

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
PALLIATIVE CARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE  
February 9, 2018**

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

**Members Present**

Rodney O. Tucker, M.D., M.M.M., Chairman  
Kristi A. Acker, D.N.P.  
Gregory W. Ayers, M.D. (via teleconference)  
John G. Beard, M.B.A.  
Richard J. Brockman, J.D.  
Stormy Dismuke, M.S.N.  
Timothy Mayhall, M.Div.  
Mary Ann Somers, M.A.Ed.

**Members Absent**

Karen Marlowe, Pharm.D., Co-Chair  
Beth Caine, M.B.A.  
Peter Czapla, M.S.H.R.M.  
Jimel LeShun Gibbs, M.S.N.

**Staff Present**

Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H.  
Dennis Blair, Bureau of Health Provider Standards (BHPS)  
Tonya Blankenship, R.N., BHPS  
Leana Jo Rodgers, R.N., BHPS  
Diane A. Mann, BHPS  
LaKesha E. Hopkins, M.S.H.R.M., BHPS

**Guests**

Mary Ann Crowe, R.N., M.S.N.  
Marie Bakitas, D.N.S.c.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2017:**

The Council recommended approval of the Minutes of August 11, 2017, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Dr. Tucker introduced the new member of the Council, Dr. Gregory Ayers. Dr. Ayers is the Director of Palliative Care at Brookwood and Princeton Hospitals, both of Birmingham,

Alabama. He also serves on the State Committee of Public Health and the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (BME). Dr. Ayers will be representing the BME on the Council.

**OPIOID EPIDEMIC (EXHIBIT "A"):**

Dr. Ayers provided an update on the opioid epidemic, noting that Alabama was the highest prescribing state in the country. He outlined several approaches to combat the problem, and also discussed prevention-strategies already in place.

**ADVANCE CARE PLANNING UPDATE AND TRANSPORTABLE ORDERS FOR PATIENT PREFERENCES (TOPP) FOR ALABAMA (EXHIBIT "B"):**

Ms. Crow presented a summary on advance care planning and TOPP for Alabama and how it would fit into the advance care planning continuum. Ms. Crow stated that the current draft of the form is before the National Physician Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment for approval. She also discussed the importance of early education and provided useful links for more information.

**MEMBER DISCUSSION OF OTHER ISSUES:**

Dr. Tucker requested that Dr. Ayers' discussion on the opioid epidemic and Ms. Crow's updates on TOPP be included as standing agenda items for future meetings.

For the next meeting, Dr. Tucker advised that Eric Wallace would attend to speak about telehealth efforts and asked Dr. Harris and Mr. Blair to have someone from the department to address the issue. Dr. Tucker also requested for Dr. Harris and Mr. Blair to arrange for someone from Emergency Medical Services speak at the next meeting.

It was announced that Martha Twaddle, M.D., would speak at the annual Corliss Lecture at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) on June 5, 2018, and on November 1 and 2, 2018, UAB would host the first Innovation Summit on Palliative and Supportive Care. A save-the-date reminder for the event is to be distributed.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting of the Council was scheduled on Friday, May 11, 2018.

**SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS:**

The Council was informed of the upcoming meeting dates for 2018; August 10, and November 16.

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

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