



Health Policy and Pediatrics: How Do Clinicians Fit In and Thrive Academically

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center for
HEALTH + BIOSCIENCES

Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy



**Texas Children's
Hospital**

Objectives

- Provide Overview of Health Policy Concepts and Definitions
- Describe How to Engage in Health Policy as an Academic Pediatrician
- Introduce Center for Child Health Policy and Advocacy

What is Policy?

- The study of public policy is about:
 - Identifying important societal problems that presumably require government (or institutional) action to be effectively addressed;
 - Formulating solutions to those problems
 - Assessing impact of those solutions on the targeted problem

Smith, Kevin and Larimer, Christopher. *The Public Policy Theory Primer*. Boulder: Westview Press, 2013.

Levels of Policy Implementation

- Federal
- State
- Local (e.g., counties, cities, municipalities)
- Institutional/Organizational

Policy Instruments

- Government spending and taxes
- Laws
- Regulations
- Research (geo-mapping)
- Memorandum of understandings (Agreements)
- Professional standards/recommendations

Health Policy

Decisions, plans, and actions that are undertaken to achieve specific health goals within a society

World Health Organization. Health Policy. Accessed at http://www.who.int/topics/health_policy/en/

Health Policy Issues

- Improved health and wellbeing
 - Nutrition
 - Clean Water
 - Health Disparities
 - Chronic Disease
 - Mental Illness
 - Substance Abuse

Where to Address Health Policy Issues

- Economy
- Education
- Housing
- Transportation
- Agriculture
- Built Environment
- Public Health
- **Health Care System**

Health Care Policy

- Subset of health policy that deals with the organization, financing, and delivery of health care services

Health Care Policy Issues

- Access to Medical Services
- Drug Pricing
- Healthcare Entitlements (Medicaid, Medicare)
- Insurance Coverage
- Use of Health Information Technology
- Pay-for-Performance Programs
- Cost of Medical Care

Where to Address Health Care Policy Issues

- Hospitals and Practices
- Insurance Companies
- Research
- Regulations/Laws

Federal Policies

- Affordable Care Act
 - ◆ Medicaid Expansion
 - ◆ Health Care Exchanges
- Balanced Budget Act of 1997
 - ◆ State Children's Health Insurance Program
- Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH)
 - ◆ Adoption of electronic medical records
 - ◆ Meaningful use guidelines

State Policies

Taxes

- ◆ Soda taxes
- ◆ Reduced taxes for land use

Increased State Funds

- ◆ Community Initiatives

Local Policies

- Physical Activity (parks, recreation, bike shares)
- Tobacco 21 initiatives
- Complete communities
- Minimum wage
- Urban planning

Policy versus Advocacy

- Policy refers to activities designed to solve a problem.
 - For instance, actions that promote child health and welfare on a population level
- Advocacy refers to non-violent activities designed to influence policies, practices and behavior.
 - Usually undertaken by an individual or group

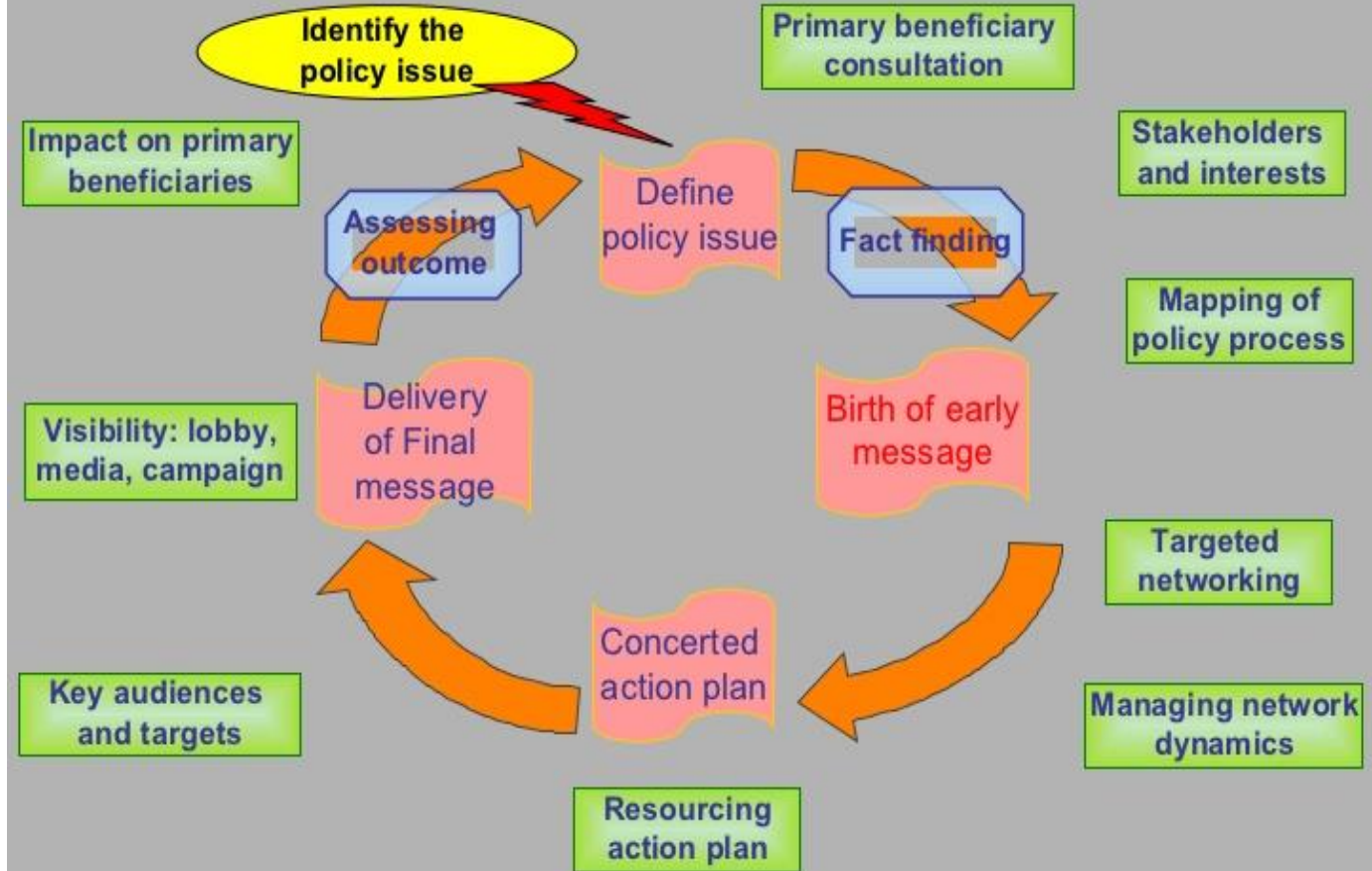
Shah S. and Brumberg HL. Advocating for Advocacy in Pediatrics: Supporting Lifelong Career Trajectories. *Pediatrics*. 2014;134:e1523-1527.

Satcher D. Kaczorowski J, Topa D. The Expanding Role of the Pediatrician in Improving Child Health in the 21st Century. *Pediatrics*. 2005;115(suppl 4):1124-1128.

Advocacy Activities that Influence Policy

- Legislative Testimony
- Media Campaign
- White Papers
- Issue Briefs
- Speaking with Legislators
- Letters to Legislators
- Op-Eds

Policy Influencing Cycle



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Health Policy and Academic Pediatrics



Why Are Physicians Increasingly Interested in Policy

Patient Care

- Insurance
- Costs of care (e.g., drug prices)

Resource Allocation

- Research funding
- Reimbursement (e.g., value-based purchasing)

Changes in Practice

- New models of care (e.g., medical home)
- Increased expectations for documentation

Patel MS, Davis MM, Lypson ML. Advancing Medical Education by Teaching Health Policy. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2011;364(8):695-7.

Why Are Physicians Increasingly Interested in Policy

Medical Education and Certification

- ACGME requirements for systems-based practice and advocacy training
- Advocacy and Maintenance of Certification

Growing up in the Age of the Affordable Care Act

- Sentinel moment in U.S. history
- Landmark reform in the health care system

Patel MS, Davis MM, Lybson ML. Advancing Medical Education by Teaching Health Policy. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2011;364(8):695-7.

Perceived Challenges to Pursuing Academic Careers in Policy

Individual

- Lack of relevance
- No clear career path
- Inadequate training
- Lack of mentorship
- Policy = Politics
- Out of comfort zone
- Fear of Conflict

Institutional

- Outside academic mission
- No revenue generation
- Preservation of external relationships
- Messaging
- Time allocation
- Funding

Heiman HJ, Smith LL, McKool M, Mitchell DN, Bayer CR. Health Policy Training: A Review of the Literature. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2016;13(20).

Narayanaswani P. Career Development in Neurology: Focus on Health Policy. *Annals of Neurology*. 2015;77(2):198-203.

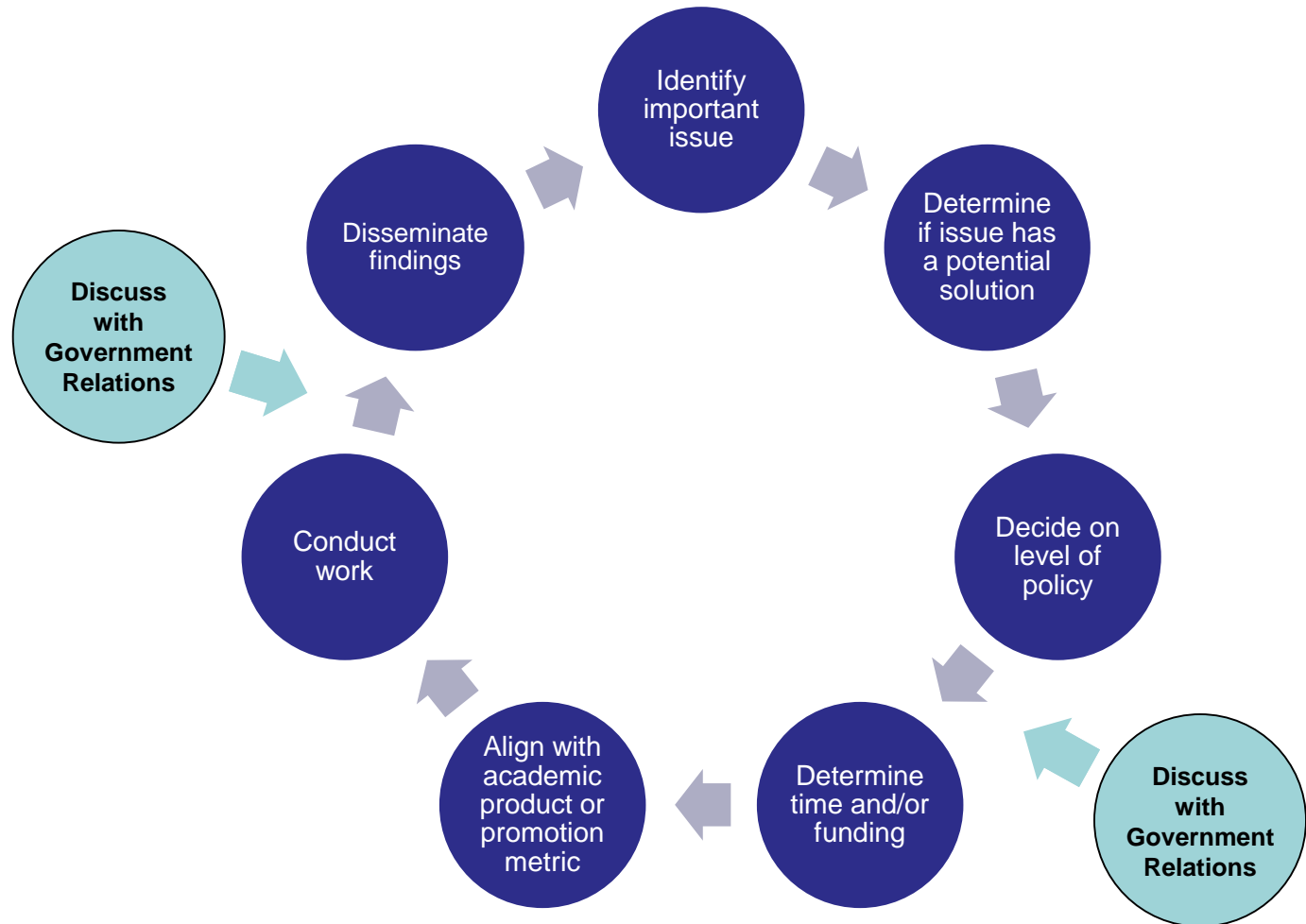
Mechanisms for Policy Involvement

- Research
- Professional Organizations
- Hospital Committees
- Texas Medical Center Policy Programs
- Government Relations
- State Task Forces
- Bill Writing

Making Work Academic

- Health Services Research
- Community-based Participatory Research
- Medical Education Research
- Different Article Types for Publication
- Federal or Foundation Funding
- Service in Professional Organizations

Process for Academic Engagement in Policy



Should Physicians Conduct Policy Work?

Yes - Medical Professionalism

Principle of Primacy of Patient Welfare

- Must address market forces, societal pressures, and administrative burdens of health care

Principle of Patient Autonomy

- Must ensure that patients have full information on choices and do not receive inappropriate care

Principle of Social Justice

- Must eliminate discrimination in health care

Medical Professionalism Project. Medical Professionalism in the New Millennium: A Physician Charter. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2002;136:243-246.

No - Medical Professionalism

Policy and Advocacy are not Professional Norms

- Policy and advocacy are civic virtues rather than a professional role

Policy and Advocacy are not University or Medical School Functions

- Do not fit into mission of research, education, and service

Medical Community is Professional rather than Political

- Medical community is united by moral commitments and common experiences in training and medical practice

Huddle, TS. Medical Professionalism and Medical Education Should Not Involve Commitments to Political Advocacy. *Academic Medicine*. 2011;86:378-383.

Do Physicians Conduct Policy Work?



Research on Physician Participation in Policy

- Community physicians rate public policy as very important.
- Two-thirds of community physicians reported working with community-based organizations, engaging in political activities, or participating in advocacy in the last 3 years.

Gruen RL, Campbell EG, Blumenthal D. Public Roles of US Physicians: Community Participation, Political Involvement, and Collective Advocacy. *JAMA*. 2006;296:2467-2475.

Study on Academic Physicians and Policy Activities

- Survey of UCSF Department of Medicine faculty
- 200 of 553 faculty (40%) responded
- 56% of respondents involved in policy activities
 - 23% conducted policy-related research
 - 30% provided expert advice to government officials
 - 42% collaborated with organizations to advocate for public policy
- Higher faculty rank associated with more involvement

Jacobs DB, Greene M, Bindman AB. It's Academic: Public Policy Activities Among Faculty Members in a Department of Medicine. *Academic Medicine*. 2013;88(10):1460-1463.

My Lessons Learned Engaging in Policy and Advocacy

Health Policy in the Texas Medical Center

TMC Programs and Centers

- **Center for Child Health Policy and Advocacy (2015)**
- BCM Health Policy Program (2015)
- TMC Policy Institute (2014)
- Institute for Health Policy, UT School of Public Health (2004)
- Baker Institute for Public Policy (1993)

Non-Profit Organizations



**DOCTORS
FOR CHANGE**
PRESCRIPTIONS FOR A HEALTHY HOUSTON

children
at Risk

Center for Child Health Policy and Advocacy

Mission

- *To advance policy and advocacy strategies to impact legislative and regulatory action on the behalf of vulnerable children in the areas of patient care, education, and research.*

Vision

- *To transform child health such that all children have every opportunity to lead healthy, high quality, productive lives.*

Center Faculty & Staff



Jean Raphael, MD, MPH



Keila Lopez, MD, MPH



Quianta Moore, JD, MD



Claire Bocchini, MD



Rachael Kimbro, PhD



Heidi Russell, MD, PhD



Michelle Lopez, MD, MPH



Tiffany Rattler, BS

Domains

- Research
- Medical Education
- Engagement with Legislators
- Academic-Community Partnership

Representative Publications

Kranjac AW, **Kimbro RT**, Denney JT, Osiecki KM, Moffett BS, **Lopez KN**. Comprehensive Neighborhood Portraits and Child Asthma Disparities. *Mat Child Health J*. 2017; In Press.

Moore QL, Paul ME, McGuire AL, Majumder MA. Legal Barriers to Adolescent Participation in Research about HIV and Other Sexually Transmitted Infections. *Am J Public Health*. 2016 Jan;106(1):40-44.

Russell H, Street A, Ho V. How Well Do All Patient Refined-Diagnosis-Related Groups Explain Costs of Pediatric Cancer Chemotherapy Admissions in the United States? *J Onc Pract*. 2016 May;12(5):e564-575.

Raphael JL, Colvin JD. More than Wheezing: Incorporating Social Determinants into Public Policy to Improve Asthma Outcomes in Children. *Pediatr Res*. 2017 Jan;81(1-1):2-3.

Rattler TL, Walder A, Feng H, **Raphael JL**. Care Coordination for Children with Sickle Cell Disease: A Longitudinal Study of Parent Perspectives and Acute Care Utilization. *Am J Prev Med*. 2016 July;51(1 Suppl 1):S55-61.

Lopez MA, Walder A, Kowalkowski M, Colvin J, **Raphael JL**. Resource Utilization by Hospital Type for Frequently Occurring Pediatric Conditions: A Retrospective Observational Cross-Sectional Study. *In Preparation*.

Center Activities to Date

- White paper funded by Episcopal Health Foundation
- Collaborator on 3 TMC Policy Grants
 - Unaccompanied Immigrant Children
 - Zika Virus
 - Children in Foster Care
- Resident Advocacy Education
- Resident Away Rotations
- Fellow Award for Advocacy (2016 - **Ana Monterrey**)



Resident Projects



Nick Agathis



Flora Nunez-Gallegos

Center Partnerships

- Texas Children's Government Relations
- Section of Public Health
- EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center

Opportunities to Engage in Center

- Blog pieces
- Policy briefs
- Research collaborations
- Medical Education

Center Website

<https://www.texaschildrens.org/departments/center-child-health-policy-and-advocacy>

Center Contact Information

Website: texaschildrens.org/policycenter

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