

DHHS Therapeutic Cannabis Medical Oversight Board Meeting
June 3, 2020, Remote Meeting (Zoom)
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jonathan Ballard, Virginia Brack, Heather Brown, Corey Burchman, Jerry Knirk, Richard Morse, Molly Rossignol, Seddon Savage, Lisa Withrow

Members Absent: Bert Fichman, Cornel Stanciu, Dennis Thapa

DHHS Staff: Michael Holt, DHHS Program Administrator; Tricia Tilley, DPMS Deputy Director

Meeting convened at 5:38

Minutes

Meeting minutes from 5/6/20 were approved.

Motion: Savage; Second: Brown; Vote: 7-0 (Withrow abstained)

2020 Workplan

Material Review

Answer Page

- Some members reviewed. Some members reviewed in part. Some members couldn't access the resource
- Mixed to favorable impression:
 - Doesn't go very deep
 - Providers would get more information out of high-quality review articles
 - Format not ideal
 - Balanced, with good introductory information
 - No reason not to include this in list of resources
 - It is a CME acquisition tool for credentialing, not a primary information source

Medical Cannabis Institute

- Only one member reviewed
- Cost of resource prohibitive for full Board member review
- Favorable impression
 - Balanced, well organized
 - Cost may be prohibitive for providers

Healer.com

- Some members reviewed
- Mixed to unfavorable impression, based on Board's purpose for the material
 - Not a CME/credentialing resource
 - Material is "light"; "not balanced"
 - Material is personality-driven
 - Conclusions exceed what science and evidence would support
 - Geared to an end user, patient perspective, not a provider resource
- One member felt strongly that this resource should be made available to patients, as a good introductory experience

Discussion

- Holt suggested postponing vote on any of the proposed resources, based on a lack of a quorum having reviewed the material. Board agreed.
- Knirk will reach out to Medical Cannabis Institute to learn if they will provide free access to Board members to assess resource.
- Member suggested Board should be aware of funding sources for these resources, and if these sources would suggest a bias.
- Burchman offered to reach out to Mass Medical Society for their resources; Tilley offered to contact the Mass Cannabis Control Commission for the same.

Other Resources

- DC slide deck. Good, but limited
- Canada. Good summary; Canadian focus may not be applicable
- Minnesota resources. Well referenced; good summary; provides literature review, updated yearly
- Suggestion that the Board does not have to reinvent the wheel.

Additional Discussion

Is there an opportunity for a “shared drive” so that Board materials can be in one place.

- Dept identified barriers to this including state prohibitions on certain popular solutions (dropbox, google docs); potential 91-A issues; and limited state IT resources dedicated to pandemic response

Dissemination

Board identified potential groups

- Board of Medicine, Board of Nursing. Holt to contact
- NH Medical Society; Governor’s Task Force. Savage to contact
- NH Nurse Practitioners Association. Withrow to contact

Suggestion that these groups’ annual meetings may be an opportunity for dissemination

Board determined that there was no need to contact these entities until Board was much closer to finalizing resources.

Meeting Schedule

Board agreed to meet in July, despite regular date’s proximity to July 4 weekend; may not meet in August; to be revisited at the July meeting.

Member Updates

- No progress on finding a Board member to represent OB/GYN specialty
- COVID related concern: No face-to-face intake consultations at the ATCs
 - Is the ATC role the same as pharmacies, or do they play a bigger role?

- Are there telehealth opportunities here?
- Holt will contact ATCs, encourage they explore “telehealth” opportunities for consultations (eg, zoom, etc.)
- COVID related concern: Are ATC staff required to wear masks?
 - Holt indicated that yes, it is the Program’s expectation that all ATC (dispensary) staff wear masks, consistent with state COVID guidance, especially when interacting with patients
- Will begin to review pregnancy resources starting in July, and clinical tools in September

Public Comments

Prime administrator (Keenan Blum). Very open to Board feedback on ATC education materials, especially finding balance between presenting complex information in an easy-to-access, understandable format.

- Suggestion for including an “executive summary” at an 8th grade reading level

Board members expressed interest in reviewing ATC education materials.

- Similar to a “package insert” for pharmaceuticals; reviewed by body of experts. Should be the case with ATC materials.
- Preliminary review of materials identified some better than others, some more technical than others; some contained conclusions that didn’t seem to be supported by evidence
- Observation that these materials were patient-focused, not provider-focused

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30

- Motion: Brown; Second: Morse. All agreed.