



Summary of the 2021 Proposed Policy Statement Review Process by the Joint Policy Committee (JPC)

October 2021

Table 1: 2021 New Proposed Policy Statement Review Timeline

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| Feb. 12 | A total of 20 proposed policy statements were submitted by the deadline. All of these proposed policy statements met the minimum required author guidelines and were accepted in to 2021 process |
| April 2 | APHA members submitted reviews on proposed policy statements, which were forwarded to the Science Board and JPC to consider in their reviews of each proposal |
| April 28 and 29 | Science Board evaluated each proposed policy and provided its assessment to the JPC |
| April 29 and 30 | The JPC conducted its initial policy statement proposal review and gave each proposal one of the following assessments (See Table 2, Column A): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive- Proposed policy statements meets all guidelines, is scientifically sound and concisely written; any changes necessary are minor and can be addressed in the copyediting phase (Proposal automatically moves forward to the public hearings). • Conditional- Proposed policy statement meets most guidelines but requires some revision to strengthen the arguments presented and improve formatting (Author(s) are requested to |

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| | <p>make revisions based on JPC comments and resubmit by August 14).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative- Proposed policy statement does not meet guidelines, lacks or improperly cites scientific evidence, arguments presented are biased or one-sided, and/or contains major grammatical and formatting errors (Authors may opt to keep the proposal in the review process and make revisions based on JPC comments and resubmit by August 14; and/or appeal to the Executive Board; or withdraw the proposed policy statement from the 2021 cycle and resubmit in a subsequent cycle). |
| August 14 | <p>All 20 proposed policy statements were revised and resubmitted. 19 had received an initial assessment of conditional and 1 received an initial assessment of negative from the JPC in May.</p> |
| September 13 and 28 | <p>The JPC conveyed via conference call to discuss the 20 resubmissions and gave each proposal either a Positive or Negative assessment (see Table 2, Column C) based on the criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the revised version of the proposed policy statement adequately address the changes, recommendations and clarifications requested in the JPC’s conditional OR negative assessment letter to the author? (If not, please be specific about what was NOT adequately addressed) • Are there new data, information, events or concerns regarding the proposed policy statement revisions that require additional edits from the author in order for the JPC to move the proposal forward to the public hearings? • Could the remaining issues (if any) be reasonably addressed by the JPC at its business meeting on the Monday of the Annual Meeting (in preparation for the Governing Council’s Tuesday vote)? • What additional revisions should be made to the proposed policy statement before the public hearings? |

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| | <p>The JPC determined that 17 of the resubmitted proposed policy statements were ready to move forward to the public hearings and gave them a positive assessment. 3 Statements received a negative assessment indicating that the JPC did not believe the authors adequately addressed the recommendations for improvement provided following the initial assessment and recommend withdrawal of the proposal from the review process.</p> <p>19 of the resubmitted proposed policy statements were presented at the public hearings in October (see Table 2, Column D). B8 was withdrawn from the process.</p> |
| October 1 | Proposed policy statements moving forward in the process were posted on the APHA website JPC fall author letters with comments. Authors were given the option to submit a revised statement following receipt of the JPC fall review comments. |
| October 13 | Authors were given the option to submit a revised statement following receipt of the JPC fall review comments. authors chose to submit additional revisions (these were posted to the web in track changes). |
| October 14 | <p>5 Late-Breaker Proposed Policy Statements were submitted to policy@apha.org by 11:59pm (EDT). 2 were accepted by the JPC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 late-breaker was submitted on 10/16 after the deadline and thus was not reviewed. |
| October 19 and 20 | <p>Proposed policy statements were discussed during the public hearings at the APHA Virtual Annual Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10/18- Groups A, C and Late-Breakers • 10/29- Groups B&D |
| October 25 | <p>JPC develops final recommendations for proposed policy statements to present to the Governing Council.</p> <p>The JPC final recommendations and final drafts of the proposed policy statements are posted to the web and shared with the Governing Council</p> |

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| October 26 | Governing Council considers JPC recommendations on proposed policy statements and votes to approve new policy statements. |
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Table 2. JPC Assessments of APHA 2021 New Proposed Policy Statements

| Policy | 1st Assessment (May) | Resubmitted in Aug | 2nd Assessment | Forwarded to Public Hearings | Final Recommendation |
|--|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>A1: Supporting physical education in schools for all youth</u> | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| <u>A2:Prevention of lower extremity amputations due to non-traumatic loss of sensation and loss of circulation</u> | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| <u>A3: A Comprehensive Approach to Suicide Prevention within a Public Health Framework</u> | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| <u>A4: Advancing Public Health Equity through Prevention and Reengagement of</u> | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |

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| Disconnected (Opportunity) Youth | | | | | |
| A5: A Call to Improving Public Health Outcomes of Diabetes Through an Enhanced Integrated Care Approach | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| A6: The Impact of Individual and Household Debt on Health and Well-being | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| B1: Decriminalization and Support for Self-Managed Abortion | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| B2: Call for Urgent Actions to Address Health Inequities in the U.S. Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic and Response* | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| B3: Adopting a Single-Payer Health System | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| B4: Opposing Coercion in Contraceptive Access and Care to Promote Reproductive Health Equity | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |

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| B5: Sexual and Gender Minority Demographic Data: Inclusion in Medical Records, National Surveys and Public Health Research | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| B6: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Importance of Universal Healthcare in Addressing Healthcare Inequities* | Conditional | Yes | Negative | Yes | Adopt |
| B7: An Equitable Response to the Ongoing Opioid Crisis | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| B8: Structural Racism is a Public Health Crisis: Impact on the Black/African American Community | Conditional | Yes | Negative | No | N/A |
| B9: Improving the Role of Health Departments in Activities Related to Abortion | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| C1: Noise as a Public Health Hazard | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| C2: Ensuring Equity in Transportation and | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |

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| Land Use Decisions to Promote Health and Wellbeing in Metropolitan Areas | | | | | |
| D1: Advancing Public Health Interventions to Address the Harms of the Carceral System | Negative | Yes | Negative | Yes | Adopt |
| D2: Preparing Public Schools in the United States for the Next Public Health Emergency: Lessons Learned from COVID-19* | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| D3: Prevention Violations of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in Immigration Detention Centers | Conditional | Yes | Positive | Yes | Adopt |
| LB1: Address Threats to Public Health | N/A | N/A | N/A | Yes | Adopt |
| LB2: Expanding Medicaid Coverage for Birthing People to One-Year Postpartum | N/A | N/A | N/A | Yes | Adopt |

* JPC motions that the Governing Council archive these proposed policy statements, if adopted, after 3 years vs. the standard 10 years given the rapidly evolving evidence and experience in the pandemic in order to ensure the science, evidence and action steps remain up to date

See the following links for:

[Policy Statement Development Process](#)

[APHA Proposed Policy Statement Submission Guidelines](#)

[2021 Policy Statement Calendar](#)

[JPC 2021 Spring Assessment](#)

[JPC 2021 Fall Assessment](#)

[Consent Agenda for Governing Council Oct 2021](#)