

**Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Health**

**Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
Advisory Committee Meeting**

**899 NORTH CAPITOL ST. NE – 2ND FLR.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002
WebEx VIRTUAL MEETING**

April 20, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

Open Session Agenda

Quorum:

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| 0420-O-01 | <p><u>Welcome & Introductions</u></p> <p>Dr. Jacqueline Watson opened the meeting with committee member and staff introductions. The committee welcomes two new members: Commander Ramey Kyle of the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Narcotics and Special Investigations Unit and Ms. Aisha Nixon, the Executive Director of the DC Board of Medicine and DC Board of Chiropractic. Dr. Watson revisited and reviewed the charge of the committee for members.</p> <p><u>Charge of the Committee</u></p> <p>The Committee shall convene at least two (2) times per year to advise the Director:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) On the implementation and evaluation of the Program;(b) On the establishment of criteria for indicators of possible misuse or abuse of covered substances;(c) On standardization of the methodology that should be used for analysis and interpretation of prescription monitoring data;(d) In determining the most efficient and effective manner in which to disclose the findings to proactively inform prescribers regarding the indications of possible abuse or misuse of covered substances;(e) On identifying drugs of concern that demonstrate a potential for abuse and that should be monitored; and(f) Regarding the design and implementation of educational courses for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) Persons who are authorized to access the prescription monitoring information;(2) Persons who are authorized to access the prescription monitoring information, but who have violated the laws or breached professional standards involving the prescribing, dispensing, or use of any controlled substances or drugs monitored by the Program;(3) Prescribers on prescribing practices, pharmacology, and identifying, treating, and referring patients addicted to or abusing controlled substances or drugs monitored by the Program;and(4) The public about the use, diversion and abuse of, addiction to, and treatment for the addiction to controlled substances or drugs monitored by the Program. | |
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| 0420-O-02 | <p><u>Approval of October 2020 PDMP Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes</u></p> <p>(a) Minutes from October 20, 2020 Meeting Motion to approve October 2020 meeting minutes: Dr. White Second: Commander Kyle Motion carries, minutes approved.</p> | |
| 0420-O-03 | <p><u>Report from Attorney Advisor</u></p> <p>(a) PDMP Legislative Update</p> <p>(1) Mandatory Query Legislation Update</p> <p>Ms. Carla Williams noted the passage of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Query Amendment Act of 2020 which passed on March 16, 2021. The law requires prescribers and dispensers to query the PDMP prior to prescribing an opioid or benzodiazepine for more than 7 consecutive days, and every 90 days thereafter while the course of treatment or therapy continues, or prior to dispensing another refill after 90 days.</p> <p>Ms. Williams noted that limited exceptions have been included at the recommendation of the advisory committee and that the law may be amended as the program moves forward.</p> <p>Ms. Williams made a recommendation for the committee to determine a way to put language into the prescription drug monitoring program law regarding the annual report, noting that options include specifying whether an annual report is mandated, the annual report's audience, and specific information which will be included in the report. She discussed options for the annual report.</p> <p>The first option Ms. Williams shared is to provide a report that includes information such as the reduction of the rate of use of controlled substances through the department's safety and education efforts, reduction of the quantity of controlled substances that have been obtained by individuals attempting to engage in fraud or deceit, any increased coordination among partners that are participating in the PDMP, and the involvement of stakeholders in achieving improved patient healthcare and safety, and reduction of controlled substance abuse and diversion.</p> <p>The second option Ms. Williams shared is to provide data that has been processed to remove patient and prescriber personal identifiers for HIPPA purposes to government or other entities for statistical, research, educational, instructional, drug abuse prevention, or grant application purposes.</p> <p>Ms. Williams also made a recommendation for the committee to review indicators for use and misuse (item b in the committee's charge). She noted that once the indicators are identified, they must be implemented through a rule making process, which can be lengthy. She noted that the indicators can possibly go into the annual report.</p> | |

Dr. Watson noted that recommendations go to the Director of the Department of Health to make the final decision. She noted that the committee should follow best practices and noted that an annual report is important for making sure the committee has data to reflect the fact that the program is measuring what its doing and using the information to make informed decisions and change laws and requirements, as appropriate.

0420-O-04

Program Updates

(a) PDMP Registration Statistics

Dr. Watson complimented the team for its outreach efforts, noting that participation numbers indicate that a lot of people are tuning in. She also reminded the team to continue measuring participation numbers and feedback to inform future presentations.

Dr. White thanked Dr. Loadman and the team for supporting each other in the outreach efforts. Dr. White shared registration statistics, noting that most physicians were captured during the Board of Medicine renewal.

Dr. Watson noted that a large percentage of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are not in compliance with the mandatory PDMP registration law. Ms. Williams noted that the renewal cycle has been used to prevent practitioners from renewing their license if they had not registered for the PDMP. Mr. Meyers noted that he would work with the Board of Nursing to communicate the consequences of non-compliance with those individuals who have not yet registered with the PDMP. Dr. Watson asked Mr. Meyers to begin working on this issue by the end of the week in the effort to ensure compliance of APRNs, as well as other health practitioners registered by DC Health, by the end of May 2021.

(b) Outreach Activities

Dr. White shared recent and upcoming outreach, noting presentations, newsletter ads, and email blasts communicating the PDMP mandatory query law. Dr. Watson noted that moving forward, presentations should include slides on DC Health’s mission, vision, and goals, its strategic plan, and a copy of the organizational chart.

Past

| Date | Audience | Participant Count |
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| March 11 | DC Nurse Practitioner Association | 23 participants |
| March 16 | Kaiser Permanente Pharmacy Residents | 13 participants |
| March 17 | Children’s National Hospital Residents | 13 participants |
| March 30 | Mandatory Query Lunch and Learn | 735 participants |
| April 2 | Mandatory Query Lunch and Learn | 490 participants |
| April 13 | Mandatory Query Lunch and Learn | 198 participants |
| April 14 | DC Dental Society | 27 participants |

Future

| Date | Audience |
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| April 15 | DC Board of Veterinary Medicine |
| April 21 | DC Hospital Association Joint Committee Meeting |
| April 21 | DC Hospital Association newsletter ad |
| April 21 | Medical Society of DC |
| April 23 | Mandatory Query Lunch and Learn |
| April 27 | NarxCare webinar |
| May 4 | Mandatory Query Lunch and Learn |

(c) Annual Report
In progress

(d) Mandatory Query Presentation
Ms. Cathryn Mudrick gave a presentation on the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Query Amendment Act of 2020. Ms. Mudrick shared the law’s impact, noting that since the passage of the law, there has been a 61% increase of queries directly in the PDMP and a 97% increase in queries through Gateway.

Dr. White noted that more providers will begin querying the system as well as integrating the PDMP into their EHRs due to the mandatory query law.

Ms. Nixon asked if any communication was sent to all registered individuals notifying them of the passage of the mandatory query law, and Dr. White noted that there have been a number of communications sent to prescribers, which resulted in the high turnout for informational webinars held by DC PDMP staff. She also noted that a recording of the mandatory query webinar will be added to the PDMP website and providers are welcome to email PDMP staff for assistance.

0420-O-05

PDMP Best Practice Checklist Updates and Discussion

Review recent best practice checklist activities

- Disseminate quarterly prescriber reports
 - Most recent prescriber report was released February 2021
- Mandate PDMP utilization (query) for prescribers and dispensers
 - DC Law 23-252 *Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Query and Omnibus Health Amendments Act of 2020* passed on March 16, 2021
- Send PDMP notification letter to new prescribers
 - Most recent letter was sent via email on April 5, 2021
- Send PDMP notification letter to unregistered APRNs and MTLs
 - Letter was sent via email on April 12, 2021
- Distribute reports
 - 2020 annual report is currently under review
- Audit licensed pharmacies to determine submission practices
 - February—March 2021
- Collect pharmacy submission data or waiver when pharmacies apply for renewal
 - Pharmacy renewal period is now open and ends on May 31, 2021

Committee feedback and discussion

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| | <p>Dr. White reviewed the recent best practice checklist activities. Dr. Watson noted that when an audit is conducted, there needs to be a report tied to it, which gives information on what the audit found. She noted that the findings from the audit should determine if there is anything that needs to be done, the information that is being obtained, and how the information is used.</p> | |
| <p>0420-O-06</p> | <p><u>Grant Updates</u></p> <p>(a) Districtwide Gateway Integration Since the October 2020 meeting, 5 health entities connected to the DC PDMP through Gateway Integration. A total of 30 healthcare entities have integrated so far, including 1 large regional health system, 2 pharmacy chains with more than 75 locations in the District, 2 independent pharmacies, 7 health care centers, 16 private practices, and 2 hospitals.</p> <p>Dr. Justin Ortique provided an update on the number of entities that have connected the PDMP through Gateway Integration and noted that the team is continuing its outreach efforts. Dr. Ortique noted that there would be more PDMP utilization with the passage of mandatory query law.</p> <p>Dr. Watson noted that the PDMP team should determine the number of entities it wants to target for integration and actively engage them, adding that those who have integrated may be able to serve as role models to encourage others to integrate.</p> <p>(b) User experience update Prescriber reports The most recent prescriber reports were released in February 2021</p> <p>(c) Opioid Communications Campaign Ms. Brittany Allen provided an update on the opioid communications campaign noting that messaging will portray a tone of hope, encouragement, and a sense of recovery that is customizable for each individual. Currently the vendor, Engage Strategies, LLC is in the process of editing videos which portray personal stories of recovery featuring DC residents. Deliverables include Metro ads, social media posts, and a website featuring photos, video, and links to peer counselors and recovery resources. The target campaign release date is in May 2021. Dr. White noted that the campaign is in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) and the Mayor’s LIVE.LONG.DC initiative.</p> | |

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| <p>0420-O-07</p> <p>Matters for Consideration</p> | <p><u>Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Future meeting dates FY 2021-2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ August 17, 2021 ○ December 21, 2021 <p>The committee discussed changing the frequency and length of meetings and decided to scale back to 1.5 hour meetings held three times a year in April, August, and December.</p> <p>Dr. Watson asked the PDMP staff to provide a draft copy of the annual report to committee members by June 1, so that they may provide feedback. After receiving committee feedback, the report will be reviewed and finalized by DC Health leadership for publication.</p> | |
| <p>0420-O-08</p> | <p>Other news/highlights from Committee members</p> <p><u>Upcoming Committee on Health Hearings:</u></p> <p>June 2021 – COH Budget Hearing – Date and Time TBA</p> <p><u>Past Committee on Health Hearings:</u></p> <p>March 19, 2021 – COH Performance Oversight Hearing 9:00 a.m. – WebEx</p> <p>Dr. Watson again welcomed Commander Kyle to the committee and asked him to share a report on what’s happening on the ground from the police force perspective during each meeting.</p> <p>Commander Kyle noted that he started 3 weeks ago. Previous commander of criminal investigations division, which houses most detectives in the police department. He noted that there has been a large number of pharmacy robberies (esp. independent pharmacies) and then the stolen items are posted for sale on social media.</p> <p>Dr. Watson noted that the opioid epidemic was a big focus before the pandemic and said that after the pandemic, we will likely learn more about the impact it has had on worsening mental health and substance abuse.</p> <p>Ms. Doyle noted that Senator Klobuchar introduced legislation that would require prescribers to query the PDMP before initiating treatment with a controlled substance in schedules II-IV and again every three months while the course of treatment continues.</p> <p>https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/889/text</p> | |
| <p>Comments from the Public</p> | <p>None.</p> | |

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| Motion to Adjourn the Open Session | <p>Madam Chair, I move that the Committee close the meeting. Motion to adjourn the meeting: Ms. Sheri Doyle Second: Aisha Nixon</p> <p>(Roll Call Vote)</p> <p>Ms. Doyle Dr. Kirilichin Ms. Nixon Dr. White Ms. Stiles Commander Kyle</p> <p>Motion carries, meeting is adjourned</p> | |
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This concludes the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 11 : 30 AM