

Draft Minutes
MSSNY
Committee on Preventive Health and Family Medicine
October 29, 2020

Present

Joshua Cohen, MD Commission
Janine Fogarty, MD Asst. Commission
Nina Huberman, MD, MPH Co-Chair
Sarah Nosal, MD Co-Chair
Frank Dowling, MD
Erick Eiting, MD MPH
Roy Korn, MD
Geoffrey Moore, MD
Matthew Weissman, MD
Jocelyn Young, DO
Moshe Bressler, Student

Excused

Kira Geraci-Ciardullo, MD, MPH
Emil Jean Senay, MD

Absent

Sheila Bushkin, MD, MPH Eugene Kalmuk,
MD
Cheryl Stier, Alliance

Invited Guest

Bonnie Litvack, MD President

Staff

Pat Clancy Sr. Vice-President Manager
Public Health Education
And Governmental Affairs
Maureen Ramirez, Administrative Asst.

- 1 **1) Welcome**
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3 **2) Adoption of May 14, 2020 – accepted**
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5 **3) Finalization of the Climate Change Paper** – The paper has been edited. Dr. Senay
6 and Moshe Bressler sent the final copy to Dr. Moore. Dr. Moore sent his edits to Pat
7 Clancy and they made the changes to the paper. One change that was mentioned was
8 at the end of the Section 3 where it states “New York’s most vulnerable are suffering
9 disproportionately including the elderly, children, farmers and low income communities”
10 the following should be added “ and racial and ethnic minority groups.” The committee
11 agreed and those changes will be made. Pat Clancy indicated that the paper will be
12 presented at the MSSNY Council meeting on January 14, 2021. Either Dr. Senay or
13 Moshe Bressler – or both, should attend to present the paper and answer any questions
14 Council might have.
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16 **4) COVID 19 Update** – Pat Clancy brought the committee up to date. There have been
17 discussions about requiring mandatory flu vaccines for children from the age of 6
18 months to college. This actually stemmed from an early discussion of the Heart Lung
19 Cancer committee and then morphed into a discussion by the Emergency
20 Preparedness committee and the Infectious Diseases committee that it be mandatory
21 that school age children be vaccinated for the flu in New York State. It was also
22 discussed at many press conferences with the department of health. Our resolution
23 which was approved by MSSNY Council in September. The New York State Academy
24 of Pediatrics and the New York State Association of County Health officials support this

25 resolution. MSSNY has met with these two organizations to determine our next course
26 of action. Do we push for an Executive Order or do we seek legislation in the new
27 legislative session? MSSNY believes that it is more important that an Executive order
28 be issued. New York State has come up with a new Vaccine Action Plan. Dr. Litvak is
29 participating. Pat Clancy has been invited to participate in work groups addressing the
30 distribution process and public education once there is a vaccine to distribute. The plan
31 basically states that in order for any physician or provider to provide the vaccine to their
32 patients they will need to be enrolled in the New York State Immunization Registry. The
33 group is actively seeking locations statewide that are properly equipped to store the
34 vaccine at the proper temperature. MSSNY raised points with the state regarding the
35 NYSIIS system. It's important to get people up and running with that because not
36 everyone uses it. Their staff will have to be trained and people have to be able to work
37 with it. There was mention that the supply of negative 80 degree freezers was limited in
38 New York State. Right now, there is a freezer located in every region of the state. The
39 state will be responsible for transporting the vaccine from the freezer site to the vaccine
40 sites. They're going to need to track what patient got what vaccine. Especially if it
41 requires more than one dose. This is why it is important to use the NYSIIS system.
42 Especially he the patient goes to different location for each dose. Someone asked
43 about CAR. CAR is part of it also. There was concern that it will be difficult to access
44 information from both sites. The understanding is that they are interchangeable. They
45 will bring this question back to the Task Force. There is a lot of push back from Moms,
46 particularly Moms that are in the nursing field and from communities of the
47 underserved. There needs to be an increase in marketing and education to get the word
48 out to these communities and those in the medical field regarding the importance of the
49 vaccines. The Department of Health needs to market and communication the
50 importance of vaccination. It needs to be communicated that getting the flu vaccine is a
51 way of protecting children who will not be first in line for the COVID vaccine. Dr.
52 Dowling suggested perhaps the young physicians might be interested in doing quick
53 public service announcements similar to the "wear a mask" campaign to "get your flu
54 shot" and why it's a good idea. The health department will need to get literature out that
55 coordinates with the message being sent. Things that physicians can post in their
56 offices that people will recognize from the publicity campaign. The idea that social
57 media works for those that use it, but also works for others as well. If a physician in their
58 practice can utilize social media to get the word out on being vaccinated can be a
59 relatively simple thing to do. Let's not negate the mailing list that a physician has but
60 does not consider it social media. That list can be used to reach out to patients about
61 the benefits of receiving the flu vaccine. Dr. Young mentioned bringing the young
62 physician section in on this. She mentioned that if there was a one minute video it the
63 rolling in the exam room after the patient has been placed in the room and the physician
64 arrives, it could be incredibly beneficial to getting the word out. MSSNY already has
65 podcasts available. Many MSSNY physicians have participated in the creation of those
66 podcasts. Pat Clancy said she would send the committee members a link to the
67 podcasts, so they can play them for their patients by computer or other means.
68 Are people having issues with people not wearing their masks properly? Even staff in the
69 office have to be corrected because they're wearing it wrong.

70
71 **5) MSSNY Council Referral of 2020 HOD Resolutions** -MSSNY Council referred the
72 following resolutions to the Preventive Health and Family Medicine Committee for
73 discussion and resolution:

74 **Resolution 107** – Pharmacy refill requests

75 **Resolution 114** – Automated Pharmacy refills without patient authorizations

76 **Resolution 203** – Climate Crisis and Action

77 Normally when this occurs the committee will invite the sponsor of the resolution to the
78 January meeting to make explain the reason for the resolution.

79 The committee then makes a decision to adopt the resolution, offer a substitute for the
80 resolution or not adopt the resolution. Those efforts would then go before the MSSNY
81 Council meeting in March. Pat Clancy will send out copies of the resolutions so the
82 committee members can review them before the January 28, 2021 meeting.

83
84 **New Topic** – Dr. Litvack brought up that MSSNY is going to be working with the New
85 York Radiological Society and others to join together to push for legislation that would
86 promote screening for colon cancer. She is hoping to receive support from this
87 committee. The hope to achieve funding for screening because colorectal cancer is on
88 the rise and in younger people. This is timely and Dr. Litvack was hoping to get support
89 from this committee. There was a concern that hat is being supported is evidence
90 based, Dr, Litvack advised that MSSNY has a policy of supporting evidence based
91 guidelines and the recommendations that are being offered for coverage are guidelines
92 and recommendations that have been accepted by MSSNY’s specialty societies and
93 national organizations that have vetted guidelines based on science. MSSNY has
94 extensive policies regarding insurance coverage and screenings. Science is not
95 absolute. Many people determine the evidence by what is presented to them. This is
96 about insurance coverage. There are several bills that have languished in the
97 legislature and MSSNY feels that some of this should be pushed forward for insurance
98 coverage for colonoscopy should the patient and physician determine that’s the path
99 that should be taken.

100
101 Another question – Moshe Bressler has been working with the Orthodox Jewish
102 community especially with COVID concerns. It seems that if something moves quickly
103 on the state level, the physicians of this community feel left out of the loop. Is there
104 some agency in the Department of Health that the physicians could express their
105 concerns to? Pat Clancy stated that there are weekly meetings with the Department of
106 Health on COVID and she would be happy to forward any concerns from the physicians
107 to the state. Pat asked Moshe Bressler to tell the physicians with concerns to reach out
108 to her.

- 109
110 **6) 2021 Meeting Dates** – Meetings will continue on Thursdays, but the time of the
111 meeting will change to 7:30 to 9:30AM. The 2021 meeting dates are January 28th, May
112 13th and September 30th.

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114 **7) Adjourned**