

MINUTES MEDCHI OPIOID, PAIN & ADDICTION COMMITTEE. Of 5-21-2024 (virtual)

ATTENDING:

Dr. Joe Adams, Chair
Dr. Tom Cargiulo
Dr. Kenneth Carle
Dr. Terry Fitzgerald
Dr. Drew Fuller

Dr. Sarah Merritt
Dr. Dan Morhaim
Dr. Keya Sau
MedChi staff: Colleen George, Alyssa Mills

RESOLUTIONS FOR HOD MEETING

Two draft resolutions written by Dr. Adams had been shared in advance and are being reviewed today for possible introduction by the committee to the MedChi fall House of Delegates meeting held in late October:

'Inappropriate Certification of Discriminatory Recovery Residences'

and

'Reduction of Insurance Barriers to the Use of Buprenorphine for Pain'

Both issues have been discussed here in the past.

With discussion and some changes to the wording, both resolutions were approved by the committee by vote, with no objections.

Regarding the recovery residences issue, Dr. Adams noted that a group of Maryland organizations had shared their concern with the MDH Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) several years ago about limited MOUD access in state certified recovery residences. These efforts did not result in any changes other than an update in the annual questionnaire for the MD Certification of Recovery Residences program (MCCR).

The following is an addendum, not mentioned at the meeting: The organizations below had co-signed a letter dated July 8 2021 asking BHA to clarify its policy on MOUD access.

See the letter attached. The signatory organizations were:

Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine (MDDCSAM)
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Maryland (NCADD-MD)
Institutes for Behavior Resources, Inc./ REACH Health Services (IBR/REACH)
Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (MATOD)
Maryland Addictions Directors Council
James' Place Inc.

Regarding the pain treatment issue, Dr. Adams noted that there were significant barriers in online state formularies to buprenorphine formulations for pain compared to full opioids. (i.e., the online preferred drug list of the MD Medicaid FFS formulary and in the Managed Care / HealthChoice formularies). He was not able to check formularies of the state-regulated insurance plans, which he does not have access to.

Minutes by Joe Adams, MD, FASAM