

1. FOLLOW-UP ON ACTIONS ITEMS

- a. Review notes and action items from previous Advocating working group meeting (attachment 2 in the meeting package)

2. GLOBAL COMMISSION

- a. Review proposal for a global commission (attachment 3)
 - Jeremy outlined the context, the secretariat work to date, and the proposed *Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges*. The objective is to learn from our experiences during the current pandemic and identify opportunities to strengthen the conduct and use of evidence syntheses globally to support policy, practice, and personal decision-making. The Commission would address the following three fundamental questions:
 - *What structures and processes are required by decision-makers (policymakers, practitioners, citizens) in different contexts to ensure that evidentiary needs are recognized, and that relevant evidence syntheses are commissioned, accessed, and routinely considered during decision-making?*
 - *What structures and processes are required at what levels (global, regional, national, and local) to ensure the pipeline of highly relevant, high quality and up-to-date evidence syntheses (and related products) are produced to equitably meet the needs of these decision-makers?*
 - *What enablers (funding, building capacity for decision-makers and evidence synthesis producers, providing open access for evidence syntheses, using open science approaches to develop tools to support evidence synthesis) are needed at what levels to ensure that evidence synthesis infrastructure and products are public goods that can benefit all societies globally?*
 - Participants offered the following feedback:
 - the proposal document reads well
 - further improvements would be:
 - more emphasis on the description of the problem that we are trying to solve; and where the deepest need is
 - a more explicit description of the target audiences, specifically those who would be in a position to advance the commission recommendations and spark action based on the commission's report
 - considering the end goals from various audiences' perspectives would help with how we think about what the outputs from the commission would need to be in order resonate with the various audiences
 - highlighting the aspect of cross-sector collaboration and coordination of efforts in a way that breaks boundaries of existing or perceived silos
 - thinking about some of the other current global challenges
 - considering the addition of a monitoring and evaluation piece, and better articulating the continuity of the work and the accountability of players involved
 - The following points were discussed:
 - we clarified that the work of the commission is not focused only on future pandemics, rather it uses what we've learned during the current pandemic and applying it to promoting the use of evidence in decision-making in any sector and aspect to societal change (not only the health sector)
 - the audience is diverse and there are multiple of 'actors' in the process, including government (with respect to evidence-demand for policy-making); researcher funders (for supporting infrastructure and

ongoing work process); and evidence-synthesis groups (to coordinate evidence supply, collaborate and avoid duplication)

- the plan would be to work in a collaborative and coordinated way with diverse groups of stakeholders to develop a broader engagement that takes forward input from different audiences, and work across geographic regions with diverse groups (such as Cochrane, EVIR, the International panel on climate change, etc.) who would be able to take on different components and help in their communities

b. Review list of potential commissioners (attachment 4)

- The working group members reviewed the draft list.
- The COVID-END global secretariat has asked all COVID-END partners to provide suggestions about individuals who would be suitable for the commissioner role, as well as people who would be able to connect us to the potential commissioners. The secretariat is compiling all the suggestions as they come in and will bring back the updated working list at the next meeting of the Advocating working group.
- **ACTION: Everyone to continue to think about candidates to be added to the list**

c. Brainstorm about existing commission as exemplars to draw from

- **ACTION: Everyone to think about examples of successful commissions that we can draw from (e.g., The Global Commission on Drug Policy chaired by Helen Clark, former prime minister of New Zealand)**

d. Plan for Cochrane's October virtual event (attachment 5)

- Sylvia provided an outline of the concept for the event scheduled for 5-7 October
- **ACTION: Secretariat to add to the next meeting agenda a discussion item about detailed planning for the October event**

e. Discuss staff resources to support global commission

i. Jennifer Verma, Senior Advisor, Policy and System Impacts, McMaster Health Forum

ii. Olivia Hamilton, project coordinator, McMaster Health Forum

- The COVID-END global secretariat has tasked these two project team members with four priority tasks:
 - organize the stakeholders (all suggestions and then short list of candidate commissioners, candidate trusted advisors) by region, country and role, and draft criteria based on which individuals from the master list would be selected for a shortlist of candidate commissioners
 - create profiles of potential commissioners
 - prepare an analysis of what would be strong and impactful commission characteristics and conduct a comparative analysis of prominent commissions (with their strengths and weaknesses)
 - prepare a case for funding
- Given their direct involvement in the project work, it would be helpful for Jennifer and Olivia to attend the Advocating working group meetings as ex-officio participants. The working group members were supportive of their participation.
- Cochrane colleagues Katie Abbotts (External Communications) and Emma Thompson (Advocacy and Partnership Officer) will also be available to support the work of the working group at key junctures in the process, including pre-promotion, media, and dissemination.

3. DISCUSSION

- a. Draft work plan for working group
 - We will have dedicated time on the agenda during the next meeting
 - **ACTION: Everyone to think about what other advocacy activities do organizations already do, and about can we do more together**
 - **ACTION: Secretariat to review the list of advocacy organizations circulated by Jenny**
- b. Additional members that should be invited to contribute to working group
 - **ACTION: Everyone to provide any further suggestions via email to Sylvia (cc Jeremy/Ileana) about who else could be invited to join the working group**

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Availability for upcoming 7 April Advocating working group meeting
 - Some members are not available on the 7th. We agreed to re-schedule.
 - **ACTION: Safa to poll the working group members for another date in April**
 - **ACTION: Secretariat to circulate tips for presentations during MS Teams meetings**