

Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses Advisory Committee

This is an informational agenda item. The Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses, or TPAPN, Advisory Committee meeting was held virtually on Friday, September 4, 2020. The Board staff in attendance were Anthony L. Diggs, Director of Enforcement, Dusty Johnston, General Counsel, and Denise Benbow, Nursing Consultant for Enforcement.

The Advisory Committee was given an update on the TPAPN Program. The program director reported the TPAPN quarterly report was submitted to the Board of Nursing (BON). TPAPN has hired a statistician to sort the data related to identification of baseline goals.

Outreach activities included participation by the TPAPN program director on the Healthy Nurse/Healthy Nation Strength and Resiliency Committee. This committee had originally been the Suicide Prevention Committee but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the focus changed. There is starting to be a shift back towards the original purpose. Through participation, the program director has gained knowledge and resources that are beneficial for the TPAPN program. TPAPN is continuing to send out self-care wallet cards.

TPAPN staff development opportunities have included presentations by treatment centers related to caring for healthcare professionals. Each staff member set individual goals with individual skills training opportunities identified. Additionally, Dr. Early provided a virtual presentation on *Professional Health Programs: Their History, Structure, Goals and Future Challenges* to TPAPN staff and Board staff members: Tony Diggs, Dusty Johnson, and Denise Benbow on July 30 and 31.

There is a new position for an outreach coordinator and a case manager was recently hired. TPAPN is almost fully staffed. One staff member will return from maternity leave in November.

TPAPN launched a non-adherence intervention matrix. This provides guidance on how to respond to non-adherence by a participant. Discussion among the Advisory Committee related to when a relapse is reported to the BON in a Board Ordered participant (first relapse) versus a non-Board Ordered participant (second relapse).

There are currently 157 Peer Support Partners. TPAPN indicated they are always recruiting. A Peer Support Partner meeting was to be held the week after the Advisory Committee Meeting. There is a planned Peer Support Partner virtual workshop on November 13, 2020 from 9:30a – 12:30p. Registration information will be accessible on the TPAPN website (www.tpapn.org) prior to the event. Motivational interviewing will be included in the content of the virtual Peer Support Partner workshop.

The Advisory Committee discussed several topics. The first related to the statistician hired by TPAPN and the data. Over the last three years third party referrals have dropped. Rick Dielman, Alliance Work Partners Chief Account Executive, a guest at this TPAPN meeting, mentioned outcome studies and a sample utilization report (to send to TPAPN for the statistician in case it is helpful). The committee discussed the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) definition of participants and a chart of how TPAPN interacts with persons including the time period prior to the person being a participant. The discussion included the amount of work during enrollment, prior to a person becoming a participant with this work not captured in the LBB definition of participants. The work being done with enrollment is included in the TPAPN quarterly reports to the BON. The history was discussed as well as the changes TPAPN has made over time.

There was also a discussion about the Advisory Committee and what it should look like including the functions the committee should fulfill. TPAPN and the advisory committee will be working on the LBB definition of participants, related to the current omission of those in the enrollment process, the caseload spreadsheet that shows the various stages of enrollment and monitoring with addition of an explanatory key, the committee will review the TPAPN contract requirements and CAC audit recommendation regarding the Advisory Committee and completing a template related to the committee structure based on the contract and CAC audit recommendations prior to the next advisory committee meeting.

The next TPAPN Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to occur on Friday December 4, 2020. This is a non-action item for informational purposes only.