoking, other lifestyle issues
- Injury prevention
- Environmental health
- Support from medical community for public health infrastructure, funding, programs

# Key activities of California

## Academy of Preventive Medicine

- Supporting/opposing, proposing amendments to, and occasionally sponsoring bills in California legislature
  - Testimony at legislative committees
  - Letters, lobbying at legislators' offices
- Representing PM at California Medical Association
  - Specialty Delegation and inter-specialty meetings
  - House of Delegates: Resolutions
  - Council on Legislation
- Sponsoring California Public Health/Preventive Medicine Physician Leadership Forum

# How a bill becomes law (similar in most states as well as Congress)

- Introduced in one house
  - Committee hearings, usually 2 or more (one or more policy committees and a fiscal committee)
    - If fails to pass out of any committee, bill is dead
    - Amendments usually aim to reduce opposition
    - Floor vote; if passes, on to second house
- Same process in other house
- If amended in second house, back to first house for approval (conference committee if needed)
- Governor must sign; if vetoed, requires 2/3 of both houses to override

# Examples of past California legislation supported by CAPM

- Board of Directors votes on positions: 11 in 2015, 29 in 2016 plus 6 ballot initiatives; 14 in 2017; 11 in 2018; 23 in 2019.
- Examples of bills supported that passed:

BILL #	AUTHOR	SUPPORTED BILL, SUBJECT; RESULT
AB 262	Gloria	More powers for health officers in CD outbreaks; CAPM supported. Passed and signed.
AB 1669	Gray	Restricts ammunition sales at gun shows; CAPM supported. Passed and signed.
SB 276	Pan	Immunization exemptions require state review; CAPM supported. Passed and signed.
SB 793	Hill	<b>Flavored Tobacco Products; forbids sale of flavored tobacco products in California; CAPM supported. Passed and signed; however, challenged in a 2022 initiative; upheld by voters.</b>

# How CAPM helped change California law to reduce new smokers; 4-yr effort

- Susan Bradshaw (LLU residency grad) wrote resolution 110-18 for CMA, introduced by CAPM 2018, asking to support legislation to ban flavored tobacco
  - Public health concern: Fruit flavors attractive to children; menthol popular with adult communities at risk
- Resolution approved by CMA, became policy
- CMA lobbyists (along with others incl. CAPM) helped inspire and supported SB 793 to ban flavored tobacco
- SB 793 passed; signed by Gov. Newsom 8/28/20
- Tobacco companies sponsored a state ballot proposition (Prop 31, 2022) to overturn SB 793; enforcement deferred pending vote
- 11/8/22: Voters approved upholding the legislation

# 2023-24 session CAPM legislative efforts

- Examples of 2023 bills (13 backed by CAPM):

BILL #	AUTHOR	SUPPORTED BILL: SUBJECT, RESULT
AB 85	Weber	Require California medical insurance companies to pay for screening of social determinants of health (if funds appropriated)
AB 1057	Flora	Establishes home visitation as an official CDPH public health program
AB 1089	Gipson	Restricts 3-D printing of firearms
AB 1166	Baines	Eliminates liability for an untrained person to administer naloxone (kits would use nasal spray)
SB 252	Wiener, Gonzalez, Stern	Divests state retirement funds from top 200 fossil fuel funds

# 2023 CMA Resolutions from CAPM

- **106-23: Adding the environmental to the social determinants of health** (*CMA would refer to SEDOH, the social and environmental determinants of health*)
- **107-23: Developing and utilizing patient health questionnaires that uncover social and environmental health risks** (*CMA would collaborate in developing standardized patient health questionnaires, asking about SEDOH, and providers would be encouraged to review during clinical encounters*)
- **203-23: Encouraging new features in electronic health records to promote prevention and public health** (*EHR firms would be asked to have templates for SEDOH, to provide “active choice” for ordering preventive services, and to easily link to disease and immunization reporting and CURES*)



# California Physician Leadership

## Forum for Public Health/Prev. Med.

- **Forum is sponsored by CAPM; began in 2014**
- **Widest participation of medical leaders in public health/PrevMed in CA**
- **Issues discussed in quarterly conference calls, medical perspectives:**
  - **Public health crises, including how to teach about them**
    - **How to reverse increases in mortality, decrease in life expectancy**
    - **Opioid epidemic**
    - **Health risks in wildfires**
    - **Dealing with the anti-vaccine movement**
    - **Structural racism affecting health outcomes; health equity**
    - **Climate change; heat emergencies**
  - **Training of medical students and physicians in prevention**
    - **Exposure to specialties of Preventive/Occupational Med**
    - **Best ways to present epidemiology and biostatistics in medical school**
    - **Emphasis on prevention of each disease taught**
    - **Appropriate courses for physicians/medical students in MPH progs.**
    - **Joint degree programs at medical schools; how physicians use MPH training**
    - **Nutrition and lifestyle education in med schools and CME**
    - **Federal funding for Preventive Medicine residencies**
  - **Integrate social/environmental determinants of health into clinical care**
  - **Follow-up and sharing of CMA resolutions on public health**

# Roles for residents in CAPM

- One resident will be appointed as ex-officio member of Board of Directors
  - Examples from LLU: 3 former residents became Presidents; 2 other former Board members including former residency director
    - Some started out as resident Board member, and moved up to full elected Board members/officers
    - **Annual opening for next resident Board member**
- Residents have testified online on CMA resolutions
  - Must be a resident member of CMA (free)
- Other residents have attended membership meetings
- Residents can volunteer for projects

# Potential projects of interest for Preventive Medicine residents

- Social/environmental determinants project: incorporate into patient questionnaires, evaluate
- Employment opportunities
  - Job listings
  - Encouraging potential employers to consider PM graduates
- Informing medical students at nearby medical schools about specialties of PM and OM and residency programs, MPH degrees
  - Interest groups could become student chapters
- Networking with potential mentors for research and employment
- Drafting CMA resolutions

# Joining CAPM

- Resident membership
  - Currently no charge
  - Apply on Web site:  
[www.capreventivemed.org/new-membership-application-form/](http://www.capreventivemed.org/new-membership-application-form/)

# Beyond AIDS Foundation

- Mission: Reversing the course of the AIDS pandemic through sound public health policy
- Currently based in Redlands, CA
- Beyond AIDS Foundation works to reform HIV/AIDS laws and policies
  - Played large role in achieving reportability of HIV and routine screening
  - Supported elimination of requirement for written consent for testing
  - Dedicated to education and research
  - Sponsors internship and fellowship program
- Website: [www.beyondaids.org](http://www.beyondaids.org)

# Preventive Med. residents in Beyond AIDS Foundation

- Eligible to become Fellows (unpaid but expenses covered)
  - Work on Beyond AIDS Foundation projects simultaneous with residency; recent examples:
    - Recommended revisions to National HIV/AIDS Strategy (project of **recent resident Leith States, now at Dept. of HHS**)
    - Survey of state HIV/AIDS directors on funding, surveillance issues (senior project of **former resident Richel Strydom, who is now Treasurer**)
      - Published in AIDS Education and Prevention, February 2019
    - Projects may be eligible for SPH MPH practicum credit and as residency Scholarly Activity (Senior Project)
- Student supporters including committee roles
- Fellowship and supporter applications on Web site [www.beyondaids.org/applications/BAInternship.pdf](http://www.beyondaids.org/applications/BAInternship.pdf).

# Questions?

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