1) Welcome


3) Acceptance of minutes of May 11, 2018 – accepted as written

4) Medical Marijuana and Legalization of Marijuana in the State of New York

Mr. Auster gave a brief review of a letter sent by MSSNY to Commissioner Zucker, New York State Department of Health, regarding the emergency regulations to expand the use of medical marijuana for the treatment of certain medical conditions including “pain” and opioid use disorder.

There is a state task force that has been formed with representatives from several state agencies to look at the issue of legalization of marijuana.

Concerns vs benefits – The state task force came out with a report in early August that recognized a lot of concerns and issues raised about legalizing marijuana. The report indicated that the “pros” outweighed the risks. Public forums were held throughout the state. MSSNY shared our concerns at these forums, as well as reaching out to the Governor’s office. In October members from MSSNY met with the Governor’s office expressing concerns. The feeling is there will be a proposal in next year’s
budget that would legalize the use of marijuana. The governor’s office has asked MSSNY for suggestions as to how they can best regulate the use of marijuana.

Dr. Madejski has asked the committees to have some discussions on these issues and any recommendations that the committee might want to put forth for consideration.

Dr. Berger feels there are four distinct areas on cannabis that have bearing on health care/medical practice that would be appropriate for MSNNY to consider: Expanding and promoting medical research. It’s easier to get marijuana for research. Where the medical evidence supports medicinal use of cannabis. There are only a few medical conditions where there is fair evidence on the efficacy of cannabis. MS, nausea in chemo patients, beyond that the evidence gets weaker. The State should not be involved in setting parameters for medical care. There is abuse of certifiers in NYS, sales of certificates, profiteering. Public Health consequences of marijuana use. Evaluate marijuana use against tobacco use and alcohol use. It should be placed in the area of other substances that we are concerned about.

Comments and discussions followed. How do we establish policies regarding distribution. How do we police the profession. Educating patients & physicians. Medical marijuana should not be the first line of defense against nausea. Palliative Care Physicians chose not to be certifiers. Patients approaching physicians requesting marijuana as first line of treatment. Questions have been raised about CBD oil. The preparations that are for sale have different proportions between THC verses CBD. There are differentiations in indications and side effects. Basically all within the same basket. The CBD is not considered impairing. It will come on the market as a prescription drug.

**Review of MSSNY’s policies regarding marijuana**

This is the fourth committee that has talked about this and been asked to comment. Comments will be sent out to those committees for their review. There will most likely be another sit down with the governor’s staff on some of the points that our committees have raised on this matter.

5) **Update on MSSNY End of Life Task Force** – Jeffrey Berger, MD

The task force been meeting since this summer. The task force was commissioned in the wake of the Physician Assisted Suicide Survey that this committee had a large role in crafting. The task force has identified three domains for attention:

- Domain I – Education and Training – regarding end of life care
- Domain II – Health Services – regarding end of life care
- Domain III – Health Policy Considerations

The full task force has met several times. The subcommittees are breaking off and running their sessions. It is a large work in progress.

**Upcoming agenda items:**

- Health care for undocumented individuals residing in New York. Seeking someone to speak to committee on this topic.
- The responsibility in brain death determinations.
- Looking at the “reasonable accommodation” clause in New York State Laws. What exactly does that mean?
- Growing movement to not immunize children.

**Next Meeting: February 8, 2019 8:30am – 11am**