



Arizona Medical Board

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FINAL MINUTES FOR THE PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROGRAM COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE Held on Thursday, February 23, 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 4:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

The following Board member was present: Dr. Krahn. The following Board members participated telephonically: 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Dr. Farmer moved to approve the January 17, 2017 Physician Health Program Committee Meeting minutes.

SECOND: Ms. Bain.

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

MOTION PASSED.

D. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Chairwoman Krahn summarized the Committee's consensus what an assessment should include, who should perform assessments and how public safety can be protecting while providing the licensees a choice regarding the assessment process.

Ms. McSorley reported that she has spoken with the State Procurement Office and will work with Ms. Qwan to identify providers who will meet the Board's requirements for the assessment. Ms. McSorley reported that they will meet next week and she will provide the Committee with updates.

Chairwoman Krahn reported that Board staff has created a template for providers to use to minimize inconsistencies between different providers.

E. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IMPAIRMENT CHECKLIST

Chairwoman Krahn discussed how DUIs are used as a way to identify physicians who might be at risk for having a substance abuse or dependency problem. Dr. Krahn noted that medical employers or practice are typically the

one who notifies the Board of a concern. Dr. Krahn explained that if there is suspicion of a licensee being impaired on the job this checklist can be used by a provider to establish if there may be a problem and use the checklist to provide the Board with some initial background when making a complaint.

Chairwoman Krahn opined that providing different mechanisms to help providers establish impairment would be useful. The revised DUI policy before the Board for consideration would state that an initial, uncomplicated DUI does not need to automatically qualify a licensee for an assessment but would be maintained by the Board for tracking purposes.

Dr. Krahn clarified that this checklist addresses visible signs of impairment and distress while the assessment would be an in-depth look into the licensee's substance use.

Committee members explained that the Board needs to continue to explore best practices being used across other medical boards or industries and adopt them to ensure licensees receive treatment until they are able to practice safely.

Chairwoman Krahn proposed to implement this checklist as a staff process and in a year evaluate the effects. Chairwoman Krahn mentioned a future goal of establishing a teaching mechanism to educate hospitals and providers what to look for.

F. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CREATION OF AN EXTERNAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE AMB PHYSICIAN HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairwoman Krahn explained that due to concerns expressed by both the public and physicians, creating an external advisory council would allow the Board to hear from the community and licensees about the physician health process. The committee could consist of public members, past PHP participants and family members of PHP participants in a purely volunteer capacity. Active licensees in the PHP program would not be allowed to participate.

In response to a question from a Committee member, Ms. Smith clarified that members of the public could not be privy to investigational and confidential information but there could be procedures such as an informational portal where individuals could submit statements or complaints with the understanding that the information and comments would not trigger a board investigation but would be used specifically for the committee.

Chairwoman Krahn noted that those who are dissatisfied tend to have a louder voice than those who are happy and this should be kept in mind when utilizing the data and information from this committee. She proposed that the committee could be set to be run for a set, short period of time, after which continuation of the committee could be reassessed.

Chairwoman Krahn explained that she will work on a proposal for the committee's review before taking it to the full board for consideration. Committee members discussed creating parameters for the selection and eligibility of members.

MOTION: Dr. Farmer moved for Dr. Krahn to develop a proposal for the External Advisory Council for PHP in order to bring it to the full Board.

SECOND: Ms. Bain.

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

MOTION PASSED.

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

Chairwoman Krahn explained that once a physician has completed treatment the physician would be monitored for a period of time, typically two to five years. Due to the contract being up for renewal at the end of the year consideration needs to be made for establishing the Board's monitoring program requirements and providing more program options to meet participants' needs while maintaining program continuity.

Committee members discussed that the Board does not have the resources for staff to conduct participant monitoring. Ms. Steger noted that not all monitoring is conducted through Greenberg and Sucher and explained the various avenues that the Board currently utilizes.

Ms. McSorley suggested sending a State Procurement Office Request for Information ("RFI") to solicit interested provider responses. Ms. Bain suggested having a timeline and structure of what is being required from them with the RFI.

Chairwoman Krahn suggested creating a template of what is currently being offered in our monitoring program and what is desired of an optimal monitoring program and create some guidelines before taking it to the full Board. Chairwoman Krahn suggested working with Greenberg and Sucher to establish what is working for them and what a future provider would need to utilize.

Ms. McSorley noted that Ms. Steger will be attending the Federation of State Physician Health Programs and will report any information to the Committee.

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

I. DISCUSSION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETING

Chairwoman Krahn advised Board staff to schedule the next meeting for March to discuss the proposal for the Advisory Council and the monitoring program template so that the Committee can discuss it at the full Board meeting in April.

J. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Dr. Farmer moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Ms. Bain.

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

MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40.m.




Patricia E. McSorley, Executive Director