

PRIMARY CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL (PCAC) MINUTES

March 15, 2018

10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carson City:

None

Las Vegas:

Dr. Amir Qureshi, Chair

Call-In:

Dr. Susan VanBeuge, Vice Chairperson

Laura Hale – Proxy for Nancy Bowen

Chuck Duarte

Tammy Moffit – Proxy for Shannon Sprout

Keith Clark – Proxy for Gerald Ackerman

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Catherine O'Mara

Shannon Sprout

Nancy Bowen

Gerald Ackerman

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Jones, Manager, Primary Care Office (PCO)

Joseph Tucker, Primary Care Office (PCO)

Margot Chappel, Manager, Primary Care and Health Workforce Development Office (PCWDO)

Marni Whalen, Human Resources, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services

OTHERS:

Sheila Poco, Northern Nevada Medical Group

Emma Sutherland, Esq.

Susan DeLauer, Las Vegas Medical Group

Allison Hitz, Esq.

Dr. Ovuworie, Kappellini Medical Inc

Linda Anderson, Deputy Attorney General

A. Qureshi called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

1. Roll call and confirmation of quorum.

S. Jones read the roll call and stated that there was a quorum present.

2. Approval of the minutes from the January 24, 2018 meeting of the PCAC.

No questions or comments.

Motion: Susan VanBuege

Second: Chuck Duarte

Motion passed

3. Recommendation to the Administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health regarding a J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Letter of Support for Dr. Eng Tan.

Joseph Tucker presented a summary (handout) of the application. Chuck Duarte inquired about the patient mix which was provided in the letter from Carson Tahoe Health. He expressed a concern that the percentage Medicaid patients appeared low for a facility serving all patients regardless of ability to pay in the county. Scott Jones explained that the population served were elderly and therefore more of the patients were likely Medicare. Dr. Amir Qureshi asked if the location was publicly owned or private. S. Jones explained that it is a privately owned nonprofit corporation. C. Duarte asked if there was a limitation of the number of Medicaid patients. S. Jones replied that the application attested that all patients are served regardless of ability to pay. A. Qureshi stated that he did not think that there was a reason to hold the application. A. Qureshi asked that S. Jones to follow up with the application representatives to verify that they do not restrict Medicaid populations. He also asked that S. Jones follow up with the PCAC if any significant is identified.

Motion: Susan VanBeuge

Second: Laura Hale

Motion passed

4. Recommendation to the Administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health regarding a J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Letter of Support for Dr. Carissa Carag.

J. Tucker presented a summary (handout) of the application. A. Qureshi asked if the liquidated damages clause in the contract complied with program policies. S. Jones stated that the value fell within the recommended value identified in program policy.

Motion: Chuck Duarte

Second: Susan VanBuege

Motion passed

5. Recommendation to the Administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health regarding a J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Letter of Support for Dr. Rami Abukamil.

J. Tucker presented a summary (handout) of the application. J. Tucker specified that yearly patients seen by the hospital was reported as 222 patients. A. Qureshi expressed concern that the yearly patient numbers were low. He then asked if there was a physician currently at Stein. S. Jones explained that Stein Hospital is part of the Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services campus, and there is a physician to assist with the campus's overall operations. S. Jones stated that he was not sure if there is a physician currently at Stein Hospital. Susan VanBuege asked if some clarification could be obtained from the site and brought back to the council. S. Jones stated that the PCO would follow up with the site and report back. S. VanBuege asked if this candidate was only meeting with patients within the prison system. Allison Hitz, the attorney representing this candidate stated that this candidate would only be providing services for the incarcerated patients. A. Qureshi asked where he would be working. A. Hitz stated that he would be on site at Stein Psychiatric Hospital that houses clients that are in the prison system, and is a forensic hospital. C. Duarte asked if the clients are individuals adjudicated from the criminal justice system to Stein Forensic Hospital while awaiting hearing. A. Hitz stated that was correct. C. Duarte stated that it seemed that the FTE listed on the application was rather high for the patient population. He then asked if the FTE listed on the application also represented psychiatrists serving clients at Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services. A. Hitz stated that she thought that was correct but would get the information and confirm to the council. C. Duarte asked if there is a supervising psychiatrist on site, and A. Hitz stated that she did not think that there was one on site at all times. A. Qureshi stated that he might have an administrative supervisor, but that he will be working as a full-time independent physician who has completed required training. A. Qureshi stated that the council needs verification of

the yearly patient numbers and the provider FTE from the site. S. Jones stated that he would find out the information and send it out to the council. S. VanBuege moved that this item be tabled until the questions are answered. A. Qureshi and C. Duarte expressed their agreement. A. Qureshi explained that the PCAC can schedule another meeting promptly to review the application once more information is available.

Marni Whalen joined the call later in the meeting to discuss this candidate further. M. Whalen explained that the numbers are correct, and that the position will be a state employee, and not a contract employee. S. VanBuege stated that she would still like to have the item remain tabled until the PCAC receives further information. The council agreed to table the agenda item.

Motion: Chuck Duarte
Second: Susan VanBuege
Motion Tabled

6. Recommendation to the Administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health regarding a J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Letter of Support for Dr. Sinziana Mahelean.

J. Tucker presented a summary (handout) of the application. A. Qureshi stated that he has worked at Sunrise Hospital. He stated that it is a large hospital that serves a large number of underserved populations. He then stated that it is his understanding that InPatient Consultants has the contract for both the Emergency Room as well as for hospitalist coverage.

Motion: Susan VanBuege
Second: Chuck Duarte
Motion passed

7. Recommendation to the Administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health regarding a J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Letter of Support for Dr. Nauman Jahangir.

J. Tucker presented a summary (handout) of the application. C. Duarte asked if this was an incomplete packet because the site needs to supply an updated contract, base salary specification, and proof that there is not a non-compete clause. A. Qureshi stated that this could be a conditional approval. L. Hale stated that the applicant packet showed that they started recruitment in 2014, but that there is no current information regarding more recent recruitment for the position. A. Hitz stated that the doctor is already working on site and has been working for several years on a O1 visa status. The recruitment period reported was from before the candidate started in his current position in 2015. A. Qureshi stated that he has personal experience working with Dr. Jahangir, and Dr. Jahangir is exceptionally hard working and is very talented. A. Qureshi stated that the site is struggling to recruit cardiothoracic surgeons, and he is in support of this application. A. Qureshi stated that he understood that this physician had completed his training several years ago and was under an O1. This application was submitted to transition from the O1 to the J-1 Visa Waiver Program. Dr. VanBuege asked for an explanation of the difference between an O1 and a J-1. A. Qureshi stated that the O1 is a temporary status that allows a physician to work in the United States after completing training. To stay in the country, the candidate would need to transition back to J-1 waiver program and complete the three-year commitment.

Motion: Chuck Duarte
Second: Susan VanBuege
Motion conditionally approved pending the employer removing the non-compete clause and the no cause termination language from the contract, and defining a wage that meets or exceeds a prevailing wage for the contract period.

8. Recommendation to the Administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health regarding a J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Letter of Support for Dr. Aleem Surani.

J. Tucker presented a summary (handout) of the application. A. Qureshi asked if the candidate would be working in an office setting or in a hospitalist setting. A. Hitz, attorney for the site stated that the candidate would be spending half of his time in an office setting and half of his time as a hospitalist at Northern Nevada Medical Center doing inpatient services. L. Hale stated that she did not see any reference to recruitment efforts in this candidate's packet. S. Jones stated that the packet defined that there were at least two months of recruitment as required by the program. The medical director stated that the recruitment started in 2017, with interviews in September 2017.

Motion: Susan VanBuege

Second: Chuck Duarte

Motion passed

9. Recommendation to the Administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health regarding a J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Letter of Support for Dr. Nirseen Yaghmour.

J. Tucker presented a summary (handout) of the application. A. Qureshi asked what the physician specialty would be. Sheila Poco stated that the candidate would be performing 50% general cardiology services and 50% electrophysiologist services. A. Qureshi stated that he did not see the cardiology residency referenced in the candidate packet. A. Hitz explained that the candidate completed the cardiology residency at the University of Arizona.

Motion: Susan VanBuege

Second: Chuck Duarte

Motion passed

10. Recommendation to the Administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health regarding a J-1 Physician Visa Waiver Letter of Support for Dr. Michael Gale.

S. Jones stated that this item was added to the agenda with the hope that the application would be received in time for the meeting, however the application was not received in time so he recommended to the council that this item be tabled. A. Qureshi agreed that the motion should be tabled pending receipt of the complete application.

Motion tabled.

11. Update on staff, grants and regulations.

S. Jones stated that with future review of J-1 Visa Waiver applications, the PCO would be completing a more detailed analysis of the payor mix charts submitted as part of the J-1 waiver applications. S. Jones also stated that he would add to a future agenda training on public meeting etiquette.

12. Public Comment.

No public comments were made.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.