

## Governance Affairs Committee

Report to Council

June 10, 2021

Items from GAC Meeting of June 8, 2021.

- 1. American Association of Physician Assistance (AAPA) name change:** The implications of the action by the AAPA to change the organization's name to American Association of Physician Associates was discussed. Committee members contributed history and context, indicated that Physician Associate was in fact a former name for the discipline. Several national physician organizations, including APA and AMA, have issued statements opposing any subsequent changes to state regulations for physician assistants, stating that the new term would be confusing and at least imply a change in scope of practice. Mr. Hager noted that attempts to change to PA scope had been especially significant in California in the past, and that PPAC would be working closely with other groups to coordinate any response.
- 2. SB 379 resolution sent to SCPS council by DCC:** Dr. Ijeaku discussed the action of the Diversity and Culture Committee to recommend that Council adopt a draft resolution in support of SB 379, which would prevent the University of California from entering into new contracts with health systems that limit otherwise standard care based upon non-medical factors. Mr. Hagar described the status of the bill, which is held in committee and unlikely to again become active until late in the year. The committee discussed the reasons for the stall, and actions that other organizations, including SCPS, might take to influence the outcome.
- 3. AB 988 support position by APA:** The committee discussed the status of AB 988, which would create a universal number to access mental health emergency services. Mr. Hagar described the unusual status of the bill, in which its language has been removed pending addition of new language by the bill's sponsor, the Steinberg Institute. SCPS had supported the bill with amendments, including several to increase coordination and planning with county agencies that would be expected to provide the emergency services, and further advised PPAC to take the same position. APA supported the bill. The resolution of the current uncertain status of the bill will determine next steps.
- 4. State plans for budget language to remove IST and LPS patients from state hospitals to county operated jails and residential placements:** The status and implications of the state's intention to greatly limit contracts with counties to house county patients who are incompetent to stand trial or are on LPS conservatorship was discussed, focusing on the severe negative consequences to county patients and programs due to the shortage of alternative resources and lack of preliminary coordinated planning. The effect on LA County was highlighted. Based upon this, a motion by Dr. Woods was passed to recommend that

council adopt a resolution in opposition to the proposed budget change for LPS patients, and advise PPAC to join many other statewide organizations in such opposition.

**Recommendation to Council:** Adopt the resolution to oppose state budget plans to end county contracts for hospitalization of county LPS patients.

5. **Finance committee proposals for advocacy budget for 2022:** Dr. Goldenberg discussed current status of the SCPS Finance Committee to classify budget descriptions for advocacy expenses for the 2022 budget, taking into account the various types of organizational support for advocacy and the tax implications for the organization and individual members.
6. **Ad hoc committee for criteria for candidate endorsement:** The committee discussed the current work of the ad hoc committee for candidate endorsement, chaired by Dr. Damerla, to develop criteria for SCPS to use in future determinations of candidate endorsement. A first draft was shared. Dr. Solding made a motion to support Dr. Scion Roy, should he run for the California Assembly, and seconded by Dr. Thurston. The discussion included both consideration of the the help this would provide to Dr. Roy's campaign, and the implications of endorsement before criteria were approved by the SCPS Council. The motion was defeated. Dr. Fouras announced two upcoming "meet and greets" with Dr. Roy, sponsored by PPAC and open to SCPS members.
7. **CSAP meeting to discuss CMA representation with SCPS:** The committee chairs indicated that a meeting had been called by CSAP to discuss the status of the current MOU with SCPS, engendered by CSAP and PPAC efforts to get representation in the CMA Council on Legislation. The meeting was to occur on June 9. Dr. Thurston indicated that PPAC's interest was to secure representation for psychiatry at CMA and noted that PPAC and CSAP were also meeting together, separately from SCPS, on June 9. The implications for representation of CMA SCPS members through a statewide specialty organization was discussed, anticipating more information shortly.
8. **PPAC Leg report:** Mr. Hager presented additional information on the status of legislative bills, including those sponsored by PPAC, and made available the current PPAC bill list.