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) Welcome

2) Adoption of April 20, 2018 minutes – approved as amended

3) Update on Medical Marijuana regulations
   a) MSSNY letter submitted
      The proposed regulations expand the use of marijuana and to also include it in the use of opioid use disorder. In the meantime the legislature passed a measure that would allow the use of medical marijuana for opioid use disorder. A letter was sent to Commissioner Zucker indicating concerns with the promotion of marijuana to treat opioid use disorder. Dr. Seltzer was at a meeting with the Director of the Department of Health. The letter details and documents our concerns. We requested additional monies for research on the host of conditions and they took note of that. The governor’s office has indicated that they need to do that research. Questions do OASAS have a medical director? Have they figured out how they are going to roll this out? Marijuana for all pain, not just chronic pain there is little or no data indicating that it is effective for chronic pain. The CDC guidelines do not address acute pain, they do address chronic pain, but not acute. More research is needed on how to use opioids for chronic pain. There is a sparsity of info regarding opioids for pain management. Pat Clancy will draft the initial letter, send it out to the full committee for review and then send it out to OASAS about how it intends to implement marijuana in its programs.

4) Update on Efforts to Legalize Marijuana in NY State –
   Over the summer the health department put together a multiagency task force to look into regulating the use of marijuana in a non-medicinal manner. There were at least 20 meetings statewide to present the report of the task force to the public. After this, several representatives from MSSNY were invited to meet with the Governor’s office to voice our concerns. MSSNY
argues for treatment as opposed to decriminalization. The concern is people obtaining it from unregulated sources. The state is looking at how they can control where people get it from. Many states surrounding us have already, or are on the brink of legalizing marijuana. MSSNY shared data on how things could be regulated, recommendations from ASAM how to regulate its distribution and use a) not distributing to people under 25 b) it can only be sold in state owned stores c) education on the impact on fetal development. We continued to raise our objections to legalization in its entirety. The social justice aspects seem to be also driving this issue. At the forums the consensus was leaning towards legalization. Dr. Brian Johnson offered a resolution from the Onondaga Medical Society which calls for state operated entities to dispense marijuana rather than independents. The resolution in the nutshell: If and when cannabis is legalized, it should be legalized as a state monopoly not handed to private enterprise to sell where it will be out of our control. Amend to - Recommendation that it not focus on private enterprise, but that we support the state for control. An informal poll was taken and the majority of the committee supports in principle Dr. Johnson’s resolution. The language will have to be worked on. This is a generic statement of support by the committee.

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

6) 2019 Meetings
   - January 18, 2019 8:30am to 10am
   - May 3, 2019
   - October 4, 2019

Adjourned