

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
PALLIATIVE CARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE  
November 16, 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. (teleconference)  
John G. Beard, M.B.A.  
Richard J. Brockman, J.D.  
Stormy Dismuke, M.S.N.  
Timothy Mayhall, M.Div.  
Amy L. McAfee, M.S.W.  
Mary Ann Somers, M.A.Ed.

**Member Absent**

Jimel LeShun Gibbs, M.S.N.

**Staff Present**

Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H., State Health Officer  
Dennis Blair, Bureau of Health Provider Standards (BHPS)  
Tonya Blankenship, BHPS  
Diane A. Mann, BHPS  
LaKesha E. Hopkins, BHPS

**Guests Present**

Mary Ann Crow, M.S.N. (teleconference)  
Andrew Dowland, M.S.S.W.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2018:**

The Council recommended approval of the Minutes of August 10, 2018, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER:**

Dr. Rodney Tucker welcomed Amy L. McAfee, as a new Council member who represents social work.

## **OPIOID PRESCRIBING AND REGULATION UPDATES:**

Dr. Gregory Ayers provided an update on the opioid epidemic, reiterating that Alabama's status had not changed. He stated that things had started to level off and discussed the interactions that the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners had been having with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama. He informed the Council that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama would be present at the Alabama Medical Directors Association Board of Directors meeting in Birmingham on January 26, 2019.

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

Ms. Mary Ann Crow, Executive Director for the Advanced Care Planning and Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) for Alabama, provided a brief update on their current projects. She informed the Council that when the Alabama Order for Pediatric Palliative and End of Life Care Form was created and passed by legislation, POLST would amend the Natural Death Act to include all ages. Furthermore, the form for TOPP would include all ages. Alabama is currently one of five states to do this and is creating a model for other states to use. She indicated POLST was currently focusing on their website and ensuring all necessary resource links would be inclusive. She informed the Council that POLST's next meeting would be in January 2019.

## **PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM (PDMP) PATIENT FACT SHEET:**

Dr. Karen Marlowe and Nancy Bishop, Director of the PDMP with ADPH, have been working to ensure the form's language was patient friendly and easy to read by the general public. They have finalized the list of *Frequently Asked Questions* and are drafting the answers; however, due to heavy schedules, the document would not be ready until the next meeting.

**DISCUSSION OF PALLIATIVE CARE DEFINITION AND DESCRIPTION (EXHIBIT “A”):**

Dr. Tucker informed the Council that the current definition for Palliative Care which was displayed on the Council’s website needed to be updated. He distributed handouts of definition ideas and asked the Council to provide feedback. Dr. Tucker informed the Council that he would have a draft of the new definition before the next meeting.

**PLANNING FOR 2019 AND OTHER MEMBER DISCUSSION (EXHIBIT “B”):**

Dr. Tucker shared a video to the Council by the University of Alabama at Birmingham Center for Palliative and Supportive Care. The video is accessible on the ADPH Palliative Care website. The Council was provided handouts in reference to palliative care from the Center to Advance Palliative Care to use as resources.

Dr. Tucker discussed the need for additional members and asked the Council to provide suggestions. Furthermore, Council members are welcome to invite guest speakers, if Council members feel they could provide helpful information.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Friday, February 15, 2019.

**SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS:**

Upcoming meeting dates of the Council for 2019 are May 10, August 9, and November 15.

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

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John H. Wagner, III, M.D., Medical Director  
Bureau of Health Provider Standards  
Alabama Department of Public Health

Approved February 15, 2019