

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM
MINUTES OF ADVISORY PANEL**

Wednesday July 25, 2007

6603 West Broad Street, 5th Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23230-1712

CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the advisory panel of the Prescription Monitoring Program was called to order at 11:15 a.m.

PRESIDING: Kenneth Walker, M.D, Acting Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Randall Clouse, Office of the Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud Unit
Amy Tharp, M.D., Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Brenda Mitchell, President, Virginia Association for Hospices
James Evans, M.D., Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services
John Barsanti, M.D., Commonwealth Pain Specialists
Holly Morris, RPh, Crittenden's Drug
Harvey Smith, 1SG, Virginia State Police

STAFF PRESENT: Sandra Ryals, Director, Department of Health Professions (DHP)
Emily Wingfield, Office of the Attorney General
Betty Jolly, Assistant Director for Policy Education
Howard Casway, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Scotti Russell, Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy
Dr. William Harp, Executive Director, Board of Medicine
Ralph A. Orr, Program Manager, Prescription Monitoring Program

INTRODUCTIONS: Dr. Amy Tharp was introduced as a new committee member. Ruby Qazilbash, Senior Policy Advisor for Substance Abuse and Mental Health, and Rebecca M. Rose, Policy Advisor for Substance Abuse and Mental Health, both from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs were introduced as visitors. The Bureau of Justice Assistance manages the federal grants through which the program has been funded.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments were received.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN Dr. Kenneth Walker was elected as Chairman. Randell Clouse was elected as Vice-Chairman.

DISCUSSION: PURDUE FREDERICK SETTLEMENT Ms. Ryals discussed the highlights of the \$20 million in the settlement from the Purdue Frederick federal court case for the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) which is now deposited in a trust fund where it is intended to fund the program for the foreseeable future. It is her understanding that beginning fiscal year 2009 the program may start drawing money from the interest accrued to a maximum of \$1 million a year with small increases allowed after the first year. The principle is intended to stay intact and the funds may only be used to

operate the PMP. Ms. Ryals stated that this funding will be used to greatly increase the education and outreach efforts of the program as well as the normal operating expenses.

**PRESCRIBER
NOTIFICATION
REPORTS**

Mr. Orr gave an overview of the progress to date with sending prescriber notification reports to prescribers of patients meeting or exceeding a certain threshold of using different prescribers and different pharmacies within a one month period. Six months of reports have been sent out, and responses from prescribers have been very positive. After each round of letters has been sent there has been an increase in website registrations by prescribers as well as in the number of requests for information submitted. While it is still too early to make definitive judgments on this aspect of the program, there appears to have been some reduction in the number of prescribers being seen as well as the number of prescriptions received for those patients identified in the prescriber notification reports.

**ONLINE CONTINUING
MEDICAL EDUCATION
PROJECT**

Ms. Jolly gave a brief overview of an education/outreach project that is being developed in partnership with Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Medicine and the PMP. The purpose of the project is to develop a web-based modular education tool for prescribers, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals on pain management, the laws and regulations governing the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances and the use of the PMP. The web-based tool is formatted into modules with interactive features as well extensive resource links. Continuing medical education credit is expected to be granted by the Boards of Medicine and Pharmacy and will be offered at no cost to licensees of DHP. The expected "go live" date is mid-September 2007.

**PLANNED SYSTEM
IMPROVEMENTS**

Mr. Orr presented a briefing on system improvements for the program website and capabilities being planned for late 2007. The website will receive a new look with redesigned reports and other features including a feature that will make it easier for users to contact program administrators. The program also plans to purchase additional software to enhance data search capabilities allowing the program to provide 24/7 access to the program. This will be extremely useful to those prescribers working in emergency rooms and urgent care centers as well as pharmacies with late hours or 24 hour service. Some committee members commented that the website is sometimes difficult to use, requiring additional steps, not intuitive, and not user friendly. Dr. Walker suggested that committee members who are also users of the website try to identify specific problems with the site and send this information to Mr. Orr to pass on to the software vendor for consideration.

**FALL CONFERENCE
PLANNING**

Mr. Orr announced that a fall conference is being planned and asked all to "hold the date" of November 16, 2007. Among the topics being planned for the conference are: Responsible Opioid Prescribing, Online CME Pain Management Course, unveiling of the new PMP DataCenter website and features, Balanced Pain Policy Initiative-

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National Research Findings, Opioid Mortality in Southwest Virginia, and a panel discussion with all speakers. The conference will be free to participants with the target audience being prescribers, pharmacists, and other interested stakeholders.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Ms. Jolly gave a presentation that described past efforts of the PMP and proposed new ideas for education and outreach to prescribers, pharmacists, and shareholders. Going forward, Ms. Jolly proposed continuing of conferences and presentations as well as developing a point of service program to provide educational information on the program and the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances to doctors' offices and pharmacies. Other ideas include mass market media campaigns in selected areas to highlight the problem and increase awareness of prescription drug abuse. Dr. Walker proposed that when new tools are developed that the committee serve as "beta" testers and that the addition of new tools be introduced on a regional basis.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

Mr. Orr announced that DHP and the program will be moving to a new location effective August 20, 2007. The new address as well as phone and fax numbers will be posted on the PMP website. Mr. Orr stated that the program is adding approximately 1 million records a month to the database which currently has over 14.5 million prescription records. The program is also much busier as seen by the fact that in just the first 4 months of 2007 the program fulfilled more requests than were processed in all of 2006. As a result of this workload and the inception of the prescriber notification reports, a new part-time administrative assistant, Debbie Carter, was hired in June. Mr. Orr presented information on registered users of the program's web DataCenter. Prescribers are the largest number of users and make the most requests. However, there are over 32,000 prescribers in Virginia and only 535 are currently registered to use the program. The program continues to include information about the program in board newsletters, has developed a new brochure for prescribers and pharmacists and has given several presentations to various groups since the last committee meeting. Recently, Mr. Orr has made 2 presentations on the PMP in support of "Project Remote", a Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substances Abuse Services program designed to increase the availability of outpatient based substance abuse treatment services in selected areas of the Commonwealth.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 16, 2007 at 8 AM.

ADJOURN:

With all business concluded, the committee adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Kenneth Walker, M.D, Chairman

Ralph A. Orr, Program Manager

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