

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PALLIATIVE CARE  
AND QUALITY OF LIFE  
February 10, 2017**

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

**Members Present**

Rodney O. Tucker, M.D., M.M.M., Chairman  
Kristi A. Acker, D.N.P., A.C.H.P.N. (via  
Conference Call)  
Mary Ann Somers  
Pamela Chandler (Proxy for Mary Ann Somers)  
Allison Glassco (Proxy for Stormy Dismuke)  
Timothy Mayhall, M.Div., B.C.C. (Proxy for  
James R. Williams)

**Members Absent**

Karen Marlowe, Pharm.D., B.C.P.S.,  
C.P.E., Co-Chair  
Beth Caine  
Peter Czaplá  
Stormy Dismuke, R.N., M.S.N., C.R.N.P.  
John G. Beard, M.B.A., J.D.  
Richard J. Brockman, J.D.  
James R. Williams, D., Min., B.C.C.

**Staff Present**

Walter T. Geary, Jr., M.D., Assistant State Health Officer for Regulatory Affairs  
Carter Sims, R.N., Health Provider Standards  
Diane A. Mann, B.S., Health Provider Standards  
LaKesha Hopkins, M.S.H.R.M., Health Provider Standards

**Guests**

Monica Williams-Murphy, M.D.  
Rene Hoover

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2016 (EXHIBIT “A”):**

Dr. Tucker called the meeting to order. There was not a quorum present for approval of the Minutes of December 2, 2016. Therefore, Dr. Tucker tabled the approval until the next meeting.

**REPORT ON THE PALLIATIVE CARE PRESENTATION TO THE CMS REGION 4 STATE SURVEY AGENCY DIRECTORS AND REGIONAL STAFF BY MS. ACKER AT POINT CLEAR, AL:**

Dr. Geary informed the Council that Ms. Kristi Acker received accolades for her presentation at the State Survey Agency Directors meeting that was held in Point Clear, AL, at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort. Dr. Geary mentioned that many attendees at the meeting stated that Ms. Acker gave the best overall description of the function of palliative care that they had ever heard. The agency directors of Florida asked Ms. Acker to speak at their next joint meeting. Dr. Tucker added that he appreciated Ms. Acker’s participation.

**DNAR Q & A SHEET AND POWERPOINT DISCUSSION (EXHIBITS “B & C”):**

Dr. Geary presented a PowerPoint presentation discussing the new DNAR form. This is a statute and not a rule. Surveyors will not cite the form. This form does replace the older Emergency Medical Services DNAR Form. Dr. Tucker asked if UAB could use the presentation for educational purposes. It was also suggested that it be placed on the department’s website. Dr. Tucker asked if it should be recommended that some type of physician’s identification be on the form. After discussion, it was suggested that the department consider having a place for the physician’s license number to be placed on the form.

**INTRODUCTION OF RENE HOOVER AND DISCUSSION OF PEDIATRIC DNAR EFFORT (EXHIBIT “D”):**

Dr. Geary introduced Dr. Monica Williams-Murphy and Rene Hoover, who are former guests of the TV show *The Doctors*. Ms. Hoover spoke about the issues she has faced in caring for her terminally ill son. Ms. Hoover explained how she was unable to take her son,

Alex, to school because the school board would not allow him to attend due to his terminal condition. She also discussed meeting and informing Dr. Monica Williams-Murphy of the situation and they together came up with the realization that there is a need for a portable DNAR form for children. Therefore, Dr. Williams-Murphy is currently working on legislative approval for the Alabama Portable Medical Orders for Minors (APMOM). This form is to support medical orders for minors outside of the healthcare setting because once minors leave a hospital setting, they have no legal coverage. Ms. Hoover and Dr. Williams-Murphy were informed before the meeting that there was enough interest in a bill for it to be supported by the legislature.

**NURSING HOME: PALLIATIVE CARE EFFORTS:**

It was decided that this topic will be discussed at the next meeting, Friday, May 12, 2017.

**ADDITIONAL MEMBER DISCUSSION (EXHIBIT “E”):**

Dr. Geary discussed a bill being introduced in the US Congress to end Medicare reimbursement for end-of-life counseling.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The Council was informed that the date of the next meeting is Friday, May 12, 2017.

**SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS:**

The upcoming meetings for 2017 will be as follows:

**Friday, August 11, 2017;** and

**Friday, November 17, 2017.**

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

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Walter T. Geary, Jr., M.D.  
Assistant State Health Officer for Regulatory Affairs  
Medical Consultant  
Health Provider Standards  
Alabama Department of Public Health