

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (ADPH)  
ALABAMA MEDICAL DIRECTORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JULY 26, 2019

Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort  
Miramar Beach, Florida

Board of Directors Present

Steve Furr, M.D., Board Chairman  
Sally Ebaugh, M.D., C.M.D., President  
Robert Webb, M.D., President-Elect  
Charles Nevels, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer  
Greg Flippo, M.D.  
Boyde J. Harrison, M.D.  
Kevin Jackson, M.D.  
William Lee, M.D.  
Bernita Mims, M.D.  
Dick Owens, M.D.  
Kendra Sheppard, M.D.  
George Sutton, M.D.  
Charlotte Wynn, C.R.N.P.  
James Yates, M.D.

Board of Directors Absent

Joel Bolen, M.D.  
Anne Halli-Tierney, M.D.

Staff Present

Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H., State Health Officer  
John Wagner, III, M.D., Medical Director, Health Provider Standards (HPS)  
Dennis Blair, Director, HPS  
Mia Sadler, State Program Director, HPS  
Lisa Pezent, Long Term Care Unit Director, HPS  
Diane Mann, Training Unit Director, HPS

Medical Directors Present

Clare Hays, M.D.  
Chris Layton, M.D.  
Donald Marshall, M.D.  
David McRae, M.D.  
Wesley Smith, M.D.

Guests Present

Bill O'Connor, President and C.E.O., Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA)  
Katrina Magdon, Director of Professional Development and Regulatory Affairs, ANHA  
John Matson, Director of Communications, ANHA  
Jim Davis, M.D.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2019:**

The Committee recommended approval of the Minutes of January 26, 2019, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

**OUTBREAK OF HEPATITIS A UPDATE (EXHIBIT "A"):**

Dr. Scott Harris provided an update on the current outbreak of hepatitis A in the state of Alabama as well as nationally. Most of the patients have been substance users and incarcerated, which are both very difficult patients to reach and immunize. The outbreak started in Alabama in September 2018 with over 100 cases in Jackson and DeKalb counties and has moved down I-59. Dr. Harris stated that ADPH had been immunizing people in homeless shelters, substance abuse treatment centers, and jails, and would probably continue for another year, based on other states.

**APLISOL® SHORTAGE (EXHIBIT "B"):**

Dr. Harris and Dr. John Wagner provided an update on the APLISOL® shortage for tuberculosis screening. There have been reports from facilities that there is also a shortage of TUBERSOL®, which is the substitute suggested for APLISOL®.

**DEMENTIA CARE AND ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUGS (EXHIBITS "C", "D", "E", and "F"):**

Dr. Jim Davis began the discussion on antipsychotic drugs. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has increased the focus on these drugs and its goal is to have a 15 percent reduction rate of antipsychotic drugs in nursing homes. ADPH sent letters to 30 nursing homes requesting that they reduce the use of these drugs in their facilities. State surveyors are currently looking at this more closely.

**FINAL RULE ON ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS (EXHIBIT "G"):**

Ms. Mia Sadler informed the Committee that the final rule on arbitration would become effective September 16, 2019. The rule states that if a facility chose to use an arbitration agreement, there were certain requirements that would need to be met as listed in the handout.

**PROPOSED RULES ON LONG TERM CARE REQUIREMENTS OF PARTICIPATION  
(EXHIBIT “H”):**

The proposal to change the requirements of participation for Long Term Care (mostly Phase 3 requirements) will be effective at the end of 2019. The two requirements that ADPH is most concerned with are residents and residents’ representatives knowing how to contact their physician and changes to “as needed” use of antipsychotics. CMS will accept comments until September 16, 2019.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 25, 2020.

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Sally Ebaugh, M.D., C.M.D., President  
Alabama Medical Directors Association

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John Wagner, III, M.D., HPS Medical Director  
Alabama Department of Public Health