



Arizona Medical Board

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FINAL MINUTES FOR THE PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROGRAM COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE Held on Tuesday, February 27, 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 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

ALSO PRESENT

Present among Board staff include: Carrie Smith, Assistant Attorney General ("AAG"); Patricia E. McSorley, Executive Director; Kristina Frederickson, Deputy Director, Raquel Rivera, Investigations Manager; Kathleen Muller, Compliance Officer; Mary Bober, Board Operations Manager; and Michelle Robles, Board Coordinator.

C. GENERAL CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No individuals addressed the Committee during the Call to the Public.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Dr. Farmer moved to approve the October 23, 2017 Physician Health Program Committee Meeting and the November 2, 2017 Physician Health Program Committee Meeting minutes.

SECOND: Ms. Bain.

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

MOTION PASSED.

E. UPDATE ON THE MEETING WITH PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROGRAM (PHP) CONTRACTORS HELD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2018

Ms. McSorley reported that a meeting was held with the two contractors to discuss issues related to ensuring consistency between the two programs. Both contractors are using the same subcontractors for the lab and random testing unless different panels are required. Ms. McSorley noted that the individual monitor will determine if relapse prevention group is necessary for participants. There will be scheduled meetings throughout the year to ensure continued communication with the contractors.

F. UPDATE ON PHP MONITORING

- Assessor's ability to act as a monitor if chosen by the licensee
Dr. Krahn opined that as long as there is a choice and the option to switch providers in the future there is no reason not to allow the assessor to continue as the monitor. Dr. Krahn noted that the assessment is the first step to treatment and the licensee should have the option to continue with monitoring.
- Licensee's ability to switch monitors if a balance is due to one of the Contractors

Committee members agreed that there needs to be a mechanism in place to ensure that licensees pay their balance but it should not restrict a licensee from switching providers. Ms. McSorley noted that in the consent agreement that the participants enter into there is language that requires the licensee to pay the contractor. Dr. Krahn commented that in the event that the licensee does not meet their fee obligations the Board can take action. Ms. Rivera confirmed that in the event of a violation of a Board Order there would be an investigation.

Dr. Krahn commented that in every recovery program there will be ups and downs and to prevent switching providers prematurely there should be a limit. Dr. Krahn suggested allowing participants two changes on an annual basis. This limit meets the needs of participants on the two year abuse track and the five year dependence track. Dr. Krahn suggested that in the event the licensee switches from Monitor A to Monitor B and then wants to switch back to Monitor A, the initial monitor should have the right to accept or decline the licensee.

- Determine the frequency of reports to the PHP of participant exit interview data
Dr. Krahn requested that the exit interview be modified to disclose which monitor the participant was with. Ms. Rivera reported that since October 2017, 15 participants have terminated monitoring and only 5 surveys have been completed. Dr. Krahn suggested reviewing exit interview surveys every six months going forward.
- Consideration of participant satisfaction surveys during PHP participation
Dr. Krahn suggested reaching out to the participants on an annual basis to address issues during treatment instead of just at the end of treatment. Dr. Krahn recommended utilizing the same survey and mechanism as the exit interviews to ensure that the participants' privacy is protected. Dr. Krahn suggested having the annual survey sent out in October in order to provide time to review the responses prior to the contract deadline.

G. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVED PHP ASSESSORS

- Requirements to become a Board approved assessor
Committee members agreed that an approved assessor must have no Board history of discipline and is Board certified in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry or forensic psychiatry. In the event that an assessor is not Board certified they must have at least five years of clinical experience and must be approved by the Board's Chief Medical Consultant. Dr. Krahn suggested putting a statement on the website for possible assessors to contact the Board for consideration. Dr. Krahn commented that the Board does not regulate assessors' costs but should list the choices available to the licensee.

Ms. McSorley assured the Committee that Board staff will confirm costs with all assessors before a final list is provided to licensees and posted to the Board's website.

H. DISCUSSION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETING

I. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Bain moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Dr. Krahn.

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

MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 6:31p.m.




Patricia E. McSorley, Executive Director