

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
PALLIATIVE CARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE
August 10, 2018**

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

Members Present

Rodney O. Tucker, M.D., M.M.M., Chair
Karen Marlowe, Pharm.D., Co-Chair
Kristi A. Acker, D.N.P.
Gregory W. Ayers, M.D.
John G. Beard, M.B.A.
Timothy Mayhall, M.Div.
Stormy Dismuke, M.S.N.
Jimel LeShun Gibbs, M.S.N.
Mary Ann Somers, M.A.Ed.

Members Absent

Richard J. Brockman, J.D.
Beth Caine, M.B.A.
Peter Czapla, M.S.H.R.M.

Staff Present

Mary G. McIntyre, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Medical Officer
Dennis Blair, Bureau of Health Provider Standards (BHPS)
Diane A. Mann, BHPS
LaKesha E. Hopkins, BHPS

Guests Present

Terri Lewis, Ph.D. (teleconference)
Mary Ann Crow, M.S.N.
Angie Cameron Smith, J.D.
Lyle Walton, M.D.
Sarah Dalvin

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2018:

The Council recommended approval of the Minutes of May 11, 2018, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

OPIOID PRESCRIBING AND REGULATION UPDATES:

Dr. Gregory Ayers provided an update on the opioid epidemic, noting that Alabama's status had not changed. He informed the Council that a prescriber course recently took place. The

objective was to educate providers on the opioid epidemic and help to mitigate future problems. He also stated that there are no federal laws to require families to destroy controlled substances upon the death of a family member and this issue is currently being reviewed by the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners.

OPIOID USAGE IN PATIENTS WITH PERSISTENT PAIN AND SERIOUS ILLNESS (EXHIBIT "A"):

Dr. Terri Lewis gave a presentation on the opioid usage in patients with persistent pain and serious illness. She explained that in response to local conditions and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, 50 states developed 50 different sets of regulations. She also stated that the laws and regulations are focused on the number of prescriptions, dose, days, opioids, and benzos. She further explained that the purposes of the laws and regulations are to reduce the overdoses, the number of prescriptions, suicides, the burden of law enforcement and public services, and prevalence of illicit drugs.

UPDATE ON TRANSPORTABLE ORDERS FOR PATIENT PREFERENCES (TOPP) EFFORTS IN ALABAMA:

Mary Ann Crow, Executive Director for the Advanced Care Planning and Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) for Alabama, gave an update on their current projects. They are currently amending the language of the Natural Death Act to include all ages and non-blood surrogates upon completion of the Pediatric Palliative and End of Life Care form. They are also compiling an Alabama TOPP. Lastly, she stated that Alabama Advance Care Planning is now a part of the Plenary Assembly Group of the National POLST Paradigm serving on the Education Committee.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM (PDMP) PATIENT FACT SHEET:

Dr. Karen Marlowe stated that she has been working with Nancy Bishop, Director of the PDMP with ADPH, to create a set of frequently asked questions to post on the Palliative Care section of the ADPH website. She explained the form will be short, consist of approximately four to five questions, and completed by the November meeting.

MEMBER TERMS AND OTHER MEMBER DISCUSSION:

Dr. Rodney Tucker explained to the members that several of their terms would soon expire. He instructed them to send a letter of interest if they would like to serve another term on the Council and they would receive correspondence from ADPH.

Dr. Tucker also explained that there is a need for more members to serve on the Council and if the current members have any recommendations, they should send them to either his office or ADPH.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Friday, November 16, 2018.

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

Mary G. McIntyre, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Medical Officer
Acting Medical Consultant
Bureau of Health Provider Standards
Alabama Department of Public Health

Approved November 16, 2018