

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (ADPH)
ALABAMA MEDICAL DIRECTORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Birmingham, AL
JANUARY 29, 2022**

ALMDA Board of Directors Present

Sally Ebaugh, M.D., Board Chairnan
Charles Nevels, M.D., President-Elect
David Rhyne, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer

ALMDA Board Members Present

Jerry Harrison, M.D.
James Yates, M.D.
George Sutton, M.D.
Charlotte Wynn, M.D.
George Smith, M.D.
James Donald, M.D.
Greg Flippo, M.D.
Julia Booth, M.D.
Shane Lee, M.D.

Staff Present (Via Zoom)

Mary McIntyre, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Medical Officer
Denise Milledge, Acting Bureau Director, BHPS
Lisa Pezent, Acting State Program Director, BHPS
Patricia Watson, State Program Director, BHPS
Diane Mann, Training Unit Director, BHPS
KielTa Montgomery, Office Manager, BHPS

Guests Present

Brandon Farmer, ANHA
Katrina Magdon, ANHA
SalLee Sasser-Williams, ANHA
Richard Brockman, JD, ANHA
Meghan Martin, ALMDA

Welcome

Dr. Mary McIntyre welcomed everyone and asked Denise Milledge and Lisa Pezent to introduce themselves, as well as the Bureau of Health Provider Standards (BHPS) staff. Ms. Pezent stated that she had been with the department for 27 years. She said the department is very near and dear to her heart and wished everyone the best of luck. Ms. Pezent will retire on February 1, 2022.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2021

The Committee recommended approval of the minutes of July 22, 2021, as distributed.

COVID-19 UPDATES AND VACCINATIONS

Dr. McIntyre explained data from a chart on COVID-19 that contained information from January 17-23, 2022. The chart revealed resident count, staff count, confirmed cases, and vaccine breakthrough cases. Many people are using home tests, but those numbers are not being reported currently. There were 11,174 positive cases during this time frame. On January 21, 2022, there was a 46 percent positivity rate. In a four-day period, there were 51,000 positive cases. Many children and pregnant women are being hospitalized. Some are on ventilators and unvaccinated. Some individuals have had COVID-19 up to three times. On January 28, 2022, seven children were hospitalized, with two of them having to be put on ventilators. Less than 12 percent of children ages 5-11 have been vaccinated. Less than 50 percent of people ages 50 and below are vaccinated. This is very serious. People should wear a mask whether they are vaccinated or not. Dr. McIntyre added how important it is to be vaccinated and to receive all of the booster doses.

MEMBER DISCUSSION

Dr. James Yates asked if the mandate rule is stating that an N95 mask must be worn when working in the nursing home. Dr. McIntyre stated that she was not aware of this. Ms. Pezent agreed with Dr. McIntyre. She asked Dr. Yates if he could give the department the information for them to review. Dr. Yates replied that this was just information he heard. Dr. McIntyre added that ADPH staff is required to wear masks due to half of its nurses and aides being sick with COVID-19. Dr. McIntyre did respond to Dr. Yates by stating that the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) would investigate his question.


Ms. Katrina Magdon, Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA), asked if a nursing home has everything in place regarding infection control, is it permissible, in lieu of an N95, to wear a KN95. Dr. McIntyre said she would get with BHPS and give a written response to ANHA.

There was a question regarding the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) form where employees are writing numerous excuses as to why they can't wear an

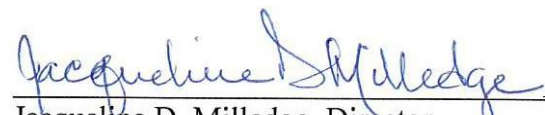
N95 mask. Each form must be signed by the supervisor, notating whether each situation is safe or not. Dr. McIntyre stated that ADPH is working on a timeline with their home health program. The deadline is February 24, 2022; since there will be a vaccine mandate in effect by that date. Everyone is working with different variables. The availability of the vaccine depends on how much is distributed. The distribution of the vaccine is based on not only the population in the United States but the population in Alabama as well. For this reason, relatively healthy people were asked to wait. The supply of the vaccine should go up in April. Dr. McIntyre encouraged the committee to access the ADPH dashboard to see what vaccine is available. The vaccine has a history of going quickly.

ADJOURNED & NEXT MEETING DATE

Dr. McIntyre adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for July 21-24, 2022, at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, 9300 Emerald Coast Parkway W, Miramar Beach, Florida 32550.



Mary McIntyre, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Medical Officer
Alabama Department of Public Health



Jacqueline D. Milledge, Director
Bureau of Health Provider Standards