

Draft Minutes
MSSNY'S Addiction and Psychiatric Medicine Committee
Friday, October 19, 2018
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Present

Janine Fogarty, MD, Asst. Commissioner
Edmond Amyoi, MD, Chair
Stephen Hermele, MD, Vice-Chair
Lynn Hohmann, MD
Nina Huberman, MD
Brian Johnson, MD
David Kerling, Jr., Student
Glenn Martin, MD
Marvin Rabinowitz, MD
Jeffrey Seltzer, MD
Jared Walsh, MD
Barbara Ellman, MD
Frank Dowling, MD
Darwin Varon, MD

Absent

Joshua Cohen, MD, Commissioner
Pratik Bahekar, MD
Ellen Embick, Student
Tzvi Furer, MD
Paul Haffey, DO
Celeste Johns, MD
Katherine McCarthy, MD
Norman Wetterau, MD

Staff

Moe Auster, Sr. Vice President & Chief
Legislative
Counsel, Division of Governmental Affairs
Pat Clancy, Sr. Vice President, Public
Health and Education,
Managing Director, Division of
Governmental Affairs

- 1 1) **Welcome**
2 2) **Adoption of April 20, 2018 minutes – approved as amended**
3 3) **Update on Medical Marijuana regulations**
4 a) **MSSNY letter submitted**
5 The proposed regulations expand the use of marijuana and to also include it in the use of opioid
6 use disorder. In the meantime the legislature passed a measure that would allow the use of
7 medical marijuana for opioid use disorder. A letter was sent to Commissioner Zucker indicating
8 concerns with the promotion of marijuana to treat opioid use disorder. Dr. Seltzer was at a
9 meeting with the Director of the Department of Health. The letter details and documents our
10 concerns. We requested additional monies for research on the host of conditions and they took
11 note of that. The governor's office has indicated that they need to do that research. Questions ó
12 does OASAS have a medical director? Have they figured out how they're going to roll this out?
13 Marijuana for all pain, not just chronic pain ó there is little or no data indicating that it is effective
14 for chronic pain. The CDC guidelines do not address acute pain, they do address chronic pain, but
15 not acute. More research is needed on how to use opioids for chronic pain. There is a sparsity of
16 info regarding opioids for pain management. Pat Clancy will draft the initial letter, send it out to
17 the full committee for review and then send it out to OASAS about how it intends to implement
18 marijuana in its programs.
19 4) **Update on Efforts to Legalize Marijuana in NY State –**
20 Over the summer the health department put together a multiagency task force to look into
21 regulating the use of marijuana in a non-medicinal manner. There were at least 20 meetings
22 statewide to present the report of the task force to the public. After this, several representatives
23 from MSSNY were invited to meet with the Governor's office to voice our concerns. MSSNY

24 argues for treatment as opposed to decriminalization. The concern is people obtaining it from
25 unregulated sources. The state is looking at how they can control where people get it from. Many
26 states surrounding us have already, or are on the brink of legalizing marijuana. MSSNY shared
27 data on how things could be regulated, recommendations from ASAM how to regulate its
28 distribution and use a) not distributing to people under 25 b) it can only be sold in state owned
29 stores c) education on the impact on fetal development. We continued to raise our objections to
30 legalization in its entirety. The social justice aspects seem to be also driving this issue. At the
31 forums the consensus was leaning towards legalization. Dr. Brian Johnson offered a resolution
32 from the Onondaga Medical Society which calls for state operated entities to dispense marijuana
33 rather than independents. The resolution in the nutshell: If and when cannabis is legalized, it
34 should be legalized as a state monopoly not handed to private enterprise to sell where it will be
35 out of our control. Amend to - Recommendation that it not focus on private enterprise, but that
36 we support the state for control. An informal poll was taken and the majority of the committee
37 supports in principle Dr. Johnson's resolution. The language will have to be worked on. This is a
38 generic statement of support by the committee.

39 **5) Integrating Medical Records** ó Resolutions 63 ó Integrating medical records ó Dr. Korn was
40 expected, but did not participate. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

41 **6) 2019 Meetings**

42 January 18, 2019 8:30am to 10am

43 May 3, 2019

44 October 4, 2019

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46 Adjourned

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