

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PALLIATIVE  
CARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE  
May 12, 2017**

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

**Members Present**

Rodney O. Tucker, MD, MMM, Chairman  
Kristi A. Acker, DNP, FNP-BC, AOCNP, ACHPN, Co-Chair  
John G. Beard, MBA, JD  
Beth Caine, MSHA, MBA  
Stormy Dismuke, RN, BSN, MSN, NP-C  
Karen Marlowe, PharmD, BCPS, CPE  
Mary Ann Somers, MAEd  
Timothy Mayhall, MDiv, BCC (Proxy, James Williams)  
Angie Cameron Smith, JD (Proxy, Richard Brockman)

**Members Absent**

Richard J. Brockman, JD  
Peter Czapla, MSHRM  
James Williams, DMin, BCC

**Staff Present**

Walter T. Geary, Jr, MD, Assistant State Health Officer for Regulatory Affairs  
Carter Sims, RN, Health Provider Standards  
Diane A. Mann, BS, Health Provider Standards  
LaKesha E. Hopkins, MSHRM, Health Provider Standards

**Guests**

Stefano Mugnaini, MDiv

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2017 (EXHIBIT "A"):**

The Council recommended approval of the Minutes of December 2, 2016, and the Minutes of February 10, 2017, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

**DECISION ON A HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE CHAPLAIN REPLACEMENT FOR JAMES WILLIAMS:**

James Williams, D.Min., B.C.C., has retired and will no longer be serving on the Council. Dr. Karen Marlowe nominated Timothy B. Mayhall, M.Div., B.C.C., Director of Spiritual Care at Southeast Alabama Medical Center, who was Dr. Williams' proxy, as his replacement. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mayhall introduced a guest to the Council, Stefano Mugnaini, M.Div., Chaplain of Children's of Alabama Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Mr Mayhall indicated that Mr. Mugnaini has experience with pediatric palliative care; has accepted the offer to serve as his proxy; and would be a wonderful asset to the Council.

**REVIEW OF THE CURRENT ADVANCE DIRECTIVE VIDEOS:**

Dr. Geary suggested that the Council ask Dr. Monica Williams-Murphy, M.D. to be the spokesperson on the Portable Physician Do Not Resuscitate videos that the department is making about the Do Not Resuscitate Order, rather than him. He also stated that the video script would be created and distributed to the Council for review.

Dr. Tucker asked that Dr. Murphy be contacted to see if she will be willing to participate in the video and that the script be approved by the next meeting in August.

**REVIEW OF THE PEDIATRIC HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE GUIDELINES FROM THE BRITISH NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (EXHIBIT "B"):**

Dr. Geary distributed a handout, *End of Life Care for Infants, Children and Young People With Life-Limiting Conditions: Planning and Management*. He informed the Council that one of the most interesting things mentioned in this article is how they spend a great deal of time involving the child in the decision making process, which is very important. Dr. Geary went on to state that this article may be a helpful resource for the task force that the governor is going to appoint to work with the Department of

Public Health, the Department of Education, and the Board of Nursing to create the various rules and regulations that discuss care in the schools, care outside the schools, and the actual final Pediatric DNAR Bill itself.

**REVIEW OF THE (SEMI) FINAL PEDIATRIC DNAR BILL (EXHIBIT "C"):**

Dr. Geary distributed a draft of the Final Pediatric DNAR Bill for the Council to review. The bill has passed the House (unanimously) and is in the hands of the Senate. He informed the Council that the previous draft was modified and the paragraph in Section 5, page 17, has been extracted because the trial lawyers rejected it. It now states that "the task force shall provide an annual report to the legislature no later than 15th legislative day of the regular session and the appointed authority shall coordinate their appointments to ensure that the task force membership is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, economic diversity of the state." Therefore, Dr. Geary stated, there will be a need for a member of this Council to be appointed by that organization to serve on the task force assembled to produce the final draft of the bill.

Dr. Tucker stated that the Council needs to strategically think about a gap that the representative from the Council could fill on the task force. Dr. Geary suggested that the representative be chosen via email vote and Dr. Tucker stated that the Council will do so. Continued discussion brought the members to an agreement that there is a need for hospice and pharmacy representation. Dr. Tucker then suggested that Stormy Dismuke be the representative from the Council and Dr. Marlowe could serve as her alternate. Dr. Marlowe stated that she agrees that there are some concerning issues coming down the pike about limits on opioids that are going to surface within the next 12-18 months. She went on to state that she would be more than happy to help if pharmacy or drug administration issues come to surface.

**ADDITIONAL MEMBER DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Tucker stated that there is really no pediatric or young adult provider representation on this Council. He went on to state that the Council may need to consider having one and asked if they feel there are other constituencies that are not being represented. Dr. Geary stated that there are no other

ethnic and geographic groups currently represented on the Council and there should be. He went on to state that getting those representatives would give the Council more credibility within the community.

Dr. Tucker stated that the Council can have more than one Patient and Family Caregiver Representative. Dr. Tucker stated that he would follow up with pediatric care providers and he asked that the other members email their nominations of the individuals they have in mind to be added to the Council. Angie Cameron Smith made a motion that over the next 90 days the Council will seek to broaden its membership to include an additional Patient and Family Caregiver Representative and someone in the practice of pediatric care (nurse or physician). The Council voted and the motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Geary discussed his retirement and that his role on the Council will be assumed by Dennis Blair, Director of Health Provider Standards starting with the November 17, 2017 meeting.

The Council discussed having the Alabama Portable Physician Do Not Attempt Resuscitation Order and the Certification of Health Care Decision Surrogate forms more accessible from the Palliative Care web page. Dr. Geary agreed and stated he will request that there be a link titled "Forms" on the page that will lead to those forms.

Dr. Geary informed the Council that Ms. Hattie Bryant has been unsuccessful in her efforts to get a grant to have her book distributed to everyone in the nursing homes in Alabama. Dr. Tucker informed the Council that she is now producing three 20-minute videos for the nursing homes, after a suggestion that individuals would be more receptive to her videos rather than her book. He went on to state that she has, however, condensed her book to 56 pages and it is more focused towards the worksheet and he wants to see if there is a way to link her to the Council.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The Council was informed that the date of the next meeting is Friday, August 11, 2017.

**SUBSEQUENT MEETING:**

The last meeting for 2017 will be as follows:

**Friday, November 17, 2017**

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

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Walter T. Geary, Jr, MD  
Assistant State Health Officer for Regulatory Affairs  
Medical Consultant  
Health Provider Standards  
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