

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
PALLIATIVE CARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE
August 11, 2017**

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
The RSA Tower, Suite 1586
Montgomery, Alabama

Members Present

Rodney O. Tucker, M.D., Chairman
Karen Marlowe, Pharm.D, Co-Chair
Jimel LeShun Gibbs, M.S.N.
John G. Beard, M.B.A.
Stormy Dismuke, M.S.N.
Kristi A. Acker, D.N.P.
Mary Ann Somers, M.A.Ed.
Richard J. Brockman, J.D.

Members Absent

Peter Czapla, M.S.H.R.M.
Timothy Mayhall, M.Div.
Beth Caine, M.B.A.

Staff Present

Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H., Acting State Health Officer
Walter T. Geary, Jr., M.D., Assistant State Health Officer for Regulatory Affairs
Dennis Blair, Director
Carter Sims, R.N.
Diane A. Mann
LaKesha E. Hopkins, M.S.H.R.M.

Guests

Susan P. Alverson, D.P.A., M.H.P., R.Ph, Alabama Board of Pharmacy
Gregory W. Ayers, M.D., Alabama Board of Medical Examiners
Melissa Tompkins

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2017:

The Council recommended approval of the Minutes of May 12, 2017, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Dr. Tucker introduced the new member of the Council, Jimel LeShun Gibbs. She is a nurse practitioner and has worked in the pediatric field for over ten years. Ms. Gibbs will be representing pediatric palliative care.

DISCUSSION OF ISSUES WITH CONTROLLED MEDICATION:

Dr. Alverson and Dr. Ayers lead a discussion on controlled medications and the effects have on Alabama and the country as a whole. Dr. Alverson pointed out some of the issues that have been interfered with patients obtaining medications.

Dr. Ayers stated that Alabama has the highest level of prescription opioid use in the nation, and the BME has been working on ways to overcome this crisis. He stated that pharmacies, drug manufacturers, providers, and patients all play a key role in working to contain these medications. There would be reasonable restrictions placed on the state; hospices would be exempt from these restrictions. Doctors would be educated on prescribing risks and abuse strategies to deter those who over prescribe. He also stated that the BME is targeting unethical doctors and there are many other ideas being pondered over to decrease the opioid addiction.

Dr. Harris stated that Governor Ivey signed an executive order on Monday, August 7, 2017, to recreate the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council. The Council would be very diverse and members on this Council may be appointed to serve. He went on to state that they would appreciate input from this Council.

Karen Marlowe suggested a 24/7 or five day a week drop point for individuals to unused medications. Dr. Alverson stated that Walgreen's already has this service in some of their pharmacies. Dr. Marlowe also pointed that there are huge education issues regarding this crisis.

Stormy Dismuke stated that in north Alabama over the past one or two years, there has been a lot of inappropriate enrollment in hospice because of pain management. It was noticed that physicians are discontinuing the practice of following their patients until death because they do not want to write the prescriptions for the terminally ill. The consensus of the meeting was that individuals (prescribers, patients, etc.) should be educated on the proper use and discarding practices for opioids.

POSTER PRESENTATION:

Kristi Acker stated that she had been working on the poster presentation and had received feedback from the Council on ideas of information that could be included on the presentation. She

requested that Council email her the impact that the Council has made on the state. She also requested that anything that had been done outside of the Council in reference to palliative care be emailed to her by the deadline provided. Ms. Acker stated that the presentation would be sent to all members for review.

DO NOT ATTEMPT RESUSCITATION (DNAR) FORM IN SPANISH; SURROGATE DECISION MAKER ISSUES (EXHIBITS "A & B") :

Dr. Geary informed the Council that the DNAR form (Exhibit "A") is now available in Spanish and accessible through the ADPH website. The Certification of Health Care Decision Surrogate form (Exhibit "B") is also accessible through the ADPH website. However, the surrogate decision maker rule and form would need to be amended to include that the surrogate should be authorized to make standard health care and other important decisions. Also, there may be potential modifications made to the age and a nonrelative selection may be added. He discussed the changes and gave the Council a copy of the amended rule and form.

CHRONIC CARE MANAGEMENT (CCM) AS A POSSIBLE PAYMENT SOURCE FOR OFFICE-BASED PALLIATIVE CARE (EXHIBIT "C"):

Dr. Geary distributed a handout on CCM services, *What is CCM?* (Exhibit "C") He stated that the Council should educate primary care physicians on how to utilize CCM for palliative care to provide better quality of care to patients and provided the following web addresses for additional information:

1. Connected Care website, go.cms.gov/ccm
2. Health Care Professional Toolkit, <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/Downloads/Connected-Care-HCP-Toolkit-508.pdf>.

The Council discussed following up on this and having a guest speaker on the topic at a later meeting.

MEMBER DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES:

Dr. Tucker stated that he would like to invite Mary Ann Crow to a future meeting to provide an update on the Natural Death Act.

Dr. Geary informed the Council that this would be the last meeting of which he would be in attendance. He will be retiring from ADPH on October 1, 2017.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The Council was informed that the date of the next meeting is Friday, November 17, 2017.

SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS:

The Council was informed that the meetings for 2018 will be scheduled at the next meeting.

Rodney O. Tucker, M.D., M.M.M., Chairman
State Advisory Council on Palliative Care and Quality of Life

Walter T. Geary, Jr., M.D.
Assistant State Health Officer for Regulatory Affairs
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