Draft Minutes  
Committee on Addiction & Psychiatric Medicine  
Friday, January 25, 2020  
8:30 AM Via Webex

Present  
Janine Fogarty, MD. Asst. Commissioner  
Stephen Hermele, MD, Chair  
Scott Briedbart, MD  
Gregory Bunt, MD  
Frank Dowling, MD  
Hemant Kalia, MD  
Russell, Kamer, MD  
Thomas Madejski, MD Past-President  
Jeffrey Selzer, MD  
Norman Wetterau, MD  
Barbara Ellman, Alliance  

Excused  
Jared Walsh, MD  
Anar Yukhayev, MD  
David Kerling, Student

Absent  
Roger Green, MD  
Paul Haffrey, MD  
Brian Johnson, MD  
Marvin Rabinowitz, MD, Vice-Chair  
Davin Varon, MD

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

1) Welcome

2) Approval of October 4, 2019 minutes – approved

3) Recreational Marijuana  
   a) State of the State Message - included in the committee packet is a copy of the Governor’s budget proposal regarding creating a comprehensive plan for adult use of cannabis. The governor is creating an “Office of Cannabis Management” and takes the medical marijuana program out of the Department of Health and into the Office of Cannabis Management. He is also creating a SUNY Global Cannabis Center for science research and education. MSSNY continues to oppose legislation of adult use marijuana. MSSNY has already put out a GAC letter. MSSNY has also been working with SAM – The Smart Alternatives to Marijuana; the New York State Association of Health Officials; the PTA and the Sheriffs Department in opposing this. MSSNY is pushing for this policy piece to be removed from the budget, so it can be discussed outside the budget. Dr. Madejski informed the committee that there had been some activity on this issue at the AMA. The AMA is going to come out with an updated review on legalized cannabis. It should be out in June. MSSNY continues to work with the AMA to oppose this. Last year, MSSNY was able to create an informal coalition with neighboring states that would be affected by legalization. It helped that New Jersey did not go forward with the legislation last year, but it now looks like New Jersey is going to have a referendum. MSSNY will need to continue to educate the public why this is bad policy and why it hasn’t been demonstrated to work in places that it has been done. MSSNY
will need to continue to do messaging and build up that coalition even more. The American Society of Addiction Medicine is also in the process of revising it’s policy regarding Cannabis. The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry is disseminating it’s policy through the American Journal on Addictions. Pat Clancy has stressed the importance of physicians attending MSSNY Leg Day in March to stress their views to the legislators. There were comments regarding vaping and more and more individuals using their marijuana that way. This is already in the regs, but there is a caveat that a patient must be under the jurisdiction of OASAS and being treated through an OASAS facility. Senator Harckham, who is the chair of the Addiction and Substance Abuse Committee has come out indicating support of legislation with the understanding that a portion of the money could go towards addiction treatment, it will create revenue for addiction services, etc. There was discussion of a research aspect of the governor’s proposal. Legitimate researchers need to get access to marijuana first to do controlled studies. MSSNY has addressed the issue of marijuana for use in treatment of opiate use disorder, in a letter and through a meeting with DOH. However, it is important that MSSNY concentrate on stopping the legalizing of recreational marijuana. Dr. Madejski indicated that reversing the use of marijuana for treatment of opioid disorder issue is not going to be easy. Concentrating on barrering the passage of legalizing recreational marijuana is MSSNY’s biggest issue. Dr. Wetterau reminded that in spite of the work that is being done regarding opioid addiction, cocaine addiction is up, heroin and stimulant addiction is up, alcohol addiction is up. NYSAM is having its annual meeting on February 7th in NYC and legislators will be invited.

4) Pain Management Course
MSSNY is in the process of updating its pain management course. There is a course on-line that is available. Under the statute a prescriber must take the course every three years, therefore if you took this course in January 2017, you will need to take it again. MSSNY is working with OASAS. There is a webinar series that will be held in March 10,17 and 24th. The program will also be offered at the MSSNY House of Delegates on Friday, April 24, 2020 from 1-4pm.

Other Business
Also contained in the governor’s budget, is the requirement to strengthen OPMC and streamline disciplinary approaches. The concern is could it involve a significant rollback in the confidentiality of physicians. MSSNY is actively opposing this proposal and it will be a large component for Leg Day. Any physician member is encouraged to be in Albany on Wednesday March 4th for Physician Advocacy Day.

Future Meeting Topics
Dr. Marc Manseau, Medical Director of OASAS will attend the May 1, 2020 meeting.

Next meeting: May 1, 2020

Adjourned