



**Board of Medicine and Osteopathic
Medicine's Physician Certification
Pattern Review Panel**

**Hilton Orlando-Altamonte Springs
350 Northlake Boulevard
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
(407) 830- 1985**

December 5, 2019

Minutes

Roll call 5:30 pm

Members Present:

Sandra Schwemmer, D.O., Chair
Jorge Lopez, M.D., Vice Chair
Michelle Mendez, D.O.
Joel Rose, D.O.
Steven Rosenberg, M.D.
Sarvam TerKonda, M.D.

Staff Present:

Claudia Kemp, JD, Executive Director – Medicine
Kama Monroe, JD, Executive Director – Osteopathic Medicine
Donna McNulty, Board Counsel
Nancy Murphy, Certified Paralegal
Crystal Sanford, Program Operations Administrator
Michelle Chandrasekhar, Senior Management Analyst
Shaila Washington, Regulatory Supervisor
Rebecca Hewett, Regulatory Specialist III

Others Present:

Magnolia Court Reporting
Cindy Green
3213 Hargill Drive
Orlando Florida 32806
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Ms. Kemp said Section 381.986, Florida Statutes, provides for the medical use of marijuana. The law requires both boards to create a physician certification pattern review panel to review all physician certifications that are submitted to the medical marijuana use registry. The panel is directed to track and report the number of physician certifications and the qualifying medical conditions, dosage, supply amount, and form of marijuana that is certified. The panel report the data by individual qualified physician and in the aggregate, by county and state wide. The panel is required to submit an annual report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives each year by January 1st. On August 29, 2019 in a meeting held by teleconference call, the panel reviewed 6 months' data from the report period, October 1, 2018 through

March 31, 2019. For this meeting, the panel has reviewed the draft annual report which contains data from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. The panels meeting today to discuss the report based on the data and draft recommendations to include in this report.

Dr. Schwemmer opened the meeting for discussion.

Dr. Schwemmer introduced Michelle Chandrasekhar and Kama Monroe, Executive Director for the Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

Ms. Chandrasekhar explained the report refers only to active certifications. She summarized how information was processed for the report.

Dr. Schwemmer noted the number of ordering physicians and patients has increased. She asked Ms. Chandrasekhar noticed any trends.

Ms. Chandrasekhar explained this is the first year of an entire 12-month period. There have been changes, smoking was introduced. In terms of trends, numbers continue to increase.

Dr. Rosenberg noted there are several physicians who very high numbers of PTSD. He was wondering anyone has looked at their training and specialties. He is under there impression there are not sole psychiatrist.

Ms. Chandrasekhar explained the physician is required to review the patient records and based on the assessment of the medical records and the physical exam. The physician determines if the patient qualifies under a qualifying medical condition. They do not look at the specialty.

Dr. Rosenberg there are a handful of physician listed as “out of state”.

Ms. Chandrasekhar “out of state” refers to the primary practice location they have entered into the MQA database.

Dr. Rosenberg said they are licensed in Florida and prescribing to patients in Florida.

Ms. Chandrasekhar explained under the statute, physicians must be licensed in Florida meet the qualifications and patients must meet the residency requirements to receive certification.

Dr. Rosenberg one physician is listed as not practicing.

Ms. Chandrasekhar explained if the physician is not practicing at the time of the report.

Ms. Kemp clarified that is an option in the practitioner profile. If they do not provide primary practice location, they choose not practicing in Florida. If they have a clear, active license in Florida and have taken the course, they can do this.

Dr. Rosenberg asked Ms. Chandrasekhar to report back to the Committee the one physician listed as “not practicing”.

Dr. Rose looked at the list of qualifying conditions on page six. There may be confusion chronic non-malignant pain stemming from one of the constitutional proposed conditions.

Ms. Monroe explained there is no requirement to tell us the condition or disease that causes the chronic non-malignant pain. Some physician report both the non-malignant pain and underlying condition.

Dr. Rose would like to seek authorization to collect this data in the future.

Dr. TerKonda looked at page six there are of these outliers. What are the qualifying condition outliers?

Dr. Schwemmer noted trying to look at some similarities. You would find a physician with a low number of prescriptions, but then a high percentage of medical marijuana on a daily dose. She found one with an entry that showed 539,000. Wonder if this was an entry error.

Ms. Chandrasekhar this could be an entry error.

Dr. Schwemmer suggested having a representative from the registry. To find out what are some of the challenges. When a physician inputs information and fields are missed in the registry the data is skewed.

Dr. Schwemmer noted there were some outliers with very high numbers as well as very high daily dosage amounts.

Dr. Schwemmer asked when did the smokable marijuana start?

Ms. Chandrasekhar explained it was signed by the Governor on March 17th and enacted right away.

Dr. Schwemmer noted we do not have a full year of data. We have large numbers of provider orders for smokable.

Ms. Chandrasekhar noted there is not comparative data. She further explained there are five different routes for low THC cannabis. Five different routes for medical marijuana and not you have smokable marijuana.

Dr. TerKonda noted high numbers of prescriptions for PTSD.

Dr. Rosenberg would like to know the background.

Dr. Schwemmer noted high amounts of suppositories. Do physicians choose all routes of administration. She would like to take a look at this data.

Dr. Schwemmer noted the meeting date in the recommendations needs to be corrected.

Ms. Chandrasekhar asked if the panel will be making staff recommendations or report recommendations.

Ms. Monroe stated visibility makes the report easy to read to the person receiving it.

Panel Recommendations

The Panel has made numerous suggestion to the staff to expand upon the data of this report for further analysis. At this time the Panel has no further recommendations.

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to accept the recommendation.

New Business:

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to authorize the Chair to approve the final report.

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.