

Prescription Monitoring Program Advisory Council State of Louisiana

July 10, 2019

MINUTES

A meeting of the Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Advisory Council scheduled to meet on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at the office of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy, 3388 Brentwood Drive in Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809, convened at 1:07 p.m. to consider the following:

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order
2. Quorum Call
3. Call for Additional Agenda Items & Adoption of Agenda
4. Consideration of Minutes from Prior Meeting – April 10, 2019
5. Opportunity for Public Comment
6. Annual Election of Council Officers
7. Update on Request for PMP Access for Chiropractors
8. Review of Program Operation
8. Legislative Update
9. Calendar Notes
10. Adjourn

Advisory Council Representatives/Designees present: Carl Aron (LABP) chaired the meeting. Also present were Chris Melancon (SH&W), Jennifer Wright (LSBN), Lauren Bailey (LSMS), Ward Blackwell (LDA), Lisa Bayhi (LANP), Dr. Jonathan Bowman (OAL), Crystal Carter (LPA), Lawrence Alexander (DEA), Maj. Bob Brown, and Mary Staples (NACDS).

Others present: Joe Fontenot, Carlos Finalet, Danielle Hartzog, and Nerissa Montgomery (all LABP)

Call for Additional Agenda Items & Adoption of Agenda

No additional agenda items introduced, agenda adopted.

Consideration of Minutes from the April 10, 2019 Meeting

Minutes were approved by consensus with no corrections.

Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comments.

Election of Council Officers

The only nomination for the office of Chair was Carl Aron (LABP). Mr. Aron was elected by acclamation and assumed the office immediately.

The only nomination for the office of Vice Chair was Colonel Pete Tufaro. Colonel Tufaro was elected by acclamation and assumed the office immediately.

Review of Program Operation

Joe Fontenot, Assistant Executive Director, presented statistical information regarding the program to the council. (**Attachment 1**). Furthermore, Mr. Fontenot provided an update on the statewide PMP integration project, letting the council know that the PMP has approved eighty (80) licensees and has one hundred and seventy-nine (179) entities pending approval.

Mr. Fontenot reminded the Advisory Council that during the last PMP Advisory Council meeting he had reported the Louisiana Department of Health was applying for a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) grant. The grant contains “special conditions” which mandates that the Louisiana PMP connect to the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s (BJA) designated PMP interstate data sharing system called RxCheck. Mr. Fontenot had expressed concerns that the language in the CDC grant may require the Louisiana PMP to provide PMP data to the federal government in violation of our own state laws regarding privacy, security, and access.

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Following the last PMP Advisory Council meeting, Mr. Broussard and Mr. Fontenot had a conference call with the CDC to express their concerns. The CDC agreed to put in writing assurances that award funding does not require the awardee to provide PMP data to CDC. Based on the letter from the CDC, Mr. Aron agreed to connect to the Rx Check once the Department of Health was assured of being awarded the CDC grant.

Interstate Data Sharing through PMP Interconnect

Mr. Fontenot updated the council that the Louisiana PMP is currently sharing PMP information with 26 other state PMPs and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) through the NABP PMP InterConnect (PMPi). (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia)

Access to PMP Information by Chiropractors – Charles R. Herring, D.C., Baton Rouge

Mr. Fontenot provided an update on Dr. Charles Herring's request for PMP access by chiropractors.

Mr. Broussard tried communicating with Dr. Herring after the last Advisory Council meeting in order to prepare for the Board meeting presentation, but received no response. Based on this information the consensus of the council was to remove this item from the council agenda at this time.

Update on PMP Enhancements

Mr. Fontenot provided an update on the PMP enhancements included in the new vendor contract which began on January 1, 2019.

- *Auto-Registration* – currently this feature is being used only for prescribers, but a planned expansion to include pharmacists and medical interns is expected by the end of the third quarter of 2019.
- *Prescriber Reports* – the first distribution of Prescriber Reports was on May 6, 2019 and will continue to be provided quarterly. Mr. Fontenot reported that the office received some phone calls with questions but for the most part, implementation of Prescriber Reports was successful. Dr. Bayhi (LANP) expressed her satisfaction with this enhancement.
- *PMP Mandatory Use Compliance* – this new feature was enabled on May 23, 2019. Mr. Fontenot provided a brief explanation of the feature and explained that the first reports will be generated 90 days from the date the feature was enabled.
- *Clinical Alerts Module* - Appriss is expecting a release of this feature by the end of 2019.

PMP Disciplinary Actions

Mr. Fontenot informed the Advisory Council that the Board of Pharmacy took formal disciplinary action on 2 pharmacies for failure to comply with the PMP reporting requirements: Noah's Pharmacy of Brusly, LA and Post Haste Pharmacy of Hollywood, FL. Noah's Pharmacy was assessed a fine of \$5,000 plus costs for its repeated failure to correct multiple erroneous reports to the PMP when requested by PMP staff, and for its failure to report forty-three (43) days of eligible prescription transactions to the PMP. Post Haste Pharmacy was assessed a fine of \$15,000 plus costs for its failure to report all eligible dispensing transactions to the state PMP and other pharmacy practice issues.

Legislative Update

Mr. Fontenot reviewed Act No. 80 giving a brief review of the changes. (**Attachment 2**)

Calendar Notes

The remaining meeting date in 2019 is: October 9.

Adjournment

With no business remaining, the Council adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

I certify that the foregoing are true and accurate minutes.

Malcolm J. Broussard
Executive Director
Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

Prepared by: Danielle Hartzog, Administrative Assistant, Louisiana Board of Pharmacy