

PRIMARY CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL (PCAC) MINUTES

October 9, 2018

2:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carson City:

Cody Phinney

Las Vegas:

Dr. Amir Qureshi, Chair

Call-In:

Chuck Duarte

Gerald Akerman

Dr. Susan VanBuege, Co-Chair

Nancy Bowen

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Catherine Omara

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Jones, Manager, Primary Care Office (PCO)

Joseph Tucker, Primary Care Office (PCO)

OTHERS:

Linda Anderson

Jessica Simpson

Kim Crandell

Candice McDaniel

A. Qureshi called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.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 July 30, 2018 meeting of the PCAC.

No questions or comments.

Motion: Susan Vanbeuge

Second: Chuck Duarte

Motion passed

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

J. Tucker presented a summary handout of the application. G. Akerman asked if he would be practicing as a general pediatrician because of his fellowship training. J. Simpson replied that he will be working as a general pediatrician.

A. Qureshi asked if this physician would be working in a hospital or just in a clinic. J. Simpson replied that he would

be working just in the clinics listed in the application packet. C. Duarte asked about page six of the submitted document. He saw that the application packet listed one Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) physician providing patient care at the current practice. C. Duarte followed up by stating that he assumed that Dr. Pratap would not be the sole provider at the site. He followed up by stating that the narrative showed that there are nine staff members at the site, of which he was not clear how many were medical providers. He asked for a clarification of the number of FTE providers giving patient care at the sites. J. Simpson stated that she would need to clarify if the staff listed in the application were for one location or for multiple locations. A. Qureshi stated that he thought that the provider number was actually one, and the other 9 were not providers. C. Duarte stated that his concern is that if the doctor is just out of residency in practice, being brand new and alone with only support staff and limited supervision might be a concern. A. Qureshi stated that he thought that if he is an independently licensed physician, he should be able to practice alone, and he does not have to have supervision. A. Qureshi stated that a physician can have a supervising physician that is not on site. S. Jones verified that Dr. Pratap is an independently licensed physician. C. Duarte agreed technically, but his concern is that based on his experience with physicians just out of residency, they need to have clinical support. A. Qureshi agreed with that and stated that the supervising physician as the head of the practice should be available and can make sure that proper supervision is provided. S. Jones pointed out that in the support letter, it states that Dr. Nana Kufour is the medical director over Pioneer Pediatrics. This doctor signed the letter of support from the facility as the medical director. C. Duarte stated that the support letter stated that Pioneer Pediatrics supports a team approach so that all doctors, plural, collaborate with patients, to provide high quality care. C. Duarte requested a verification of the number of primary care providers at the practice sites. A. Qureshi asked that based on page six of the support materials, it states that there is one FTE and followed up by asking if this means that there is one physician working at the practice. S. Jones verified that this is correct and that the data in the chart represents aggregated data for the practice for physicians and mid-level providers. A. Qureshi stated that the fact that there is nothing listed in the section for mid-level providers likely means that there are no mid-level providers at the practice and only one doctor. S. Jones stated that the only exception to there only being one physician would be if they had multiple physicians that cumulatively represented one FTE. S. Vanbuege agreed that they want clarification on the number of physicians at the practice. J. Simpson contacted the practice, which stated that Dr. Kofour will be working with Dr. Pratap for the most part, although Dr. Pratap will have some independent practice. There are a total of 11 full-time employed staff, which includes the nurses and the physician. A. Qureshi asked if there is no other mid-level or MD providers other than Dr. Kofour. J. Simpson verified that the J-1 physician will be working directly with Dr. Kofour. C. Duarte stated that this answered his question. A. Qureshi then made a disclosure that he is used to sublease from Pioneer Pediatrics up until two years ago. At present, he does not, and did not have any financial interest in their practice, other than that he used to pay them rent.

Motion: Cody Phinney

Second: Nancy Bowen

Motion passed

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

J. Tucker presented a summary handout of the application. C. Duarte stated that it appeared that there is a disconnect in the application packet. There are 0.2 FTE at the clinic, and then the next page shows that there they need 3.89 neurologists and they currently have 2.5 neurologists in Carson City. This shows a disconnect between the narrative and the chart. S. Jones clarified that the application shows that they are establishing a new neurology practice with limited current coverage. The application shows that Carson City needs a total of 3.89 neurologists for proper coverage, and there are only 2.5 neurologists in the city. Carson Tahoe only has 0.2 FTE. C. Duarte said that it answered his question.

Motion: Gerald Akerman

Second: Chuck Duarte

Motion passed

5. Update on J-1 waiver program, staff, grants and regulations.

S. Jones presented a 2018 summary of the program participation. The program received a total of 15 applications: 73% were from Clark County, 13% from Washoe, and 13% from all the other counties. There were 40% primary care providers, and 60% specialist providers. S. Jones concluded by stating that if the committee every wants data about the program presented at the meeting, it can request it.

6. Public Comment.

No public comments were made.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 02:46 p.m.