



Commission on Health of the Public and Science 2020 Annual Report

COMMISSION ON HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC AND SCIENCE (CHPS)

Resident

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Scope

The Commission on Health of the Public and Science (CHPS) is a lively commission with a broad scope of work. CHPS advises the AAFP Board of Directors regarding resolutions passed by student and physician members of the AAFP. It creates, reviews and modifies clinical practice guidelines, position papers and policy statements related to public health, evidence-based medicine, and social determinants of health. Much of the work takes place among the subcommittees which include Health Equity, Public Health Issues and Clinical Recommendations and Policies.

The commission is made up of physicians who commit to a four-year term, two liaisons from the AAFP Board of Directors, a student and a resident who both serve a one-year term, and a constituent chapter representative. The commission meets twice a year, at Winter and Summer Cluster meetings for 2 days. In between clusters, members communicate virtually through conference calls and emails.

The 2020 scope of work as a commission was as follows:

1. Develop, endorse, and disseminate evidence-based clinical guidelines and policies.
2. Synthesize, evaluate, and disseminate clinical research and scientific discovery.
3. Advocate for societal, regulatory, and environmental initiatives that improve health for all.
4. Promote health equity and the elimination of disparities in care and health outcomes.
5. Support the provision of culturally proficient, person-centered care.

AAFP Strategic Plan Objectives specifically related to CHPS include:

1. Take a leadership role in addressing diversity and social determinants of health as they impact individuals, families and communities across the lifespan and to strive for health equity.
2. Accelerate the generation and implementation of new knowledge and research to improve population and community health.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, a virtual Summer Cluster meeting was held online.

Subcommittee on Health Equity

With members from five other commissions, the Subcommittee on Health Equity (SHE) reviews, modifies, and creates policies related to social determinants of health and vulnerable populations in order to promote health equity in the United States. This year, SHE revised a policy related to Health Equity, reaffirmed policies to oppose racism and to create a toolkit for identifying human trafficking and agreed with policies regarding implicit bias training as well as gender-neutral and person-first language. Additional policies including systemic racism and the incarceration of minors were discussed. SHE has continued the

collaboration with the EveryONE Project which is focused on workforce diversity, advocating for health equity, interdisciplinary collaboration, and education and practice-based resources. We had the opportunity to participate in racial caucusing at the Winter Cluster meeting and the Commission has developed an ongoing curriculum for members to continue engaging in racial equity work.

Subcommittee on Public Health Issues

The Subcommittee on Public Health Issues (SPHI) focuses on policy issues involving population and community health. This year, the SPHI worked on a host of topics including Incarceration and Health, Social Media, Immunizations for Individuals in Detainment, Nutrition, Environmental Health, and Confidentiality in Adolescent Health Care.

Subcommittee on Clinical Recommendations and Policies

The subcommittee on Clinical Recommendations and Policies (SCRP) focuses on keeping the AAFP up to date with evidence-based recommendations. SCRP endorsed the AAP ADHD updated guidelines and the AAO-HNS Meniere's Disease Guideline but chose not to endorse the ASAM Opioid Use Disorder Guideline due to concerns with methodology and implementation. SCRP reaffirmed revised policies and resolutions regarding immunization exemptions, antibiotics, PrEP, anal cancer screening, and confidentiality in adolescent health care.

Resident Reflection

I was honored to serve a second term as the Resident Member on the Commission on the Health of the Public and Science. This experience has been greater than any expectations I could have had. Working on the commission for a second term brings a special amount of insight into the work that was already being completed as well as ideas of how to further get involved. I knew from the year previous that the commission aligned with my values, both professional and personal and still, I learned a myriad of new ways that I could continue to give back to the AAFP. Cluster meetings also came with a buzzing anticipation of seeing the friends and the mentors that I have connected with on this journey, and both getting and giving advice for our next steps. I had the opportunity to begin work with the USBC on a Culture Plan for the Physician Engagement and Training Focused on Breastfeeding project. In the middle of the excitement, the Coronavirus Pandemic started and created a whole new world, quite literally. I was amazed at the swift movements of my fellow student and resident leaders as we met in hopes of organizing ideas for policy in supporting current medical students and residents in our new learning environments. I also had the opportunity to work with student and resident leaders and our NCCL leaders alongside the leadership of The EveryONE Project to begin discussions on supporting minority medical students and residents in the intensity that one may feel in certain spaces with new discussions about race in America.

As I said last year, this experience has been one of the most powerful and influential that I have had as a resident. It can be difficult to find your passion with so much to learn, yet I was blessed with the opportunity to work on tangible projects and policies that fed my soul and at times, gave me encouragement, reminding me that the equity work that I am so involved in on a local and institutional level is valued, important, and needed. Transitioning into practice, I feel like I have not just been able to learn more about the AAFP, but I have gained experiences that have given me skills that I can use for the rest of my career as well as greater clarity about what I want my career to look like, mentors, friends, and a wonderful network of family physicians! I couldn't recommend this position enough to those interested. The experience has truly been the learning opportunity of a lifetime.

Student Reflection

As the student member on the Commission on the Health of the Public and Science this year, I have been inspired and encouraged by the specialty of family medicine in its response to the public health emergencies our country faces. During the Winter Cluster meeting in early February, we discussed the

COVID pandemic and how it might disrupt our lives, but I don't think any attendee expected the world to look how it does now. Although I felt unqualified to work among physicians with impressive titles and CV's, I was reminded how much my opinions and experiences mattered as a student leader. I was not only responsible for providing a student voice, but for contributing my knowledge of public health and ability to work with teams to tackle complex problems.

CHPS is responsible for an incredible breadth of issues throughout policies, position papers, and clinical guidelines and recommendations. I learned how the Commission critically reviews and determines whether to reaffirm, endorse, or not endorse clinical practice guidelines drafted by other specialty organizations or the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). I participated in the process of developing position papers of our own and preparing policies for action by the Board of Directors based on resolutions submitted by AAFP members.

My experience with CHPS has been extremely rewarding but has left me wishing for more time. We have so much work to do! I would highly recommend this position to any students with interest and experience in public health, community engagement, and health equity. This commission requires open-mindedness, curiosity, attention to detail, and enthusiasm for a diversity of topics. CHPS is a strong player in family medicine's fight for justice, and I am so thankful to have been one small part this year.

Note: This report was prepared by the resident or student representative(s) listed and includes their account(s) of the business conducted during their term. This is not an official record of business proceedings from the AAFP or any other entity. To find out more about the business of the AAFP, its congresses, commissions, and current policies visit aafp.org.