



## Arizona Medical Board

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### FINAL MINUTES FOR THE PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROGRAM COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE Held via Zoom, on Thursday, March 9, 2023 1740 W. Adams St, Board Room 4100, Phoenix, AZ 85007

#### **Committee Members**

Lois E. Krahn, M.D., Chair

Jodi A. Bain, Esq.

R. Screven Farmer, M.D.

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Krahn called the Committee's meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

#### **B. ROLL CALL**

The following Committee members participated in the virtual meeting: Dr. Krahn, Ms. Bain and Dr. Farmer.

#### **ALSO PRESENT**

The following Board staff participated in the virtual meeting: Patricia McSorley, Executive Director; Raquel Rivera, Investigations Manager; Erinn Downey, PHP Manager; and Heather Foster, Board Operations. Elizabeth Campbell, AAG also participated virtually.

#### **C. GENERAL CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Dr. Monica Faria addressed the Committee regarding having recent PHP participants becoming mentors to new participants in the PHP program to help with accountability.

#### **D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- March 15, 2021 Physician Health Program Committee Meeting

**MOTION:** Dr. Farmer moved for the Committee to approve the March 15, 2021 PHP Committee Meeting minutes.

**SECOND:** Dr. Krahn.

**VOTE:** The following Committee members voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Krahn and Dr. Farmer. The following Committee members voted to abstain: Ms. Bain.

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

**MOTION PASSED**

#### **E. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE ADDITION OF NEW MONITORS.**

Ms. McSorley discussed adding new monitors to the PHP list as this is the perfect time to start getting a solicitation together. The current contracts will end in July 2023. Ms. McSorley noted that there are two potential monitors, Dr. Faria and Dr. Keene, at this time.

#### **F. UPDATE REGARDING THE ADMINISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE MONITORING PROGRAM AND FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS.**

Ms. Downey provided the Committee with the stats for the current participants. There are 102 participants. Ms. Downey noted that the information was not separated out between MDs and PAs. There are 11 participants that are living in other states in which they have the program, and the other state is providing the Board with compliance reports. The other 91 participants are enrolled with one of the two PHP contracted monitors in Arizona. Community Bridges has 53 participants and Gate Way has 38. Ms. Downey informed the Committee that there are 7 PHP assessors. Participating assessors provided survey results for the Committee's review.

Dr. Krahn clarified that the survey is a voluntary and provided to the participants when they have completed the PHP program, therefore the data set is small.

Dr. Farmer requested the percentage of participants who respond to the survey, since it's on voluntary basis.

Ms. Downey stated that she would provide the information at the next PHP meeting.

Ms. Bain inquired about the need for more monitors.

Dr. Krahn explained that more monitors support the Board's goal to offer diversity so that participants have a choice of who they're working with and who best fit their needs.

Ms. Rivera informed the Committee of how crucial monitoring is for the Board's PHP and noted that the quality of a person's ability to move past these PHP issues depends on the quality of monitoring that they're getting. Allowing for more monitors will allow the licensee to choose a professional that meets their needs and ensure that the monitor continues to support the licensee with great quality care. Ms. Rivera stated additional monitors will benefit for everyone.

Dr. Krahn noted that an initial concern was that there would be too few participants per monitor but opined that allowing additional monitors allows for a highly personalized program where the monitor really knows exactly what is happening with the participant.

## G. TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETING.

The Committee discussed agendaizing the following topics at a future meeting:

- Recent PHP participants becoming a monitor with mentoring
- Maintaining confidentiality and disclosures of SRAs while still meeting statutory requirements
- Public disciplinary agreements resulting in insurance companies taking action
- Discussion of proposed bill that could eliminate confidential monitoring
- Potential challenges PHP participants have finding a therapist
- Early termination of Board Orders
- Opportunity to submit for more PHP contractors.
- Discussion regarding physicians who are on Buprenorphine for recovery

Dr. Krahn requested the next PHP meeting be scheduled within a month or two.

## H. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION: Ms. Bain moved for the Committee to adjourn.**

**SECOND: Dr. Farmer**

**VOTE: The following Committee member voted in favor of the motion: Dr. Krahn, Ms. Bain, and Dr. Farmer.**

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

**MOTION PASSED**

The Committee's meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia E. McSorley".

Patricia E. McSorley, Executive Director