



Arizona Medical Board

1740 W. Adams St, Suite 4000 • Phoenix, Arizona 85007
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Telephone (480) 551-2700 • Fax (480) 551-2705 • In-State Toll Free (877) 255-2212

FINAL MINUTES FOR THE PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROGRAM COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE Held on Friday, December 14, 2018 1740 W. Adams St, Board Room 4100, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Committee Members

Lois E. Krahn, Chair
Jodi A. Bain, Esq.
R. Screven Farmer, M.D.
Myles A. Whitfield, P.A.-C

A. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Krahn called the meeting to order at 12:21 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Committee members participated telephonically: Dr. Krahn, Dr. Farmer and PA Whitfield.

The following Committee member was absent: Ms. Bain.

ALSO PRESENT

Present among Board staff include: Patricia E. McSorley, Executive Director; Raquel Rivera, Investigations Manager; Kathleen Muller, Compliance Officer (Participated Telephonically); Erinn Downey, Physician Health Program (Participated Telephonically), Michelle Robles, Board Operations Manager; and Carrie Smith, Assistant Attorney General ("AAG").

C. GENERAL CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Dr. Monica Faria, Greenberg and Sucher, addressed the Board during the Call to Public portion of the meeting.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Dr. Farmer moved to approve the August 27, 2018 Physician Health Program Committee Meeting.

SECOND: Dr. Krahn.

The following Committee members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Krahn and Dr. Farmer. The following committee member was absent: Ms. Bain.

VOTE: 2-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 1-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

E. DISCUSSION REGARDING PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROGRAM (PHP) ASSESSOR TRAINING

Ms. Rivera informed the Committee that on November 16, 2018 the Board's PHP assessors attended a training that was specific to evaluating professionals. The training material and video have been retained for the training of future assessors to ensure consistency of the Board's qualifications.

Dr. Krahn commented that this was a necessary step towards ensuring the Board's standards are met and should be repeated on a three year basis.

F. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING PARTICIPANTS WITH DEFICIENT PHP PAYMENTS

Dr. Krahn noted that the physician is responsible for the associated fees of the PHP.

Ms. Rivera informed the Committee that the Board's contractors have reported that four licensees are deficient in their PHP payments. The deficiency ranges from \$10,000 to \$40,000 with various issues contributing to their lack of payment.

PA Whitfield opined that these cases should go through the Board's investigative process and come to the Board for final action. Dr. Farmer commented that traditionally the Board has been willing to work with licensees who are attempting to cooperate however; disciplinary action may be considered for licensees who are non-compliant and non-cooperative. Dr. Krahn suggested that until guidelines are established, these situations should be considered on a case by case basis.

Ms. McSorley commented that earlier notification to Board staff may impact or prevent the accrual of such a large fee.

G. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF INTENSIVE, OUTPATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAM PARAMETERS

Dr. Krahn noted that last year the legislature permitted physicians and physician assistants to utilize intensive, outpatient treatment programs (IOP) who require chemical dependency treatment.

Ms. Downey informed the Committee of some concerns that have arisen from licensee's participating in the IOP. The biggest concern is that IOPs do not complete the same testing as the inpatient treatment facilities and are not providing an appropriate discharge summary with recommendations. Due to the inadequate discharge summary the Board must require the licensee to obtain an additional assessment.

Dr. Krahn commented that the legislature approved IOPs as a more cost effective and convenient option; however, the Board must ensure that quality of service is not sacrificed. Committee members agreed that taking steps to ensure that an IOP remains a viable, but effective option is required.

Dr. Krahn commented to ensure IOPs remain a viable option for licensees the Board may request an assessment prior to and at the conclusion of IOP to obtain the information needed to understand the situation and allow the Board to protect the public.

Ms. Rivera informed the Committee that if IOPs do not provide high level drug testing an interim consent agreement for monitoring may be issued to ensure the licensee is compliant throughout treatment.

Dr. Faria suggested that with regard to patient placement and levels of care, the American Society of Addiction Medicine may have data and criteria available for the Committee's consideration.

Dr. Krahn opined that the IOP may be appropriate for those licensees who are new to the system or for those who underwent a mild relapse. Dr. Krahn suggested informing the licensee at the onset that there may be additional requirements and assessments required throughout the IOP process.

H. DISCUSSION REGARDING REQUESTS FOR EARLY TERMINATION FROM MONITORING AND USE OF PRIVATE MONITORING BY PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Faria informed the Committee that most individuals who requested early termination exhibit similar characteristics. Dr. Ferria commented that the goal is to establish safe and appropriate circumstances for licensees to request early termination.

Dr. Krahn commented that there will always need to be adjudication based of the individual characteristics however; being aware of the data available and factors that should be considered will assist in the adjudication.

I. DISCUSSION REGARDING CURRENT STATUS OF MONITORING CONTRACTS

Ms. McSorley reported that monitoring contracts may be extended at yearly intervals and the two current contracts have been renewed.

Ms. McSorley reported that the State Procurement Office has agreed to add monitors to the approved list of contractors on an individual basis.

J. DISCUSSION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETING

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dr. Farmer moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: PA Whitfield.

The following Committee members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Krahn, Dr. Farmer and PA Whitfield.

The following Committee member was absent: Ms. Bain.

VOTE: 3-yay, 0-nay, 0-abstain, 0-recuse, 1-absent.

MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.



Patricia E. McSorley
Patricia E. McSorley, Executive Director