

Report to Council

Government Affairs Committee

May 12, 2022

GAC meeting of April 12, 2022

1. **CSAP GAC Meeting of April 21, 2022:** (See Dropbox: CSAP G.A. Com Agenda April 21, 2022, and CSAP Newsletter April 22, 2022): SCPS GAC (SGAC) reps to CSAP GAC (CGAC) (Reba Bindra, Rod Shaner, and Emily Wood) attended CGAC on April 21, 2022, and gave report to SGAC. Key parts of the CGAC agenda were updates on the CARE Court Initiative (SB 1338) and the LPS Bills Matrix (Eggman bills). The status of these bills and associated amendments remain fluid. Of note, SB 1416 Mental health services: gravely disabled persons (Eggman), which adds a new criterion for grave disability under LPS regulations, passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The new criterion is “unable to provide for the basic personal needs of medical care.” Given the fluidity of the situation, no other bill positions were recommended by CGAC to the CSAP Board.
2. **CARE Courts and SB 1338:** The SCPS Diversity and Culture Committee appointed a subcommittee to craft a motion to be made jointly by the DCC and GAC at Council, as SB 1338 has potential impact on social justice and equity issues, as well as LPS regulations. GAC concurred with the motion.

Motion 1: Dropbox: Motion concerning SB 1338

3. **Response from Officers of the Assembly in response to CSAP request action or update regarding CSAP designation:** Based on the critical necessity for unified psychiatric advocacy in California during the current legislative session, as expressed in the Assembly communications to each California District Branch in letters to them in December 2021, CSAP sent a request to the assembly requesting that it revisit the question of recognizing CSAP as the APA affiliated state organization. SCPS CSAP members Drs. Shaner and Soldinger reported that the response from the Officers of the Assembly was that the Assembly does not plan to “recognize” any organization as the state association for CA, and that all DBs must work together. CSAP continues to make efforts to include all California DBs a state organization for this purpose.
4. **Possible additional appointments to GAC:** Pursuant to the action the SCPS Council last month to add ex officio membership on GAC by members-in-training and ECPs already serving on committees having ex officio membership on GAC, the Access to Care and Public Affairs committees have submitted two members for consideration.

Motion II: Proposal to add members-in-training and ECPs to SCPS GAC: (See Attachment 1)

5. **MICRA and AB 35/FIPA:** The GAC Committee discussed the implications of the fast tracked Assembly Bill AB 35 (MICRA Modernization), which if passed would result in the withdrawal of the Fairness to Injured Patients Act from the November Ballot and create stepwise increases in liability settlement limits. It discussed the impacts of SCPS taking a position on the bill in regards to SCPS membership, relationships with other organizations, and abilities to influence other MICRA changes. Finally, it discussed key changes that SCPS would advocate to mitigate adverse effects of MICRA changes upon professional practice and patient care.

Motion III: Motion regarding AB 35 and subsequent SCPS actions

Attachment 1: Motion to approve new members on SCPS GAC:**Whereas,**

The Access to Care Committee has proposed adding ACC member Giovanna Sobrinho, MD, an ECP to the SCPS GAC; and

Whereas,

Dr. Sobrinho has stated that “Right now I practice outpatient psychiatry at the downtown VA, so I mainly work with a veteran population. I also supervise residents in psychotherapy as it is something I'm very passionate about. In residency I was involved with the resident union and have gone to various advocacy days throughout my training, briefly made my own rotation with Hilda Solis's health deputy, and was on the Group for the Advancement of psychiatry committee on administration & leadership where I authored a book chapter. I am overall interested in psychotherapy, systems improvement, advocacy, women in medicine, and leadership. I'd say specific advocacy areas of interest would be access to care and scope of practice;” and

Whereas,

The Public Affairs Committee has proposed adding PAC committee member Michael MacIntyre, MD, an ECP to the SCPS GAC; and

Whereas,

Dr. MacIntyre, MD has stated that “I'm currently involved with AAPL's (American Association of Psychiatry and the Law) Judicial Action Committee and Media and Public Relations committee. The former mostly educates out membership and often collaborates with APA's Council on Law and Psychiatry. Otherwise, most of my advocacy interest stems from work at the institutional/county level. I am a psychiatrist at the West LA Veteran Affairs health system where half my time is clinical and half of my work involves developing internal systems and working with LA county and the courts to address psycho-legal issues involving LPS and probate conservatorships, justice involved patients, and issues with homelessness and the mentally ill;”

Therefore, the SCPS Council approves appointments to the SCPS GAC of:

1. Dr. Giovanna Sobrinho as an ex officio ECP member from the SCPS Access to Care Committee

2. Dr. Michael MacTintyre , MD, an as an ex officio ECP member from the SCPS Public Affairs Committee