

Missouri Academy of Family Physicians

Advocacy Syllabus for Family Medicine Residents

Course Title:	Family Medicine Advocacy at the Local, State, and National Levels
Number of Hours:	50
Format:	Asynchronous in collaboration with faculty
Target Residents:	PGY2, PGY3, or PGY4
Contact Information:	Add residency contact info

Course Description

Background:

This syllabus is designed to provide a guidance to Missouri family medicine residency programs' compliance with the new Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education requirements (insert reference and link here). The Missouri Academy of Family Physicians has collaborated to develop this syllabus for a 50-hour elective rotation on health advocacy and policy for family medicine residents across the state. Residency program directors and staff will deliver the content to the residents.

Purpose

This course will provide family medicine residents the opportunity to learn about the impact of advocacy, legislation, and public policy in the health care industry. Learning will be accomplished through case studies, course units, and participation in advocacy events at the local, state and/or national levels.

Module Outline

This module is designed to be completed in 50 hours and may be administered by residency program faculty. The units reference information available from the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government (KSG).

The KSG readings below are case studies that can be found at <https://case.hks.harvard.edu/>. KSG cases are not 'court cases' in the legal system; rather, they are factually based executive-level case studies of leadership decisions made by public officials. KSG researchers get information 'on background,' meaning that the information in the cases is not publishable in an open forum, and the cases are only used for didactic purposes.

Learning Objectives

1. Collaborate with public health and community-based organizations to guide policies and implement or evaluate community initiatives (SBP-3)
2. Participate in community efforts to advocate for vulnerable, underserved or underrepresented populations (MK-2, SBP-2)
3. Analyze key issues, regulation and legislation currently affecting health care and family medicine in the United States (MK-2, PROF-3)
4. Assess strategies for development of effective policies to reduce health disparities (PROF-3)

5. Understand state and federal legislative processes for regulation of health care, health delivery and health policy (PROF-2, PROF-3)
6. Develop and practice skills commonly used to educate and engage legislators and policymakers in priority patient/health care issues and strengthening of a well-trained family medicine workforce in the United States, Missouri and the St. Louis community (PROF-2, C-2)

Unit 1: Advocacy Overview (5 hours)

The goal of this unit is to give residents a general overview of advocacy and to assess knowledge of and interest in the advocacy component of their residency training. Learners will be able to understand state and federal legislative processes for regulation of health care, health delivery, and health policy.

Task:

- Complete Society for Teachers of Family Medicine Advocacy Course Modules 1-5 <https://stfm.org/advocacycourse>. (Free for residents)
- Meet (virtually or in person) with Residency Program Director or MAFP Executive Director to review expectations for completing the course, and discuss legislative and regulatory measures that impact family physicians.
- Read Missouri Division of Professional Registration, Board of Healing Arts rules for collaborative practice with mid-level providers. (<https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=334.104&bid=47929&hl=collaborative%u2044>)

Assessment:

- Obtain certification of completion and turn into program coordinator.
- Identify the 5 components of a collaborative practice agreement with a mid-level provider and submit to MAFP Executive Director (office@mo-afp.org)
- Answer a discussion prompt or respond to another resident response through an asynchronous forum.

Unit 2: Public and Community Health (15 hours)

The goal of this unit is to expand the resident's exposure and leadership in community and public health within their facility/geographic area. Learners will be able to understand the impact of health care system policies on their patients and communities. They will also develop leadership skills by collaborating with public health and community-based organizations to guide policies and implement or evaluate community initiatives.

Tasks:

- Complete the Society for Teachers of Family Medicine Advocating within Your Health System course at <https://onlinecourses.stfm.org/healthsystems/hsadvocacy/#/> (Free for residents)
- Identify a community need that impacts the vulnerable, underserved, or underrepresented populations. Participate in efforts to advocate or make an impact in supporting the identified need. Examples of participation may be through local churches, community groups, United Way agencies, medical clinics, charitable organizations, etc. Once a group and need has been identified, work with their leadership to determine how you can support their advocacy initiatives or serve to make a difference.

Assessment

- Obtain certification of completion and turn into program coordinator.
- Prepare a report on the process to identify, plan, implement and evaluate the outcomes of the community need. Include successes achieved and challenges faced throughout the process. Minimum 500 words.

Unit 3 Legislative Advocacy (15 hours)

The goal of this unit is to learn how to educate and engage legislators and policymakers in priority patient/health care issues. Residents will develop and practice skills to communicate either in-person, virtually, by telephone, and/or by email. The focus of this unit will be on a local community (either home or residency location), Missouri, and the United States.

Tasks:

- Utilize AAFP's Advocacy Tool Kit: Fighting for Family Medicine at <https://www.aafp.org/advocacy.html> to do the following: (You will need your AAFP log-in).
 - Use the Advocacy by Topic section to browse state and/or federal issues. Select **TWO** issues that you consider to be high-priority to your future practice.
 - Use the Congressional Bill Tracker function to see which congressional bills AAFP currently considers key legislation and read the bills and background. Select **ONE** bill from this list OR use the find Legislation function to find an alternate bill that you consider to be high-priority to your future practice.
 - In State: Find your elected leaders at the Missouri Senate Legislator Lookup at <https://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/Default> Enter our Missouri voting address. Federal and state legislators are identified through this link.
 - Out of State: To find your elected legislators outside Missouri, under the Congressional Bill Tracker page, click on Find Your Legislator to identify your senator or representative.
 - Under the State Legislative Bill Tracker page, review what legislation is being introduced by state or by topic of interest. Identify **ONE** bill that is high-priority to your future practice.
 - Review Missouri Secretary of State's Missouri Register which includes proposed Rules and Regulations and select a proposed rule related to health care. Identify and list areas of concern or support for your selected rule. (<https://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/moreg/moreg/2023>)

Assessment:

- Engage with your **federal** legislators via email, telephone, virtual, or in-person visit with your federal legislators to express your opinion or to make a request on one of your selected high-priority bills or issues, using the principles described in the STFM Advocacy Courses. Copy the MAFP Executive Director on your email or provide a 125-word post-hoc summary of your call/visit to the Executive Director via email (office@mo-afp.org). In person visits can be made when the legislator is in their district (at home) or in Washington, D.C.
- Engage with your **state** legislator via email, telephone, virtual or visit your state legislators to express your opinion or to make a request on one of your selected high-priority state bills or issues, using the principles described in the STFM Advocacy Courses. Copy the MAFP Executive Director on your email or provide a 125-word post-hoc summary of your call/visit to the Executive Director via email (office@mo-afp.org) In person visits can be made when the legislator is in their district (at home) or in Jefferson City, MO.
- For email communication, forward the response from the legislator to office@mo-afp.org.

- For in person meetings, be sure to take a photo of yourself with the legislator and/or their staff and send it to office@mo-afp.org.
- Submit your comments in support of or opposition to the selected proposed rule/regulation to MAFP Executive Director via email (office@mo-afp.org).

Unit 4: Strategies to Reduce Health Disparities (15 hours)

The goal of this unit is to integrate the information and experiences of the previous units to assess strategies for the development of effective policies to reduce health disparities.

Task:

- Reflect on your experience in Units 1-3. What new strategies did you learn to apply to health policy? What strategies appear more effective than others. Using additional resources (either from the list below or from your own literature review), compare the effectiveness of different strategies to achieve health policy goals at different levels (local, state, federal, global).

Assessment:

- Create a 15-30 minutes presentation for family medicine physicians and students that facilitates group discussion around ways physicians can engage in lifelong advocacy for equitable health policies. This will be delivered at a mutually agreeable time during didactics.

Expectations:

1. Exemplify professionalism and self-directed learning
2. Participate in Missouri Academy of Family Physicians Advocacy Day in Jefferson City (February) and/or the Family Medicine Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC (May) (**Contact the MAFP Executive Director in advance of rotation to RSVP**).
3. Engage with your state and federal legislators (or their health policy aides) via phone or email, virtual or in-person visit to their local or state/federal office as below.
4. Educate peers on health policy and advocacy.

Additional Resources:

1. You may find the state legislative issue backgrounders at <https://www.aafp.org/advocacy/state/backgrounders.html> provides key information on specific issues.
2. <http://www.healthlandscape.org> is an interactive database in which you can look up determinants of health by zip code. Registration is free. It's Population Health Profiler at <https://www.aafp.org/news/health-of-the-public/20180529pophealthprofiler.html> is particularly useful.
3. www.exploremohealth.org is another interactive database specific to Missouri that allows data reports by zip code or county.
4. www.findhelp.com is a website that identifies financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, and other free or reduced cost help by zip code.
5. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation at <https://www.rwjf.org/> is an important website that focuses on the health of communities and <https://www.rwjf.org/> includes a link to county-level information: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>.

6. Mercy Hospital St. Louis regularly publishes its Community Health Needs Assessment. The most recent is at <https://www.mercy.net/content/dam/mercy/en/pdf/chna/st-louis-chna-2022.pdf>
7. The Missouri Hospital Association has several reports on hospital and physician/provider workforce data at <https://web.mhanet.com/workforce.aspx>.
8. The Missouri Health Foundation , <https://mffh.org/>, has good information on community initiatives and the state of health in underserved counties in MO, including its 2013 report <https://mffh.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Issues-in-Missouri-Health-Care-2013.pdf>.
9. The Association of American Medical Colleges publishes an annual report of each state’s physician workforce data. The most recent is available at <https://store.aamc.org/2021-state-physician-workforce-data-report.html>

Case Study

Financing the Expansion of Missouri’s Medicaid Program: 1987-1992 (CR14-991489.0)” (2.5 hours)

1. Read case study (<https://case.hks.harvard.edu/>)
2. Residents individually provide written answers or discuss as a group the following questions or other questions provided by residency program faculty:
 - a. What were the main deficiencies of the Missouri Medicaid program according to the Public Citizen report?
 - b. How was Gary Stangler a different Director of Missouri Department of Social Services from previous directors?
 - c. How did Missouri Hospital Association (MHA) support the reform of Medicaid in Missouri? How did reformers overcome reluctance of MHA members to support the political strategy devised?
 - d. How well did the ballot initiative political strategy work for MHA?
 - e. How did the differences in rural and urban areas affect reformers’ policy proposals? How did reformers overcome these rural/urban differences?
 - f. Were the reforms successful?
 - g. How relevant is this case study to health issues today in Missouri? To the work of MAFP?

Facilitator lead discussion

This may be done synchronously either in-person or online, or asynchronously through a chat board. Facilitator should use residents’ written responses as a spur to a group discussion.

Summary

This syllabus is a collaboration between the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians, Lincoln University of Missouri, and Mercy Family Medicine Residency, St. Louis.

Missouri Academy of Family Physicians

Founded in 1947, the MAFP represents over 2,400 physicians and medical students in Missouri. It is the only medical society devoted solely to primary care. Headquartered in Jefferson City, MAFP is dedicated to optimizing the health of patients, families, and communities of Missouri through patient care, advocacy, education, and research. Family physicians conduct approximately one in five of the total medical office visits in the United States per year – more than any other specialty.

Family physicians provide comprehensive, evidence-based, and cost-effective care dedicated to improving the health of patients, families, and communities. Family medicine's cornerstone is an ongoing and personal patient-physician relationship where the family physician serves as the hub of each patient's integrated care team. More Americans depend on family physicians than on any other medical specialty. The Missouri Academy of Family Physicians is the state chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Lincoln University of Missouri (LU)

Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, is a designated Historically Black College and University and serves a diverse student population of nearly 1,800, both residential and nonresidential. LU offers an array of academic programs, research projects and public services. The university grants associate, bachelor's and master's degrees in more than 30 areas of study. The political science program provided guidance in the development of this syllabus and seeks to balance the complementary goals of providing practical knowledge useful for advocacy practitioners and providing a deeper theoretical understanding of public institutions relevant to MAFP's mission.

Mercy Family Medicine Residency Program

The Family Medicine Residency is a three-year, university-affiliated program sponsored by a large, active community teaching hospital and is accredited by the ACGME. Six residents enter the program each year. The mission of Mercy Family Medicine Residency is to develop future family physicians by modeling exceptional patient care for all ages in our community within an environment of collaboration and inclusion, while honoring the gift of life. We encourage our residents to be not only excellent clinicians but also community leaders who emphasize health equity. Education is also provided in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings. Over the course of three years, this education moves more from the inpatient to the outpatient setting, progressively modeling the role of a practicing family physician.