

PRIMARY CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL (PCAC)
MINUTES
April 25, 2017
10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carson City:

Nancy Hook

Las Vegas:

Elko:

Call-In:

Dr. Amir Qureshi

Dr. Susan VanBeuge

Charles Duarte

Shannon Sprout

Linda Anderson, Deputy Attorney General (DAG)

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Catherine O'Mara

Gerald Ackerman

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT:

Laura Hale, Manager, Primary Care Workforce Development Office (PCWDO)

Scott Jones, Manager, Primary Care Office (PCO)

Joseph Tucker, Primary Care Office (PCO)

Veronica Sheldon, Primary Care Workforce Development Office (PCWDO)

OTHERS:

Martha James, Esq., Official Representative for Dr. Gupta

Dr. Qureshi called the meeting to order at 10:04 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 March 28, 2017 meeting of the PCAC.

No questions or comments.

Motion: Dr. Susan VanBeuge

Second: Nancy Hook

Motion passed

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

J. Tucker presented a summary (handout) of Dr. Karanvir Gupta's application.

N. Hook asked, for clarification, if the site is an urgent care and not a primary care outpatient facility. M. James confirmed that the facility is an urgent care site. Dr. Qureshi asked how many physicians worked at the facility. Scott stated that there are three physicians at the site as referenced in attached table. Dr. Qureshi asked what

location would the physician work at, Pahrump or Las Vegas. M. James answered that the physician would work only in Pahrump.

Motion: Nancy Hook

Second: Dr. Susan VanBeuge

Motion passed unanimously

4. Discussion of possible strategies regarding the recent suspension of premium processing for H-1B petitions and its effects on the J-1 Visa Waiver Program.

S. Jones reviewed the attached handout. Dr. Qureshi inquired about the outcome of expedited processing applications before the implementation of the new policy for the suspension of H-1B premium processing. S. Jones did not have that information available. M. James stated that most applications did not use expedited processing because premium processing was available for a fee and would receive application processing within 15 days. She stated that most of the premium processing requests were submitted to get the J1 waiver applications through the immigration process quicker, but because premium processing was no longer available, M. James anticipates that J-1 waiver applications will be submitted using expedited processing. Dr. Qureshi asked if the timeline for processing with the expedited rather than premium processing would be longer or shorter. M. James stated that it will depend on the number of applications being submitted to USCIS, but that it is anticipated that the time will be about the same. C. Duarte asked of the criteria listed that can qualify an applicant for expedited H-1B visas, which one is used. S. Jones stated that normally humanitarian is selected. M. James stated that normally they would include a letter from the sponsoring employer explaining the need for the physician in the area and detail in the letter how long patients wait to be seen by a physician and how many physicians are currently on staff. Dr. Qureshi stated that obtaining a letter of support from a congressman or senator to submit with the application and can also be helpful.

5. Update on staff, grants and regulations.

S. Jones reported that the updated by-laws were posted on line and that S. Sprout had been successfully appointed to the committee.

10. Public Comment.

L. Hale stated that after 18 years of service to the State of Nevada, she is leaving state employment and will be going to work for the Primary Care Association.. She stated it has been a pleasure working with the committee. Dr. Qureshi thanked her for her tremendous work and wished her luck. Dr. VanBeuge stated that she appreciated her service and thanked her.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.