

**MINUTES: MedChi Opioid, Pain & Addictions Committee 9-17-2024** (virtual)

Meeting called to order by Dr. Joe Adams at 6:03pm

**Attending:**

Dr. Joe Adams, Chair

Dr. Kenneth Carle

Dr. Bethany DiPaula

Dr. Marc Fishman

Dr. Terry Fitzgerald

Dr. Drew Fuller

Dr. B Lerner

Dr. Sarah Merritt

Dr. Lorraine Milio

Dr. Dan Morhaim

Dr. Nishant Shah

Dr. Stephanie Streb

Dr. Marcia Wolf

MedChi staff: Colleen George, Alyssa Mills

Guest speakers: Alonzo Whyte, Ph.D. (Indivior), Dr. Malik Burnett, Rachel Hess-Mutinda (MACS)

**OVERVIEW OF MACS: THE MARYLAND ADDICTION CONSULTATION SERVICE**

**Rachel Hess-Mutinda**, Program Manager. <https://www.marylandmacs.org/>

Members also discussed that MACS' four monthly ECHO events (on SUD, trauma, maternal health, and Opioid Treatment Programs) – are very helpful.

**Nalmefene: Guest speakers:**

**Alonzo Whyte, PhD**, Medical Affairs, Indivior Inc.:

Presented: Laffont CM, et. al. Comparison of intranasal naloxone and intranasal nalmefene in a translational model assessing the impact of synthetic opioid overdose on respiratory depression and cardiac arrest. *Front. Psychiatry*. 2024;15, and Kaplan JL et al. Double-Blind, Randomized Study of Nalmefene and Naloxone in Emergency Department Patients with Suspected Narcotic Overdose. July 1999, *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. 34(1):42

**Malik Burnett, MD MBA MPH**, Medical Director, REACH Health Services; Adjunct Assist Prof., U of MD Medical Ctr.; Former Medical Director, Ctr for Harm Reduction Services, Md Dept of Health. Noted that the Kaplan study showed a large trend toward greater withdrawal symptoms with nalmefene which was not statistically significant, and may have been underpowered to measure it. Presented information suggesting that nalmefene is associated with increased risk and no clinical benefit over standard dose naloxone. Noted that organizations opposed to the adoption of nalmefene include the Maryland Addiction Consultation Service, the American College of Medical Toxicologists and the American Academy of Clinical Toxicologists. See the [joint statement on nalmefene](#) by the latter two organizations.

**Resolution on Inappropriate Certification of Discriminatory Recovery Residences**

had been approved by this committee for submission to the MedChi Fall House of Delegates. Stylistic edits were shared earlier, and reviewed. Dr. Wolf suggested clarifying the wording in the third paragraph, and this was done. The updated version was distributed.

**Buprenorphine for Pain**

It was noted that another resolution on buprenorphine for pain, previously passed by this committee for submission to the HOD, is being held for now on the advice of MedChi lobbyists, since the MD General Assembly is unlikely to address prior auth legislation two years in a row. A similar resolution (for the American Society of Addiction Medicine) was attached to the invitation e-mail for this meeting as an FYI.

Adjourned: 7:35pm

**NEXT MEETING:** Tue, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 6:30 pm ET (On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue, not the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue of the month)

Minutes by Dr. Adams