

Prescription Monitoring Program Advisory Council State of Louisiana

July 7, 2021

MINUTES

A meeting of the Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Advisory Council scheduled to meet on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at Embassy Suites Hotel, 4914 Constitution Avenue in Baton Rouge, LA 70808, convened at 1:10 p.m. to consider the following:

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order
2. Amendment to Council Roster
3. Quorum Call
4. Call for Additional Agenda Items & Adoption of Agenda
5. Consideration of Minutes from Previous Meeting – July 8, 2020
6. Opportunity for Public Comment
7. Annual Election of Council Officers
8. Review of Program Operation
9. Consideration of Butalbital as a Drug of Concern
10. New Agenda Items Added During Meeting
11. Calendar Notes
12. Adjourn

Advisory Council Representatives/Designees present: Carl Aron (LABP) chaired the meeting. Also present were Mary Peyton (LSBME), Monique Calmes (LSBN), Lauren Bailey (LSMS), Lisa Bayhi (LANP), Crystal Carter (LPA), Bud Courson (LAMP), Lawrence Alexander, Jr. (DEA), Maj. Jason Turner (LSP), Paul Knecht (LDH), Shelly Dupre (NACDS).

Others present: Marty McKay, Malcolm Broussard, Joe Fontenot, Carlos Finalet, and Danielle Hartzog, (all LABP). Whitney Sullivan (LSBN), Jennie Stelly (ULM), Drew Murray (HHW), Meah Johnson (HHW).

Call for Additional Agenda Items & Adoption of Agenda

No additional agenda items introduced; agenda adopted.

Consideration of Minutes from the July 8, 2020 Meeting

Minutes were approved by consensus with no corrections.

Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comments.

Annual Election of Council Officers

The only nomination for the office of Chair was Carl Aron (LABP). Mr. Aron was elected by acclamation and assumed the office immediately.

The only nomination for the office of Vice Chair was Lauren Bailey. Lauren Bailey was elected by acclamation and assumed the office immediately.

Review of Program Operation

Joe Fontenot, Assistant Executive Director, presented statistical information regarding the program to the council.

(Attachment 1). Mr. Fontenot updated the council in regards to the enhancement modules.

Clinical Alerts

Mr. Fontenot discussed the Clinical Alerts module of the PMP by reviewing the three (3) types of clinical alerts which are being sent to prescribers:

- Prescriber/Dispenser Threshold Reporting
- Daily Active MME Threshold
- Opioid-BZD concurrent use

Mr. Fontenot reported to the council that the PMP continues to provide these alerts, the process is automated, and continues to operate smoothly.

Prescriber Reports

Mr. Fontenot updated the council in regards to the Prescriber Reports module of the PMP. He told the council that Prescriber Reports are intended to give prescribers insight into their controlled substance prescribing patterns and provide comparisons with peer groups as a point of reference. Mr. Fontenot informed the council that the PMP continues to provide these reports each quarter and the process is functioning very well.

Mandatory Use

Mr. Fontenot provided the council with an update on PMP Mandatory Use compliance reviews. He described the process used to identify prescribers who appear not in compliance with state PMP mandatory use laws and the subsequent reporting to the prescriber boards. Since May 2020, the PMP reported 467 prescribers to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME) and 77 prescribers to the Louisiana State Board of Nursing for what appeared to be non-compliance with state law in regards to PMP mandatory use.

PMP Statewide Integration Project

Mr. Fontenot reminded the council that the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) received a grant from CDC and portion of that grant, 1.8 million dollars, was used to pay for the PMP statewide integration project from January 2019 through April 2021. The grant funds covered the licensing fees associated with connecting EHRs and pharmacy information systems to the PMP. Mr. Fontenot reported that LDH was able to provide an additional \$776,000 in grant funds to cover the integration licensing fees for an additional 12 months ending April 2022.

Drugs of Concern

Mr. Fontenot reminded the council that during the January 8, 2020 meeting of the PMP Advisory Council they made a recommendation to the Board of Pharmacy to add gabapentin and promethazine containing products to the list of drugs of concern which are identified in regulation. The Board received the recommendation during the February 5, 2020 meeting of the Board. The Board had no issues with adding gabapentin, but decided to limit the promethazine entry to oral liquid formulations since there didn't appear to be any evidence of widespread abuse of other dosage forms. The Board completed the rule making process and the new rule became effective in January 2021.

Pharmacy Compliance with PMP Reporting

Mr. Fontenot informed the council that PMP Staff continue to perform compliance reviews of pharmacies in regards to their reporting to the PMP. The Board of Pharmacy's Compliance Officers are used to perform on-site pharmacy audits to assure compliance with the reporting requirements. That process continues to operate smoothly and the PMP is seeing significant benefits from the reviews.

Mr. Fontenot updated the council in regards to disciplinary action taken by the Board in regards to pharmacies being noncompliant with the PMP reporting requirements.

During its August 13, 2020 meeting, the Board took action on two pharmacy permits:

- **Charbonnet Health, LLC, dba Charbonnet Family Pharmacy (New Orleans, LA) (PHY.007000):** For its failure to correct approximately 90 erroneous prescription transactions previously reported to the state PMP, the Board assessed a fine of \$5,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.
- **City Drug, Inc, dba City Drug Store (Bunkie, LA) (PHY.004234):** For its failure to correct approximately 40 erroneous prescription transactions previously reported to the state PMP, the Board assessed a fine of \$5,000 plus administrative and investigative costs.

During its November 18, 2020 meeting, the Board took action on two pharmacy permits:

- **Louisiana CVS Pharmacy, LLC, dba CVS Pharmacy No. 16801 (Monroe) (PHY.007241):** For its failure to accurately record the name of the prescriber on prescriptions for CS as well as the corresponding prescription labels, the Board assessed a fine of \$2,500 plus administrative and investigative costs.
- **Louisiana CVS Pharmacy, LLC, dba CVS Pharmacy No. 5521 (West Monroe, LA) (PHY.005777):** For its repeated failure to accurately record the name of the prescriber on prescriptions for CS as well as the corresponding prescription labels, the Board assessed a fine of \$2,500 plus administrative and investigative costs.

Consideration of Butalbital as a Drug of Concern

Mr. Fontenot reminded the council that in 2010 when butalbital was identified as a drug of concern in regulation, the intent was to collect all prescriptions containing butalbital either as a controlled substance or a drug of concern. However, exceptions found in law and regulation combined with new butalbital product formulations created a gap in PMP reporting in which some products do not require reporting. If the council wished to preserve the original intent, Mr. Fontenot offered a solution with a change in the regulation by simply striking the language after butalbital as follows - ~~butalbital when in combination with at least 325 milligrams of acetaminophen per dosage unit~~. Mr. Aron asked if the council had any objection to the proposal, no objections were raised, and he informed the council that the item will be sent to the Board for consideration.

New Agenda Items Added During Meeting

No new agenda items added.

Calendar Notes

The remaining meeting date in 2021 is: October 13. Meeting dates for Calendar Year 2022 will be announced then.

Adjournment

With no business remaining, the Council adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

I certify that the foregoing are true and accurate minutes.

Malcolm J. Broussard
Executive Director
Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

Prepared by: Danielle Hartzog, Administrative Assistant, Louisiana Board of Pharmacy