

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH ALABAMA MEDICAL DIRECTORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 28, 2017**

The Forum Meeting Space
Westin Birmingham
Birmingham, AL

Board of Directors Present

J. Grier Stewart, MD, President
Steve Furr, MD, CMD, President-elect
Henry Beeler, MD, CMD
Boyde J. Harrison, MD, CMD
Greg Hill, MD, CMD
Donald Marshall, MD, CMD
Charles Nevels, MD
Dick Owens, MD
David Rhyne, MD
George Sutton, MD, CMD
Charlotte Wynn, CRNP
James Yates, MD, CMD

Board of Directors Absent

Kendra Sheppard, MD, MSPH, CMD, Chair
Sally Ebaugh, MD, CMD, Secretary
Louis DiValentin, MD, CMD
David MacRae, MD, CMD

Staff Present

Walter T. Geary, Jr, MD, Assistant State Health Officer for Regulatory Affairs, ADPH
Dennis Blair, Director, Bureau of Health Provider Standards, ADPH
Diane Mann, Liaison, Bureau of Health Provider Standards, ADPH

Medical Directors Present

Bill O'Conner, MD
Clare Hayes, MD
Joe Downs, MD

Guests

Katrina Magdon
Ron Chaffin
Angie Cameron Smith, JD
Jerry Hawkins, JD

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 29, 2016:

The Committee recommended approval of the Minutes of July 29, 2016, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON THE PORTABLE DNAR RULE AND FORM (EXHIBIT "A"):

Dr. Geary distributed a handout on DNAR, which explained how to accept orders from an outside physician. Dr. Geary also distributed a handout on FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) regarding the New Portable Physician DNAR order and Rule. He emphasized that surveyors will not be surveying this rule. He informed the Committee that Kenny Keith will give a presentation explaining this information. Ms. Katrina Magdon requested the final form and rule be sent to the NHA so it may be included in their newsletter and website. Dr. Geary stated that it is currently accessible on the department's website.

REPORT ON THE PROJECT TO REDUCE HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS FOR LONG TERM SNF RESIDENTS (EXHIBIT "B"):

Dr. Clare Hays informed the Committee that admission rates were reduced to 45 homes on December 1st. She went on to state that interestingly, 23 homes participated for a full year and during that year, the rates were steady. However, within a month, the average dropped from 2.6 to 2.25. Dr. Hays explained compared to the country, Alabama looks good. She stated that the Q measures will eventually go in effect. She further explained that those who are not currently looking at Q measures will have to in the near future.

UPDATE ON THE NEW CMS REGULATIONS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE MEDICAL DIRECTORS (EXHIBIT "C"):

Angie Cameron Smith provided a handout to the Committee, *Burr Alert*, that detailed the new requirements of participation for skilled nursing facilities. One of the most significant changes are the new abuse reporting requirements. Skilled nursing facilities must report any abuse allegations within two hours of becoming aware of the allegation. Also, neglect, mistreatment, exploitation or injuries of an unknown source that results in serious bodily injury must also be reported to the Alabama Department of Public Health within two hours. All other

allegations must be reported within 24 hours. This requirement went into effect on November 28, 2016, and the changes are being phased in over a three year period.

UPDATE ON PALLIATIVE CARE IN NURSING HOMES:

Dr. Geary explained that the State Advisory Council on Palliative Care and the Quality of Life was created by the Bureau of Health Provider Standards in 2015. The mission of the Council is to promote Palliative Care in Alabama by improving consumer awareness of the positive effect of compassionate palliative care on the quality of life and care for individuals and families living with life-limiting illnesses. This will be accomplished through the establishment of a statewide palliative care information and educational program; and by facilitating collaboration among palliative care providers, organizations, institutions, and individuals. Dr. Geary went on to state that the department is working on getting palliative care in nursing homes and that further information on the Council can be found on the department's website.

SURVEY ISSUES ON CONTROLLED MEDICATION PRESCRIBING – CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (EXHIBIT "D"):

Dr. Geary asked Katrina Magdon to discuss the document that she distributed, *Medication Administration*. Ms. Magdon discussed the nursing shortage and the need for a new program for Medication Aides to assist with administering normal routine medications. The approval would have to go through the Board of Nursing. These aides are currently used in 47 other states. Dr. Geary explained that the Board of Nursing already has a Med Tech program for group homes, so Medication Aides could possibly build on to that program.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (EXHIBIT "E"):

Ron Chaffin discussed the Medicare Advantage Institutional Special Needs Plan (ISNP) Model of Care that is for nursing home residents, individuals eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, and individuals with specific chronic conditions. The ISNP Model of Care is designed to maintain nursing home residents at an optimal level of functioning and to reduce avoidable

hospital admissions or readmissions when care can be safely provided in the nursing home or another setting.

Dr. Geary encouraged the Committee to instruct their staff members to never leave their residents alone with a potential abuser if abuse is suspected. He explained that staff should be aware of residents' routines and make sure that all activities are done safely on a daily basis.

Also, Dr. Geary instructed members to submit to him, any problems or topics they want to discuss at the next meeting as soon as possible, so they can be added to the agenda.

J. Grier Stewart, MD, President
The Alabama Medical Directors Association

Walter T. Geary, M.D., Assistant State Health Officer for Regulatory Affairs
Alabama Department of Public Health