



State Medical Board of Ohio

**RESPIRATORY CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 8, 2021**

via live-streamed video conference

Members: Harish Kakarala, MD Robert Pelfrey, DHSc, MSHS, RRT-ACCS, NPS, RPFT, AE-C Amy Rodenhause, M. Ed, RRT Sanja Keller, MS, RRT, RCP Cindy Groeniger Karen May	Staff: Jill Reardon, Deputy Director of External Affairs Brandi Dorcy, Chief of Compliance Benton Taylor, Board Parliamentarian
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Ms. Reardon called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Minutes Review

Dr. Kakarala moved to approve the draft minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting of the Respiratory Care Advisory Council. Ms. Rodenhause seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Legislative Update

Ms. Reardon reported the Senate was expected to release its substitute bill with possible amendments. Ms. Reardon added that the board will keep Council apprised of any amendments added to the bill that would impact the respiratory care community.

House Bill 122: Ms. Reardon stated the Telehealth Bill would permit certain health care professionals to provide Telehealth services according to specific conditions and standards, passed out of the House and is pending hearing in the Senate.

One Bite Presentation

Nelson Heise, the Clinical Director of the Ohio Physicians Health Program (OPHP), gave a presentation on the One Bite program. Mr. Heise reported that the law permitting the One Bite program has been in existence since the mid 1980's, and its last modification occurred in 2019, when Respiratory Care Professional's (RCP) were included. Mr. Heise stated that under the One Bite law licensees do need to report that they received treatment for a substance abuse disorder on their license renewal application with the Medical Board. Mr. Heise emphasized that this allows health care professionals recovering from substance abuse disorders, to focus on their health without a potential impact to their license.

Mr. Heise stated that OPHP has contracted with several agencies in the state, including the Medical Board, to administer the One Bite Program. Mr. Heise opined that if an RCP got referred to OPHP, he is the person that would provide the RCP information about the One Bite process. Mr. Heise added to

be eligible for the One Bite Program, practitioners must meet 3 criteria 1). receive a substance abuse disorder diagnosis 2). be a first-time participant of the program 3). have not been previously disciplined by the Medical Board for impairment.

Mr. Heise explained that the requirements of the One Bite Program include self-suspension of license, completion of treatment at an approved treatment provider; enroll with OPHP for monitoring, complete 6 months of continuing care with an approved One Bite provider and agree to be monitored for 5 years via a board approved monitoring organization. Mr. Heise reported that from 2014 – 2019, OPHP's One Bite Program saw participants achieve a success rate of 92% with no relapse. Mr. Heise attributed the high rate of success as being due to accountability and monitoring within the program.

Ms. Keller thanked Mr. Heise for his presentation and asked if the One Bite Program included students who have applied for a limited permit to practice respiratory care? Mr. Heise replied at the current time they are not covered, but there had been discussions to draft legislation that would permit students to have access to the One Bite Program.

Mr. Pelfrey remarked that this was a great program and asked how where RCP's could find this information? Ms. Reardon stated that One Bite information is provided on the Medical Board's website, E-newsletters, and in email correspondence sent to licensees. Mr. Heise added that information can be found on the OPHP website and they send out quarterly newsletters to all licensees. Ms. Ciarlariello volunteered that the Ohio Society for Respiratory Care (OSRC) would be happy to post the information on their website, as well.

Ms. Reardon thanked Mr. Heise and asked him to provide her with a copy of his presentation, so that she could share it with all Council members.

Introduction of Brandi Dorcy, Chief of Compliance

Ms. Dorcy stated that she manages programs that assist Board licensees with getting treatment, which include One Bite and the Confidential Monitoring Program. Ms. Dorcy added she also supervises the probation department for those licensees under Board Order. Ms. Dorcy noted that the probation department consists of one compliance officer, Angie Sturgeon who works with all the licensees on probation.

Ohio State Respiratory Care Update on Licensee Renewals

Ms. Ciarlariello stated she had discussions with the Board over concerns about the 900 plus RCP's that failed to renew their license during the months of March, April or May. Ms. Ciarlariello stated the Board provided her with the list of those license numbers for her analysis, to see if there was a trend for those non-renewals.

Ms. Ciarlariello stated she first looked at license numbers, to help her deduce how many years each RCP had been licensed. Ms. Ciarlariello stated that she compared the non-renewal list to the 4200 RCP's first licensed in 1990, when the RCP license became available. Ms. Ciarlariello noted that 220 of those RCP's were in this group and surmised their lack of renewal may be attributed to retirement.

Ms. Ciarlariello reported she then broke out the group into those RCP's licensed between 1991 and 2004. Ms. Ciarlariello noted that this groups lack of renewal amounted to less than 5%, in each of those years.

Ms. Ciarlariello stated she turned her focus to those RCP's that were issued their first license from 2015 through 2019. Ms. Ciarlariello added she was surprised by her findings that approximately 32% of the RCP's fell into this group. Ms. Ciarlariello reasoned that COVID, relocation, and change in profession may all have been reasons for not renewing.

Ms. Keller voiced her surprise that the decline in renewal occurred before COVID. Dr. Kakarala added it appears this has been trending even before COVID stressed the entire system. Mr. Pelfrey added that he witnessed many RCP's expedite their retirement to avoid being exposed to COVID. Ms. Ciarlariello stated that she would take this information back to OSRC for further analysis. Ms. Reardon offered her thanks to Ms. Ciarlariello for her help in analyzing this data.

Ms. Ciarlariello invited everyone that was on the call to attend the educator manager recruitment seminar at the state meeting. Ms. Ciarlariello added that the topics at the seminar would include ways to improve, recruitment and retention.

Council Member Appointments

Ms. Reardon stated that Council member appointments would be taken before the full board tomorrow.

Topics for Discussion at Next Meeting

Ms. Reardon noted the topics for the next meeting are welcoming new members and a Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) update. Ms. Reardon stated that she is working with staff to obtain more substantive information and statistics about complaints and actions taken on respiratory care licensees.

2021 Meeting Schedule & Next Topics for Discussion

Ms. Reardon stated that the Council will meet again on September 7, 2021. Ms. Reardon noted it is unclear if remote meetings would be permitted to continue, and she will keep Council informed as to any updates.

Adjourn

Dr. Kakarala moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Rodenhausen seconded the motion. All Committee members voted aye. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

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