



Preserving and Protecting the Public's Health

ALABAMA
PUBLIC
HEALTH

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PALLIATIVE CARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE

May 5, 2023

10 a.m.

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
Montgomery, Alabama
Electronic

Members Present

Kristi Acker, D.N.P., Chair
Gregory Ayers, M.D.
John Beard, M.B.A.
Karen Marlowe, Pharm.D., Co-Chair
Richard Brockman, J.D. (proxy- Angie Cameron Smith)
Stormy Dismuke, R.N.
Timothy Mayhall, M.Div.
Sarah Pederson, Ph.D.
Annie Hinson, L.B.S.W.

Members Absent

Mary Ann Somers
Leigh Ann Matthews, R.N.

ADPH Staff

Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H., State Health Officer
Karen M. Landers, M.D., F.A.A.P., Chief Medical Officer
Amber Clark-Brown, M.D., F.A.A.P.M.R., Medical Officer, Bureau of Health Provider Standards (HPS)
Denise Milledge, HPS
Leana "Jo" Rodgers, HPS
Kierra Montgomery, HPS
Brian Hale, General Counsel



Preserving and Protecting the Public's Health

ALABAMA
PUBLIC
HEALTH

Guests Present

Joy Douglas, Ph.D, R.D.N., University of Alabama
Moneka Thompson, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)
Rosemary Blackmon, Alabama Hospital Association
Angie Smith, Alabama Nursing Home Association
Rodney Tucker, M.D., UAB
Sarah Parker, Coalition to Transform Advanced Care

WELCOME

Dr. Acker welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone introduced themselves.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2023

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of February 10, 2023, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

RURAL AFRICAN AMERICAN BARRIERS TO ADVANCE CARE PLANNING (ACP)

Moneka Thompson provided information regarding barriers in geriatrics, noting that less than 25 percent of African Americans have a completed advanced directive and only 43.9 percent have had informal ACP discussions with doctors. ACP discussions increased from 16 percent in 1990 to 35 percent in 2003. One third of Americans report completion of advance directives. Ms. Thompson stated there were three barriers that prevent African Americans from getting proper care.

1. Cultural belief/vitalism (living long life)
2. Refusal to discuss death
3. Deferral of autonomy - one person usually makes all decisions



THE CENTER TO ADVANCE PALLIATIVE CARE (CAPC), COALITION TO TRANSFORM ADVANCED CARE (C-TAC)

Sarah Parker discussed the purpose of C-TAC and her role in working with the committee.

COVID-19 UPDATES AND VACCINATIONS

Dr. Clark-Brown outlined the impact of COVID-19 on the elderly and advised that hospitalizations had decreased. She noted that as the Public Health Emergency (PHE) would officially end on May 11, 2023, and the COVID-19 pandemic would enter a new phase since the disease would continue to cause suffering and death in Alabama. Dr. Clark-Brown advised that ADPH would remain committed to monitoring the effects of the virus in Alabama and ADPH would continue to provide support. A news release would be distributed to media outlets on May 9, 2023, in preparation for the end of PHE. Expectations surrounding the amendments of the PREP Act include a number of changes that allow providers to address the ongoing needs. This information is on the Department of Health and Human Services website and the link is <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/04/14/factsheet-hhs-announces-amend-declaration-prep-actmedical-countermeasures-against-covid19.html>

Dr. Clark-Brown noted that changes would be made to the ADPH dashboards to provide more current information. Vaccines would still be available through county health departments, where mRNA and limited Novavax are used.

MEMBER DISCUSSION

Members discussed and chose Dr. Tucker for the Palliative Care report spotlight.



Preserving and Protecting the Public's Health

ALABAMA
PUBLIC
HEALTH

ADJORNED AND NEXT MEETING DATE

Dr. Acker adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the committee was scheduled August 11, 2023, via WebEx.

Kristi A. Acker, D.N.P., Chair
State Advisory Council on Palliative Care and Quality of Life

Amber Clark-Brown, F.A.A.P.M.R., Medical Officer
Bureau of Health Provider Standards