

WISAM TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

2/25/2016

Attendees:

Aleksandra Zgierska (President), Matt Felgus (Vice-President), Bob Lea, Dean Whiteway (Immediate Past President), Nameeta Dookeran, Dan Sessler, Brian Lochen (Treasurer), and David Galbis-Reig (Secretary).

2016 WISAM Conference Planning:

Nameeta and Alek plan to meet to discuss further details regarding conference planning and draft a preliminary schedule. Several people sent suggestions on what they can present. Matt offered to present on treatment of anxiety, alternatives to, and discontinuation of benzodiazepines.

Comments on the Opioid Teleconference (2/25/2016) with Senator Baldwin and Director Boticelli:

Tammy Baldwin and Mike Boticelli participated in a Teleconference discussing the issue of opioid use disorders and overdose death and a senate bill, put forward by Senator Baldwin, to appropriate funds and implement measures that would help reduce the impact of opioid epidemic. Alek brought up the point that Tammy Baldwin might be a potential speaker for the WISAM Conference in the Fall, perhaps with Representative Nygren, both of whom can discuss legislative initiatives to address the growing epidemic.

There was some discussion regarding the content of the teleconference material including the surprising lack of discussion by either Mike Boticelli or Senator Baldwin about injectable naltrexone for treatment of opioid dependence. Alek noted that the co-prescribing of benzodiazepines with opioids was also discussed as a problem in the teleconference and that it was an issue that is likely to gain more attention in the upcoming months.

Substance Abuse and Pregnancy:

BACKGROUND: 1997 Wisconsin Act 292, as codified in the Wisconsin Children's Code permits the Children's Court to take jurisdiction over an unborn child whose expectant mother (1) habitually lacks self-control in the use of alcohol or controlled substances exhibited to a severe degree; (2) to the extent that there is a substantial risk that the physical health of the unborn child, and the child when born, will be seriously affected or endangered; (3) unless the expectant mother receives prompt and adequate treatment. The Act states a strong preference for encouraging the expectant mother to go into voluntary treatment. But if she refuses, there are provisions that permit involuntary treatment, including inpatient treatment.

There is currently a law suit pending, against the state of WI, described briefly below:
http://advocatesforpregnantwomen.org/blog/2015/10/napw_marks_2_legal_victories_i.php.

Alek explained that she received a call from one of the attorney's representing the State in this lawsuit asking for an expert witness for the State in support of the Law to refute the plaintiff's expert witness (a prominent member of ASAM), which she politely declined. She reports that ASAM has asked that WISAM consider drafting a letter in support of the existing ASAM's policy on this issue ([see ASAM's position statement](#)). Alek discussed the possibility of writing an open letter from WISAM, possibly for publication in the *Wisconsin Medical Journal*, or other publication, clarifying and supporting ASAM's

position statement regarding the use of punitive action against pregnant women who report, or are discovered to be abusing, alcohol or other substances. After an extensive discussion the group did not reach a definitive conclusion as to the best course of action with respect to the letter but agreed that WISAM supports ASAM policy on this matter.

Kratom:

There was a brief discussion regarding kratom and the article written by David and titled “A Case of Kratom Addiction and Withdrawal” published in this month’s issue of the Wisconsin Medical Journal. The article is available for CME credit through the Wisconsin Medical Journal at <https://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/professional/wmj/>.

Although we have not seen much kratom abuse locally, it is likely to become more prevalent, as it is “marketed” as a natural herbal approach to pain management and to “replace” opioids. It can be ordered online, and in the state where it is not illegal to use it, it can be purchased for example as a tea, in a tea shop, creating a (mis-) perception of safety. David’s experience has been consistent with that of others nation-wide that kratom withdrawal can be worse (more severe, longer) than withdrawal from “regular” opioids.

Next teleconference:

Mar 24, 2016 (4th Thu), 7-8 PM

Moderator: David Galbis-Reig

Phone-in info:

- 1) Dial the phone number 1-855-947-8255 or 1-630-424-2356
- 2) Enter the passcode 7986 842 followed by#

Future events:

Apr 15 WISAM member meeting at the ASAM Annual Conference:

Our meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2:30 – 3:30 pm (room number will be printed in the conference brochure). We hope to see you all in Baltimore at the ASAM Annual Conference: <http://www.asam.org/education/live-and-online-cme/the-asam-annual-conference>.

Sept 28- Oct 1 WISAM 2016 Annual Conference:

Thu – Fri, Sept 29 – 30, 2016: details of schedule TBD

Sat, Oct 1, 2016: buprenorphine training for physicians