

Draft Minutes
Committee on Addiction & Psychiatric Medicine
Friday, October 4, 2019
8:30 AM Via Webex

Present

Janine Fogarty, MD, Asst. Commissioner
Stephen Hermele, MD, Chair
Marvin Rabinowitz, MD, Vice-Chair
Laurence Epstein, MD
Russell, Kamer, MD
Lynda Hohman, MD
Glenn Martin, MD
Jeffrey Selzer, MD
Norman Wetterau, MD
Barbara Ellman, Alliance

Hemant Kalia, MD
Jared Walsh, MD
Anar Yukhayev, MD
David Kerling, Student

Excused

Joshua Cohen, MD, Commissioner
Davin Varon, MD
Scott Briedbart, MD
Frank Dowling, MD

Staff

Patricia Clancy, Sr. Vice-President/Managing
Director
Public Health and Education
Maureen Ramirez, Administrative Asst.

Absent

Roger Green, MD
Paul Haffrey, MD
Nina Huberman, MD
Brian Johnson, MD

1 **1) Welcome**

2

3 **2) Approval of May, 3 2019 minutes – approved**

4

5 **3) Recreational Marijuana – A)** Pat Clancy reported that MSSNY along with several other organizations
6 were successful in opposing the legalization of marijuana during the last legislative session. There was a
7 small component that was passed that decriminalized it. Going forward, given the vaping problem, it has
8 been determined that a majority lung disease is due to vaping marijuana and especially marijuana that
9 has been laced with additives. It is thought that the problems that have recently risen regarding vaping
10 will make it difficult for the legalization of recreational marijuana bill during the upcoming legislative
11 session.

12

13 B) At the last MSSNY Council meeting, MSSNY called for a complete ban on all vaping of marijuana,
14 including the medical marijuana. Commissioner of Health Howard Zucker, MD has put out an advisory to
15 all patients that use medical marijuana and tobacco products not to vape and to consult with their
16 health advisor who has certified them for vaping. The commissioner indicated that of the cases of lung
17 disease that have been reported, more than half have come from vaping with the medical marijuana. He
18 has urged caution with regard to vaping any substance including medical marijuana. MSSNY has been
19 working with other states, led by Dr. Madejski, and with the AMA level to prevent the legalization of
20 marijuana in New York State and aiding other states. The feeling was that it was far more motivated by
21 the youth that were using the product than the financial considerations. States that have legalized
22 marijuana have reported an increase in younger people smoking.

23
24 C) MSSNY supported the states' efforts to ban flavored e-cigarettes. MSSNY indicated its' support of the
25 regulation ban on flavored e-cigarettes, but the Court of Appeals placed a temporary restraining order
26 to keep the regulation from taking effect. MSSNY has joined other public health organizations in filing
27 an Amicus Brief in support of NYS regulations. Vaping organizations are arguing that 80% of their sales
28 stems from flavored e-cigarettes. They argue that more stringent regulations come into effect in
29 November for the retailers that sell this product and that the ban was jumping the gun regarding certain
30 safeguards that have already been put into place. The question was raised that once you ban these
31 products you have a large group of young people that are addicted to nicotine. The patch is not advised
32 for this age group, so the question arises "what do you do with all these young people who are addicted
33 to nicotine once the flavored cigarettes have been banned? Is there any data out there regarding how to
34 deal with adolescents who are addicted to nicotine? Dr. Selzer offered to see if there was information
35 available and forward it to the committee for review. Pat Clancy also indicated that the Preventive
36 Medicine and Family Health Committee would be discussing this topic at the October committee
37 meeting. A member indicated that this might be a good opportunity for MSSNY to get out there and
38 educate with the proper information and make it available to those who need it.

39
40 **4) Sunset Review – PHE 75.987** - Every year each MSSNY committee is called to address ten year old
41 policies that exist within the Medical Society. The Addiction & Psychiatric Medicine committee has a
42 policy that began in 2004 on medical marijuana. The committee can either sunset the policy, reaffirm
43 the policy or reaffirm the policy with modifications. All of the policies go into a report to the House of
44 Delegates. Ms. Clancy's recommendation the committee sunset this policy because there have been
45 new policies enacted by the House of Delegates on medical marijuana. This policy is not consistent with
46 newer policies. The committee was provided with the two policies that addressed the issue of medical
47 marijuana. The committee motioned to sunset PHE 75.987. All in favor.

48
49 **5) New OASIS Regulations** - Regarding ASAM's policy on "what is recovery"? ASAM and OASIS policies
50 are very similar. The concern seems to be that the policy indicates that the patient determines what
51 recovery is. The thought is that the medical professional not the patient is the one to determine
52 whether the patient has recovered. Discussion followed regarding insurance payments. It is suggested
53 for the next committee meeting that the medical director of OASIS be invited to attend.

54
55 **For future discussion:** 1) Can settlement money from illegal opioid dispensing be channeled
56 towards opioid treatment?
57 2) Can Medicaid coverage be reinstatement for incarcerated individuals
58 so that there is no break in treatment once they are released?

59
60 **2020 meeting dates:** January 24, 2020
61 May 1, 2020
62 October 16, 2020
63