

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (ADPH)  
ALABAMA MEDICAL DIRECTORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ALMDA)  
Miramar Beach, Florida  
July 21, 2022**

**ALMDA Board of Directors Present**

Charles Nevels, M.D., President-Elect  
David Rhyne, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer

**ALMDA Board Members Present**

James Yates, M.D.  
George Sutton, M.D.  
Carlos Clark, M.D.  
James Donald, M.D.  
Greg Flippo, M.D.  
Shane Lee, M.D.  
Charlotte Wynn, C.R.N.P.

**ALMDA Board Members Absent**

Sally Ebaugh, M.D., Board Chairman  
Jerry Harrison, M.D.  
George Smith, M.D.  
Julia Booth, M.D.

**Staff Present**

Karen M. Landers, M.D., F.A.A.P., Chief Medical Officer  
Denise Milledge, Director, Bureau of Health Provider Standards (BHPS)  
Patricia Watson, State Program Director, BHPS  
Kierra Montgomery, Office Manager, BHPS

**Guests Present**

Brandon Farmer, Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA)  
Katrina Magdon, ANHA  
SalLee Sasser-Williams, ANHA  
Richard Brockman, J.D., ANHA  
John Matson, ANHA  
Meghan Martin, Alabama Medical Directors Association (ALMDA)

**WELCOME**

Dr. Karen Landers introduced herself to the committee and welcomed everyone. Following Dr. Mary McIntyre's retirement in May 2022, Dr. Landers was appointed as the Chief Medical Officer of ADPH.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 29, 2022**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of January 29, 2022, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

## **COVID-19 UPDATES AND VACCINATIONS**

Dr. Landers advised that COVID-19 appears to be a virus that will not end. She stated that with the strains currently emerging, it would circulate on a periodic basis, causing outbreaks. Currently in Alabama and depending on which county, there are significant community transmission levels. Community levels are based on a number of parameters including hospitalization rates. At this point in time, there are over 650 hospitalizations. Dr. Landers advised that this is a manageable range. Dr. Landers noted that the BA-5 variant, seen most often, is highly contagious; but at this time, it has not resulted in the number of hospitalizations which occurred during previous surges in the winter and early spring seasons. Although this variant is highly transmissible, due to vaccinations and some therapeutics, we are not seeing the level of hospitalizations that occurred with the Delta variant.

Dr. Landers stated that in past weeks, 8 to 10 percent of COVID-19 patients were hospitalized after a surge with about a 1 to 2 percent mortality rate. She acknowledged that we are not seeing those types of outcomes currently which is good news as far as our management of current variants. She recommended continuing to urge vaccination because only a little over half of all Alabamians are vaccinated and only 3 percent of persons that are 6 months of age up to 5 years of age are vaccinated.

Dr. Landers noted that Alabama had been approved for Novavax, which was expected to be received in the coming weeks. ADPH will not announce anything about Novavax until the vaccine is received. Dr. Landers reiterated that the way out of this is to continue to encourage vaccinations and to continue to have people follow isolation and quarantine guidelines. She said that some individuals may have forgotten that if they have COVID-19; they still have to isolate. The isolation period was shortened as long as people follow mitigation after isolation for 5 full days with no symptoms. If people who are completely unvaccinated and are exposed to COVID-19, they should stay home. You should test, quarantine, and retest again around the 5<sup>th</sup> day and if you do not have any symptoms, wear a mask and move forward.

## **MEMBER DISCUSSION**

Dr. Landers stated that a supply of 150,000 additional doses of the monoclonal antibodies would be purchased by the federal government. Alabama will receive an allocation from this supply. According to the National Institutes of Health guidelines, there are certain people that the monoclonal antibodies are good for that cannot take Paxlovid. Links for therapeutics have been placed on the ADPH COVID-19 dashboard. One of the attendees asked Dr. Landers her opinion on Molnupiravir. Dr. Landers stated that she has reservations because

of the literature and that Molnupiravir was just not as efficacious as Paxlovid but then again it does not have the drug-drug interactions. One of the members stated that cardiovascular drug interactions are one of the biggest problems.

**ADJOURNED AND NEXT MEETING DATE**

Dr. Landers adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for January 28, 2023, at the Marriot Birmingham, 3590 Grandview Parkway, Birmingham, Alabama 35243.



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Karen M. Landers, M.D., F.A.A.P., Chief Medical Officer  
Alabama Department of Public Health



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Jacqueline D. Milledge, Director  
Bureau of Health Provider Standards