

Res. A-03-19

January 11, 2019

TITLE: Increasing Family-Centeredness at AAFP Meetings

Introduced by: Tenessa MacKenzie MD; Alison Block MD

Endorsements: CAFP North Bay Chapter

WHEREAS, the mission of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) is to improve the health of patients, families, and communities by serving the needs of members with professionalism and creativity¹, and

WHEREAS, the AAFP encourages all physicians, including women, to participate actively in all AAFP programs and activities and at all levels of leadership², and

WHEREAS, meetings such as AAFP FMX and Congress of Delegates (COD) provide important opportunities for career development, education, and networking³, and

WHEREAS, women's careers are disproportionately affected by the lack of childcare services and facilities^{4,5,6}, and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) annual meetings offer on-site child care services^{7,8}, and

WHEREAS, the AAFP advocates for the removal of barriers to breastfeeding including encouraging breastfeeding-friendly workplaces and protecting the right to breastfeed in public⁹, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AAFP adjusts its recommendations regarding children at AAFP meetings from "Out of consideration for others, please do not bring children to CME events" to "AAFP supports families. Please use your best judgment regarding bringing children to CME events;" and be it further

RESOLVED, that the CAFP ask the AAFP to provide an on-site play area for children and their caregivers at AAFP FMX and COD; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the CAFP ask the AAFP to enhance efforts to accommodate breastfeeding parents at AAFP FMX and COD by providing a lactation lounge with basic services including privacy, running water, refrigerated milk storage, and opportunities to donate excess breast milk.

Speaker's Notes:

This resolution does not represent an amendment or addition to existing CAFP or AAFP policy, in that it is not connected to legislative or policy efforts.

Fiscal Note:

The resource implications of this resolution are minimal, consisting of communication between CAFP and AAFP staff.

1. PROBLEM STATEMENT: What specific practice problem does this resolution seek to solve, or, if this resolution pertains to a proposed new CAFP policy or change of policy, what issue does it seek to address?

This resolution aims to make AAFP conferences and meetings, with particular emphasis on AAFP FMX and COD, more accommodating to participants with families. By decreasing barriers to childcare and breastfeeding, there may be improved interest and attendance at AAFP FMX and COD, especially among NCCL constituencies including women, LGBT physicians and allies, and new physicians with young families.

2. PROBLEM UNIVERSE: Approximately how many CAFP members or members' patients are affected by this problem or proposed policy?

This issue affects all CAFP/AAFP members with families, especially those for whom finding childcare is a barrier to attending conferences and those who are currently breastfeeding.

3. WHAT SPECIFIC SOLUTION ARE YOU PROPOSING TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OR POLICY, i.e., what action do you wish CAFP to take?

We propose that CAFP uses its position to urge the AAFP to increase family-centeredness at its annual AAFP FMX and COD meetings by committing to the above four "resolved" clauses.

4. WHAT EVIDENCE EXISTS TO: 1) INDICATE THAT A PROBLEM EXISTS; OR 2) THAT THERE IS NEED FOR A NEW OR REVISED POLICY?

Please see "whereas" section and problem statement.

References:

1. AAFP Mission Statement (2004) (2014 COD)

<https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/mission.html>

2. AAFP Policy Equal Representation of Women in Family Medicine (B1983) (2015 COD)

<https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/women-family-medicine.html>

3. About AAFP FMX

<https://www.aafp.org/events/fmx/about.html>

4. AMWA Position Paper on Dependent Care (1989) (Revised 2000)

<https://www.amwa-doc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Dependent-Care.pdf>

5. Angela L. Bos, Jennie Sweet-Cushman & Monica C. Schneider (2017) Family-friendly academic conferences: a missing link to fix the “leaky pipeline”?, Politics, Groups, and Identities, DOI: [10.1080/21565503.2017.1403936](https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2017.1403936)

6. Rachel S. Harris (2015) Child Care Shouldn't Be An Issue, Inside Higher Ed.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/09/16/essay-says-child-care-shouldnt-still-be-issue-scholarly-meetings>

7. AAP Experience National Conference and Exhibition Family Resources

<https://aapexperience.org/family-resources/>

8. ACOG Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting Family & Fun

<https://annualmeeting.acog.org/family-and-fun/>

9. AAFP Breastfeeding, Family Physicians Supporting (Position Paper)

<https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/breastfeeding-support.html>