

NCMS POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING 2022.4

August 3, 2022

Meeting Format: Virtual – Zoom

ATTENDEES:

Laura Gerald, MD, MPH <i>Co-Chair</i>	Lisa Shock, DrPH, MHS, PA-C <i>Co-Chair</i>	Sam Cohen, JD <i>Committee Consultant</i>
Peter Morris, MD <i>Member</i>	William Lawrence, MD <i>Member</i>	Kristen Spaduzzi <i>NCMS Staff</i>
Mitch Heflin, MD <i>Member</i>	Lynne Fiscus, MD <i>Member</i>	Ashley Rodriguez <i>NCMS Staff</i>
Jeffrey Katz, PA-C <i>Member</i>	Justin Hurie, MD <i>Member</i>	Alan Skipper <i>NCMS Staff</i>
Merritt Seshul, MD <i>Board Liaison</i>	Tres Pittman, MD <i>Member</i>	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June meeting minutes were sent out following the June meeting and again in the August meeting materials.
- Dr. Shock asked if there were any questions about the minutes, none were expressed. A motion to approve the June minutes was brought forth by Dr. Pittman and seconded by Jeffrey Katz, PA-C.

DRAFT POLICY DISCUSSION: *Public Health Draft Policy*

- The *Public Health* draft policy, inclusive of member and stakeholder feedback, was included in the August meeting materials and displayed on the screen during the meeting.
- Dr. Morris provided a brief overview of the subcommittee's response to the member and stakeholder feedback, which resulted in two minor wording changes to the draft policy. The subcommittee felt that the policy draft captured the essential elements needed to guide the NCMS in discussions related to- and impacting public health.
- Dr. Pittman made a motion to put the policy draft to a vote, which was seconded by Dr. Seshul.
- Dr. Gerald put the draft policy to a vote. One member abstained and the majority voted in favor of moving the draft policy forward as written to be recommended for adoption by the NCMS BOD.

NCMS BOD UPDATE

- Dr. Seshul provided the policy updates from the recent July Board of Directors meeting, which included a number of new policy initiatives and opportunities to collaborate with the Ethical & Judicial Affairs Committee.
- The BOD directed the Policy Committee to lead policy development in three areas, with review and collaboration from the Ethical & Judicial Affairs Committee. Listed in order of timely priority, those three topic areas are:
 - Women's Health/Reproductive Rights
 - Goal is to submit a draft policy to the NCMS BOD before the end of 2022
 - Guns/Gun Safety

- Goal is to start policy development on this in 2022
 - The Influence of Outside Money on Medicine (such as private equity/venture capital)
 - This policy will be addressed in 2023
- The BOD directed the Ethical & Judicial Affairs Committee to lead policy development on Abortion, with review and collaboration from the Policy Committee.
- The BOD left it up to the respective committee co-chairs to determine an appropriate structure and process for collaboration on these new policy areas.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

- Kristen created poll questions to assess current policy committee members interest and availability for serving on the committee in 2023.
- There will be at least one in-person meeting each year scheduled the same week of the NCMS LEAD Conference (in October)
- Dr. Seshul and Dr. Morris provided suggestions (consent agenda) to help maximize time devoted to policy discussion and minimize routine/administrative duties, such as approval of minutes.

NEW POLICY DISCUSSION

- Dr. Gerald introduced the discussion of abortion and women's health/reproductive rights by first identifying the related existing NCMS policies, as well as the ACOG's policy and AMA's testimony:
 - [Abortion Policy](#)
 - [Access to Care and Social Supports for All Populations](#)
 - [Education and Emergency Contraception](#)
 - [Preconception and Reproductive Health Education to Women and Men](#)
 - [Maternal and Infant Health](#)
 - [Health Equity](#)
 - [Criminalization of Medical Acts](#)
 - [NCMS Guiding Principles](#)
 - [ACOG Abortion Policy](#)
 - [AMA's Testimony to Congress July 2022](#)
- The committee had a healthy and lengthy discussion regarding abortion and women's health/reproductive rights. There were a number of suggestions, questions, and perspectives shared, below are the highlights:
 - Policy Development
 - What has the committee been charged with...?
 - The committee's role is to provide an informed, medically sound statement regarding what the risks are on both sides and ensuring that physicians/providers are able to mitigate and manage their exposure to those risks for the patients within the scope of their practice.
 - The policy development goal is to guide the NCMS BOD to oppose any position that may increase maternal and infant deaths, worsen teen birth rates, or any other HNC 2030 related indicators. We should adopt policies and support legislation that support and promote the HNC 2030 goals.
 - What is in the existing policy that the committee is not comfortable with, that is missing, that needs to be updated, etc.?

- Need to have women’s health and maternal/infant health experts included in these discussions, as well as family med (rural), emergency, peds, obgyn/perinatologist
- Protections
 - Physician/provider
 - Patients
 - Provider – Patient relationship
 - Health equity
- Legal
 - What confusion did the Dobbs decision create that needs to be addressed in the policy?
 - Other state laws that may impact the existing laws or new laws and policies in NC, related to NC clinicians and patients
 - NC laws and policies that may impact people coming from other states
 - What is the current North Carolina law?
 - Children born due to a botched abortion was referenced and there was a bill introduced to the NC Legislature in 2021: [HB 510](#)
- Other
 - Psychological aspects should be considered, i.e. counseling
 - Medical abortion
 - Contraception
 - IVF

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURN

Dr. Gerald thanked everyone for sharing their perspectives and encouraged committee members to send any additional thoughts and resources to staff.

The next steps for the discussion is contingent upon the determination of the Policy Committee and the Ethical & Judicial Affairs Committee co-chairs, which are meeting in the following week. From there a subcommittee will be developed and start working aggressively in drafting these policies for the two full committees to review, ideally in October.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12th @ 6pm at NCMS. It is an IN-PERSON meeting.

Dr. Gerald adjourned the meeting.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- A couple of recent resources that have come up:
 - [States with Toughest Abortion Laws have the Weakest Maternal Support, Data Shows](#)
 - [States with Abortion Bans as of August 2022](#)
 - [Turnaway Study](#)
 - [Study Factsheet](#)
 - [Evaluating Priorities – Abortion Restrictions by State](#)