

Minutes  
Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program  
Monitoring Program Committee  
February 5, 2016

- Call to Order: A meeting of the HPMP Monitoring Program Committee was called to order at 9:13 am at the Department of Health Professions office, Perimeter Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Center
- Presiding: Patricia Bernal, MS,RN, Committee Chair
- Members Present: Trish Bernal, MS,R.N.  
Randy Ferrance, D.C., M.D.  
Chip Williams, M.D.  
John Beckner, R.Ph.  
Bruce Overton, D.D.S  
David Boehm, LCSW
- Others Present: Lisa Hahn, Chief Deputy Director, DHP  
Laura Rothrock,  
Sherman Master, M.D., Medical Director, VAHPMP  
Janet Knisely, Ph.D., VAHPMP  
Peggy Wood, Program Manager, DHP
- Review of Additional Material: The Committee members reviewed additional material distributed. This material included one dismissal and two noncompliance reports.
- Disposition of Minutes: The September 18, 2015 minutes were approved.
- New Business: The Committee certified: Stays for 4816, 4984, 5007, 5013, 5023, 5033, 5040, 5041, 5049, 5051, 5065, 5076, 5095. Resignations from 4713, 4768, 4975, 4981, and 5019. Vacated Stay previously granted for 4975. The certifications were approved by a motion from Hancock seconded by Overton and carried unanimously.
- Dr. Knisely had emailed two articles regarding Buprenorphine therapy in opioid-addicted health care

professionals. The articles reviewed were studies investigating the effects of buprenorphine on cognitive and psychomotor performance and discussed the impact on healthcare professionals returning to clinical practice while on buprenorphine maintenance therapy. Dr. Master reported that most physician programs do not allow return to work for practitioners on Buprenorphine-naloxone treatment. After discussion by the group the Committee decided to have VCU-HPMP develop a protocol for use to determine return to work for participants. This protocol is to include specific testing criteria, review of the practice setting and related work site monitor approval and testing regime for the participant while practicing that would reflect any issues or abuse.

The Committee agreed that the evidence reviewed presented more evidence against allowing return to practice and urged erring on the side of conservative decision making on behalf of the consideration of participants affected by any policy adopted.

Information will be collected as to what other states are currently doing regarding this issue. Information provided from a survey indicated there are 10 states allowing, 10 not allowing and 31 non responses to the inquiry.

#### Report from VCU:

Dr. Master provided the Committee with a recap of his efforts at outreach and education about HPMP. Over the past weeks he presented at the Virginia Pharmacists Association and exhibited at the Psychiatric Society of Virginia and Virginia Medical Association. Dr. Knisely and Dr. Master presented to the Board of Medicine at their most recent meeting. They will be making a similar presentation to the Board of Pharmacy at their upcoming meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> and the Board of Dentistry on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Several ideas were discussed to assist in getting information out about the program including thru greater online presence, website enhancement and mailings to hospital systems (HR and EAP programs) and professional associations. One suggestion was to link to the DHP-HPMP webpage from various association pages.

- Closed Session: The Committee voted to enter into closed session at 10:43a.m. Motion from Hancock, seconded by Beckner.
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- Open Session: Ferrance moved that the Committee certify that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion for closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered during the closed meeting just concluded. The motion was seconded Beckner and carried unanimously. The Committee returned to open session at 11:20 a.m.
- Ms. Bernal moved to dismiss the following participants: 4739, 4882, 4889, 5015, 5034, 5071, and 4794. Moved to successfully complete cases: 3918, 3992, 4090, 4128, 4129, 4138, 4152, 4154, 4155, and 4546. It was noted that client 5101 was reported as deceased. Motion was seconded by Ferrance and passed unanimously.
- Report from DHP: Dr. Brown, DHP Director, joined the meeting and announced the appointment of Lisa Hahn as the new Deputy Director of the Agency. He also announced that Jaime Hoyle the former Deputy Director, was now serving as the Executive Director for the Boards of Behavioral Health.
- One outcome of the recent audit report was the introduction of a bill to add a citizen member to the Committee. This bill is moving forward and will be acted on at the upcoming session of the General Assembly. He also discussed wanting to have more interaction between the Boards and VCU directly and hoped to have participation in national organizations such as the National Federation of Physician Programs. Jay Douglas, Executive Director, Board of Nursing has been asked to prepare a response to the audit report which will be distributed after January 2016.
- When asked by Dr. Williams about the use of social media as a platform other than just a website to expand the presence of DHP, Dr. Brown, explained ongoing efforts to change how DHP and its programs are presented to the public, professions and participants. The use of various

forms of social media including Twitter accounts is under review.

Wood informed the group about a recent training session provided by Jay Douglas, Executive Director of the Board of Nursing to the staff at VCU. The training was extremely well received by all and covered an overview of the processes at DHP related to licensing, discipline, enforcement etc.

Catherine Hancock's term on the committee ended with this meeting and Wood expressed her appreciation for her participation and valuable input during her service. The Committee extended their good wishes to her.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2016.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

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Peggy Wood  
Recorder

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_