



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

**Prescription Drug Monitoring Program  
Advisory Committee Meeting**

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

**April 5, 2022  
10AM—11:30AM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER: 10:02 am**

**PRESIDING: Dr. Jacqueline Watson**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP/ATTENDANCE:**

<b>ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b>		
	Jacqueline Watson, DO, MBA, DC Health Chief of Staff	
	Aisha Nixon, MPT, CPM, Board of Medicine Executive Director	
	Natalie Kirilichin, MD, MPH, Emergency Medicine Physician	
	Justin Ortique, PharmD, RPh, Supervisory Pharmacist	
<b>PDMP STAFF:</b>	Erica Loadman, PharmD, RPh, Pharmacist	
	Danielle Chapman, Lead Investigator	
<b>LEGAL STAFF:</b>	Carla Williams, Esq, Senior Assistant General Counsel, PDMP Attorney Advisor	
<b>VISITORS:</b>	Carl Filler, Director of Government Relations, DC Health	
	Gaurav Dhiman, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, DC Health	
	Amanda Attiya, Policy Analyst, Office of Government Relations	
	Maura Gaffney, Intelligence Analyst, Federal Drug Enforcement Administration,	
	Sharon Hunt, State Opioid Treatment Response Authority, DC Department of Behavioral Health	
	Alex Evans, Chemist, DC Department of Forensic Sciences Public Health Lab	
	Samantha Leach, Supervisory Chemist, Forensic Chemistry Unit, DC Department of Forensic Sciences	
	Luke Short, Interim Chief Science Officer, DC Department of Forensic Sciences	
	Lauren Kiefer, Account Specialist, Bamboo Health	
	Taylor Derringer, Project Manager, Bamboo Health	
	Vito DelVento, DVM, MS, Executive Director, DC Board of Veterinary Medicine	
	Sneheal Parkih	
	Julie Wiegandt, Project Director, DC Department of Behavioral Health	

## **Welcome and Call to Order**

Dr. Jacqueline Watson, Committee Chair, called the April 2022 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Advisory Committee meeting to order at 10:02 am, then welcomed and greeted participants.

## **Introductions**

Dr. Watson proceeded to request introductions from committee members, staff, and visitors. Committee members that were present introduced themselves, including Aisha Nixon, Dr. Natalie Kirilichin, and Dr. Justin Ortique, establishing quorum. PDMP staff members introduced themselves, including Erica Loadman and Danielle Chapman. Legal staff member and PDMP Attorney Advisor, Carla Williams, introduced herself. Dr. Watson requested introductions from open session visitors. Visitors introduced themselves, including Carl Filler, Gaurav Dhiman, Amanda Attiya, Maura Gaffney, Dr. Sharon Hunt, Alex Evans, Samantha Leach, and Dr. Luke Short.

Committee members not in attendance:

- Commander Ramey Kyle, DC Metropolitan Police Department
- Lakisha Stiles, CPhT
- Sheri Doyle, MPH (Consumer Committee Member)

Late arrivals:

- Taylor Derringer joined 10:06 am
- Dr. Vito Del Vento joined 10:08 am
- Samantha Leach joined 10:16 am
- Julie Wiegandt joined 11:02 am

## **Chair Report**

In her Chair Report, Dr. Watson recognized the impact of COVID-19 on those affected by the opioid epidemic and discussed progress of the DC Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). She mentioned discussion with Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt, Director of DC Health, regarding potential changes to the composition of the PDMP Advisory Committee, such as adding representatives from the DC Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) and the DC Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS). Dr. Kirilichin expressed her support for this in the meeting chat. Dr. Watson continued to discuss changes to the FY 2023 proposed budget and oversight bill based on addressing the 9 key social determinants of health for District residents. She followed by asking whether meeting members had any questions. No questions were raised.

## **Charge of the Committee**

Dr. Watson asked committee members to review the Charge of the Committee (listed in the meeting agenda) and, based on the Charge, think about potential program goals and actions moving forward.

## **Approval of Previous Open Session Minutes**

Dr. Watson asked whether there was a motion to approve meeting minutes from the December 2021 PDMP Advisory Committee open session. However, since at the December 2021 PDMP Advisory Committee meeting it was found that a quorum was not established, there were no minutes to approve. Dr. Ortique moved to approve the August 2021 PDMP Advisory Committee open session minutes. Aisha Nixon seconded Dr. Ortique's motion. A roll call vote determined all present Advisory Committee members were in favor of the approval of the August 2021 PDMP Advisory Committee open session minutes; a motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

## **Report from Attorney Advisor**

Dr. Watson requested a report from the Attorney Advisory, Carla Williams. Ms. Williams discussed proposed legislation which would expand the Director's permissive authority. Ms. Williams stated that proposed legislation had moved forward since the last meeting, but that the draft was being revised to address comments received from the Mayor's office. Ms. Williams stated that she anticipated the proposed legislation would move forward again before the next advisory committee meeting.

## **Program Updates**

Dr. Loadman provided DC PDMP program updates related to user registration, compliance, and Program outreach. Dr. Watson and Dr. Ortique discussed gaps in registration compliance and ways in which this may be addressed. Dr. Watson concluded that the program should develop strategies to ensure that new licensees are compliant with the requirement to register.

In discussion of program updates, Dr. Loadman and Dr. Ortique touched on potential changes to DC PDMP legislation that may impact the data included in future DC PDMP Annual Report publications. Dr. Watson suggested the possibility of aligning the release of the Annual Report with the fiscal year, rather than the calendar year and asked for comments from meeting attendees. No additional comments were made.

### **Grant Updates**

Dr. Ortique provided Program grant updates, including efforts in the promotion of PMP Gateway integration, outreach efforts by the District Addiction Consultation Service (DACS), and MyRecovery DC. Dr. Watson inquired about webinar participation and, specifically, practice areas of participants. Dr. Ortique noted that more data collection is needed to determine participant breakdown by practice area.

### **Presentation on Potential Covered Substance (Xylazine) - Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)**

Maura Gaffney, intelligence analyst with the strategic intelligence group in the DEA's Washington Division, delivered a presentation about the abuse and misuse of veterinary drug, xylazine, within the District and surrounding jurisdictions. Ms. Gaffney specifically touched on adverse effects of the drug, use as an adulterant to other illicit substances, the origin and progression of xylazine misuse/abuse in the United States, and challenges in recognizing and treating patients who abuse xylazine.

Dr. Watson solicited commentary from the audience following Ms. Gaffney's presentation. Comments and questions from Dr. Del Vento, Dr. Loadman, Dr. Kirilichin, and Ms. Nixon followed. Concerns were raised regarding awareness of DC clinicians. Advisory Committee members, Dr. Kirilichin, Aisha Nixon, and Dr. Watson, agreed that the DC PDMP may play a role in communicating concerns to local providers and healthcare facilities.

Carla Williams asked Dr. Del Vento whether Xylazine is typically issued pursuant to a prescription in veterinary practice. Dr. Del Vento noted that Xylazine is typically only used in veterinary practice in an inpatient setting for sedation purposes and is not distributed via outpatient prescriptions. Ms. Williams concluded that, in this case, there is not much that can be done from a PDMP-perspective other than communicating concerns to DC clinicians.

### **Second Xylazine Presentation – Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS)**

Alexandra Evans, chemist with DC DFS delivered a presentation about DFS xylazine data, discussing overdose considerations, dangers of use, street names of xylazine, potential of local scheduling of the drug, recent increase in syringe-exchange program detection of xylazine as an adulterant, and lack of Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) data related to xylazine.

Ms. Leach concluded the presentation by discussing possible opportunities for collaboration between DFS and the PDMP. Dr. Watson agreed and suggested that PDMP staff include DFS in upcoming outreach events.

Dr. Watson, Ms. Gaffney, Dr. Del Vento, and Samantha Leach discussed possible sources of Xylazine, including equestrian practices and online drug sales. Samantha Leach mentioned DFS's plan to add Xylazine to the "SAFE DC" Act. Dr. Watson suggested DC Health also advocate for this amendment.

Dr. Watson asked Julie Wiegandt discussed the possibility of using federal grant funding to address opioid and stimulant polysubstance use, including Xylazine. Ms. Gaffney and Ms. Wiegandt reminded meeting attendees that Narcan should always be used to treat suspected opioid overdoses.

### **'Clinical Alerts' One-Pager and Discussion**

Dr. Loadman presented a summary document outlining the 'Clinical Alerts' feature offered by Bamboo Health as an addition to the current PDMP software. This feature alerts PDMP users to clinical thresholds exceeded by patients that may be cause for concern.

### **DC PDMP Program Assessment**

Dr. Ortique reviewed DC PDMP progress over the past few years, highlighting legislation passed, grant funding, program outreach efforts, prescriber reports, and future plans. Dr. Ortique reiterated that future plans are shaped by the Charge of the Committee. Dr. Ortique asked the Committee to consider several closing questions about program future plans. Dr. Watson suggested continuation of the current meeting schedule.

Dr. Watson, Dr. Loadman, and Bamboo Health discussed potential methods of evaluating usefulness of prescriber reports.

Dr. Ortique continued by welcoming input from the Committee members regarding future program plans. Ms. Nixon and Dr. Kirilichin discussed support for PDMP outreach efforts and spreading awareness of concerns within the DC provider community. Dr. Watson suggested emailing the Committee members with questions regarding future program plans.

### **Continuation of Discussion (following loss of quorum)**

Dr. Kirilichin left the meeting at 11:54 am, which ended quorum. The agenda items, 09) Action Items, 10) Other news/highlights from Committee members, and Comments from the Public were not addressed.

The remaining members discussed suggestions for future Advisory Committee meetings, including continuation of current meeting schedule, ensuring all committee members are present during future meetings, and the possibility of including representatives from other DC government sectors as members of the DC PDMP Advisory Committee.

Since quorum was lost, Dr. Watson requested a formal draft of potential additions to the Advisory Committee for discussion during the next meeting. She also asked that PDMP staff obtain xylazine toxicology data from OCME, develop compliance strategies to ensure new licensees register with the DC PDMP within 90 days of licensure, and ensure all meeting minutes are provided to the Attorney Advisor and Committee Chair prior to being included in the meeting agenda.

Dr. Watson thanked attendees, Committee members, and PDMP staff for a productive meeting. The meeting ended at 12:17 pm. The meeting ended without a vote to adjourn due to the loss of quorum.