

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
ALABAMA MEDICAL DIRECTORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ALMDA)  
The Marriott Birmingham  
Birmingham, Alabama  
January 28, 2023  
7:45 a.m.**

**ALMDA Board of Directors Present**

Charles Nevels, M.D., President-Elect  
David Rhyne, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer  
Sally Ebaugh, M.D., Board Chairman

**ALMDA Board Members Present**

James Yates, M.D.  
George Sutton, M.D.  
Steve Donald, M.D.  
Jerry Harrison, M.D.  
William “Ben” Lee, M.D.  
Anne Halli Tierney, M.D.  
George Smith, M.D.  
William S. Lee, M.D.  
Ashley Lane, M.D.  
Carlos Clark, M.D.  
Dawn Rials, C.R.N.P.

**Staff Present**

Karen M. Landers, M.D., F.A.A.P, Chief Medical Officer  
Amber Clark-Brown, M.D., F.A.A.P.M.R., Medical Director, Bureau of Health Provider  
Standards (BHPS)  
Denise Milledge, Director, BHPS  
Patricia Watson, State Program Director, BHPS  
Felicia Williams-Smith, Director, Long Term Care Unit, BHPS  
Kierra Montgomery, Office Manager, BHPS

**Guests Present**

Brandon Farmer, Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA)  
Katrina Magdon, ANHA  
Meghan Martin, Alabama Medical Directors Association

## **WELCOME**

Dr. Karen Landers welcomed everyone and introduced Dr. Amber Clark-Brown as the new Medical Director for the Bureau of Health Provider Standards.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2022**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of July 21, 2022, as distributed; the motion carried unanimously.

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

Dr. Landers advised that over 100 million COVID cases occurred in the United States. The number of cases in Alabama had decreased over the last seven days prior to the meeting. Hospital availability for beds remained in good standing. Although the number of cases in Alabama have decreased, Alabama continued to have high community transmission levels. For Alabama, the nucleic acid implication test was about 11 percent. At the time of the update, COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death. Nationally, only 14 percent of people were up-to-date on the COVID-19 vaccine.

## **DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICES/ DIETARY MANAGER WAIVER**

Denise Milledge reported the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) changed guidelines for dietary management/food service directors on October 22, 2022. In response to that change, the Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA) requested a waiver of regulations based on CMS requirements differing from Health Provider Standards' licensure rules. Due to this change, providers do not have adequate and appropriate staff in the facilities. The waiver is allowed through October 2023.

## **MEMBER DISCUSSION**

Members discussed the CMS release of the Quality, Safety and Oversight Group memorandum regarding Minimum Data Sets. They also discussed the possibility of CMS off-site audits.

## **ADJOURNED AND NEXT MEETING DATE**

Dr. Landers adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the committee was scheduled for July 27-30, 2023, at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, 9300 Emerald Coast Parkway West, Miramar Beach, Florida 32550.

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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