



Arizona Medical Board

9545 East Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona 85258

Home Page: <http://www.azmd.gov>

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 January 17, 2017 9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road • Scottsdale, Arizona

Committee Members

Lois E. Krahn, Chair

Jodi A. Bain, Esq.

R. Screven Farmer, M.D.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Krahn called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Board members participated telephonically: Dr. Krahn, Ms. Bain and Dr. Farmer.

ALSO PRESENT

Present among Board staff include: Carrie Smith, Assistant Attorney General ("AAG"); Patricia E. McSorley, Executive Director; Kristina Fredericksen, Deputy Director; Danielle Steger, Physician Health Program Coordinator; Mary Bober, Board Operations Manager; and Michelle Robles, Board Coordinator.

C. REVIEW DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Chairwoman Krahn requested that Staff report regarding the types of reported incidents that can lead to a Confidential Interim Order from the Executive Director to have a licensee undergo a PHP assessment.

Board staff explained that the most common triggers that require a licensee to undergo an assessment are notifications from a hospital regarding work site impairment, or a DUI. Board staff noted that most licensees understand the need for the Board to protect the public and for the licensee to get help. However, some participants have expressed negatively about the process and associated fees.

Chairwoman Krahn noted that state law requires a licensee who is charged with a DUI to report this incident to the Board in a specific period of time however, not all state agencies require an assessment for a first-time DUI. Dr. Farmer noted that the Arizona threshold for a DUI is quite low; however this does not indicate that there is a risk to patients.

Board staff confirmed that the current policy requires all licensees with a recent DUI to be sent for an assessment.

Committee members discussed the benefit of allowing physicians to have some choice regarding which health professional they will go to for an assessment. Committee members also discussed a proposed template for all assessment providers to use to increase consistency, accountability and timely reports.

Committee members discussed potential credential requirements for assessors, including Board certification in psychiatry and/or addiction medicine psychiatry and an Arizona medical license with no disciplinary history.

Ms. McSorley explained that these contracts are not governed by State Procurement rules because the physicians pay the assessors directly for them.

MOTION: Dr. Farmer moved to direct Board staff to develop a list of potential new assessors for the PHP process.

SECOND: Dr. Krahn.

Chairwoman Krahn suggested that the committee members meet with potential assessors. Committee members discussed limiting potential assessor applicants to those who have held a medical license for a minimum of five years and are Board certified in psychiatry as primary specialty, not addiction medicine.

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

MOTION PASSED.

Ms. McSorley suggested eliminating the requirement for an assessment when there is a first time DUI for cases where there are no aggravating factors, provided that the DUIs are timely reported to the Board. Ms. McSorley opined that if hospital reports impairment in the workplace where patient health care is being provided, an assessment needs to be mandatory. Chairwoman Krahn discussed the need for consistency in the process.

Ms. McSorley noted that this policy change can be sent out to licensees and Board staff is working on a newsletter to communicate with licensees, and/or the policy change could be placed on the Board's website.

Chairwoman Krahn proposed putting the current policy on the AMB February 1, 2017 Regular session meeting agenda to discuss what should require a mandatory assessment and take action on changing the current policy. Chairwoman Krahn set a goal of having a longer list of assessors by the April agenda.

D. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MONITORING AND FEES

E. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROGRAM (PHP) OPTIONS

F. DISCUSSION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETING

Chairwoman Krahn deferred agenda items D and E for the next committee meeting.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.



Patricia E. McSorley
Patricia E. McSorley, Executive Director