

**ADDICTIVE DISORDER REGULATORY AUTHORITY BOARD**  
**MEETING**

ADRA Office  
4919 Jamestown Avenue, Suite 203  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
January 17, 2014  
10:00 A.M.

- I. Call to Order: Roy Baas, Chairman
- II. Roll call; set quorum: Jean Hartzog, Secretary/Treasurer
- III. Public Introductions and Representation
- IV. Approval of November 15, 2013 Minutes: Jean Hartzog, Secretary/Treasurer
- V. Treasurer's Report: Jean Hartzog, Secretary/Treasurer
  - a) November 2013
  - b) December 2013
- VI. Public Questions or Comments
- VII. New Business
  - a) Approval of Applicants to be Credentialed
  - b) Methadone Assisted Treatment Education for Addiction Counselors – JoAn Brown
  - c) Late Fee Waiver Requests – Genita Dawson
  - d) Request to supervise more than 4 CITs Policy
- VIII. Old Business
  - a) RAC/CAC Scope of Work Rule Change Update
  - b) ATI Guidelines Update
- IX. Executive Director's Report: LaMiesa Bonton, Executive Director

Adjourn Meeting: Next meeting date: Friday, March 21, 2014; 10:00 a.m. @ the ADRA Office  
4919 Jamestown Avenue, Suite 203, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Approved and Adopted: Roy Baas, Chairman

## Minutes

### Regular Meeting of Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority Board

Friday, January 17, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.

Held at:

4919 Jamestown Avenue, Suite 203  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

#### *I. Call to Order*

The January 17, 2014, regular meeting of the Addictive Disorder Regulatory Authority Board was called to order to by Roy Baas, LAC, CCGC, CCS, Chairman, at approximately 10:20 a.m. The meeting was held pursuant to public notice, each member received notice, and notice was properly posted.

#### *II. Roll Call (Attachment 1)*

##### **Members Present:**

Roy Baas, LAC, CCGC, CCS, Chairman  
Paul Schoen, LAC, CCGC, Vice-Chairman  
Jean Hartzog, CPP, Secretary/Treasurer  
JoAn Brown, LAC  
Kevin James, RAC, CCS

##### **Members Absent:**

Marilyn Smith, LAC  
Bernadine Williams, LAC, CCGC, CCS  
Ronald Taravella, M.D.

##### **ADRA Staff Present:**

LaMiesa Bonton, Executive Director  
Lauren Lear, Assistant Director  
Pamela Richards, Administrative Assistant  
Celia Cangelosi, Board Attorney

#### *III. Public Introductions*

##### **Guests:**

Marolon Mangham  
Ken Saucier  
Traci Perry

#### *IV. Approval of November 15, 2013 Minutes (Attachment 2)*

A draft of the November 15, 2013 Board meeting minutes was presented for approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Kevin James, RAC, CCS and seconded by JoAn Brown, LAC. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

#### *V. Treasurer's Report (Attachment 3)*

The November and December Treasurer's Reports were presented by LaMiesa Bonton, Executive Director and Jean Hartzog, CPP, Secretary/Treasurer; copy attached. A motion was made by Paul Schoen, LAC, CCGC and seconded by Kevin James, RAC, CCS to accept the report as given. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

**Minutes of ADRA Board Meeting of 1/17/14**

---

VI. *Public Questions or Comments.*

a. Guests

No comments at this time.

VII. *New Business*

a. Approval of Applicants to be Credentialed

A motion was made by Jean Hartzog, CPP to approve the applicants listed as credentialed with the exception of CCS #181 for the purposes of a pending investigation. The motion was seconded by Kevin James, RAC, CCS. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative. The investigating officer, Paul Schoen, LAC, CCGC, was recused from the vote.

b. Methadone Assisted Treatment Education for Addiction Counselors – JoAn Brown

JoAn Brown, LAC and Dr. Dunham had a meeting to discuss education in methadone assisted treatment for Addiction Counselors. In the State of Louisiana, we have 224 doctors that are certified to prescribe Suboxone. Each of those physicians is allowed to have 100 patients that they can prescribe this medication to. If they reach their quota, we have 22,400 individuals in the past year who were admitted into treatment for opioid dependency. There are 9 opioid treatment facilities in the state and that comes to another 4,000 patients. Most of the patients that we treat are considered chronic, meaning they have been addicted for a year or more.

At the national opioid addiction treatment conference in Philadelphia, there was a lot of discussion about MAT training. MAT is a Methadone Assisted Treatment training course. SAMHSA is concerned due to the amount of Suboxone medication available. These treatments are not normally managed well. Some common reports we have received are that the patients go to the prescribing physician and pay \$300-\$400 and spend about 15 minutes with the doctor, go to a nurse practitioner or nurse to get a medical history and physical assessment and the doctor writes the prescription for 30 days of 24mg of Suboxone which is the highest dose they can get. When managed and used properly, Suboxone can be an excellent tool to help those in recovery from an opioid addiction. Most of the doctors are competent and monitor well with additional drug testing and counseling. But there are many who don't. The patient with medicaid goes to the pharmacy and pays \$6 for a prescription that is worth a lot more than \$6. Many of these patients are chronic users. They do not have well-paying jobs or have a lot of money so it is tempting for them to sell the Suboxone.

The discussion in Philadelphia was mainly concerned with the competency of Addiction Counselors in treating those individuals with opioid addiction. Louisiana is one of the few states that have a board to monitor and regulate opioid addiction treatment counselors. Our goal here is to ensure that patients are treated by counselors who are competent in opioid treatment. But there are other Addiction Counselors who have no knowledge or education in methadone treatment. For example, some counselors have been referred patients who are on methadone or who have been on methadone in the past and are chronic IV drug users. These counselors will tell the patients that they must get off the methadone and that it will destroy their liver. One particular incident, a patient was entered into a detox program. The program kept them for 7 days and gave them 1 pill each day for the first 5 days and then they gave them a Suboxone strip for 2 days and discharged them. No referral. No follow-up. No list of where they could go to get Suboxone. They never explained that without insurance, Suboxone would cost close to \$1200 a month and didn't ask if they could afford that. These are the things that concern us in this field.

In reviewing the 5 day MAT training, I believe that there are some things that we should consider. There is a lot of basic information out there that our addiction counselors should know in regards to methadone assisted treatment. Being uninformed could be the difference between life and death for these patients. There is important information that our counselors need to know about opioid treatment that is very different from treating a benzodiazepine addict or an alcoholic. These are some of the issues that the MAT training will address.

## Minutes of ADRA Board Meeting of 1/17/14

---

Jean Hartzog, CPP asks “When an individual takes the exam to become an addiction counselor, are there any questions that are related to Methadone Assisted Treatment?” Marolon Mangham, Executive Director of LASACT said that the AADC exam (LAC test) does contain some questions directly related to the MAT training.

As a board, we may need to come up with a requirement that will work for the future growth of the profession and the protection of prospective patients/clients.

The powers and duties of the board are set forth by the statute. There are some things they can add as a requirement and some things that they can't. Depending on what changes are suggested, we may be able to do by a Rule change, but some changes may require taking it to the legislature. Our Rule is what outlines the minimum requirements based on IC&RC standards. So many hours must be specific to Substance Abuse. It may be realistic to add the requirement for additional education hours that are specific to medically assisted treatment for initial certification and toward their renewal as well.

Paul Schoen, LAC, CCGC comments that “In order to protect the public, this education needs to be made a requirement on the front end.”

c. Late Fee Waiver Request – Genita Dawson

The board reviewed the request and supporting documentation sent by Ms. Dawson requesting the late fee for her CIT renewal be refunded and waived. The board denied Ms. Dawson's request.

d. Request to supervise more than 4 CIT's Policy

ADRA staff put together a policy outlining the criteria that can allow CCS's to supervise more than 4 CIT's. The purpose for this policy is to assist CCS's in supplying our office with the proper information needed to make the determination of eligibility to take on additional CIT's. A motion was made by Paul Schoen, LAC, CCGC and seconded by Kevin James, RAC, CCS to accept the policy. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

### *VIII. Old Business*

a. RAC/CAC Scope of Work Rule Change Update

The rule change has been submitted to correct the language in regards to the consulting relationship. We are expecting the final publishing to be sometime this summer.

b. ATI Guidelines Update

We will plan to finalize the ATI Guidelines at our next board meeting.

### *X. Executive Director's Report: LaMiesa Bonton*

#### Operations Update

- a. L. Bonton reminded all board members about the ethics training that was to be taken by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> and asked that everyone send a record of completion if they have not done so already.
- b. Staff Retreat rescheduled for Friday Feb. 1
- c. Current renewal status: 195 of 214 people renewed

#### Contracts Update

- d. All contracts are current, except the website contract which has expired and training manual is received. Going forward we will pay her on an hourly basis for monthly maintenance.

**Minutes of ADRA Board Meeting of 1/17/14**

---

- e. Debt collection contract active and all outstanding files have been transferred to AG's office

Next meeting date: Friday, March 28, 2014; 10:00 a.m. @ the ADRA Office 4919 Jamestown Avenue, Suite 203, Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

A motion was made by JoAn Brown, LAC and seconded by Kevin James, RAC, CCS to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved after a unanimous vote in the affirmative.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Jean Hartzog, CPP, Secretary/Treasurer