

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, March 5, 2021. Board staff personnel in attendance were Anthony L. Diggs, Director of Enforcement, Dusty Johnston, General Counsel, and Denise Benbow, Nursing Consultant for Enforcement.

TPAPN Program

The Advisory Committee was given an update on the TPAPN Program. The Program Director stated she provided quarterly reports to the Board of Nursing (BON) and Texas Nurses Foundation. TPAPN has a new outreach coordinator and, in January, TPAPN launched a new website.

The TPAPN Program Director indicated TPAPN staff have been participating in training and present to other staff on what is learned. Some training has been provided to the entire TPAPN team. An update was provided to the committee related to TPAPN staffing with a brief overview of caseloads and the hope to return the staff to the office in the near future.

Peer Support Partners

TPAPN recently validated the current peer support partner list and have identified a need for more peer support partners. The committee was informed there are currently 125 peer support partners with 15 having no assigned participants. The Advisory Committee was also informed there were 81 participants waiting to be assigned peer support partners. The TPAPN Case Management Team Lead informed the committee of the recent change in assignment of participant to peer support partner leading to the large number of unassigned participants. Until recently, peer support partners were assigned *after* the participant had gone through the evaluation and enrollment phase, typically at least a couple of months into engaging with TPAPN. Due to this lag time, and potential benefit from a peer support partner earlier in the TPAPN process, the peer support partner is now being assigned to the potential participant *earlier* (in the enrollment/evaluation phase).

TPAPN has begun holding monthly information sessions for those who might be interested in becoming peer support partners. To support the current peer support partners, TPAPN is using a communication board and there is a planned two-hour information and support opportunity related to motivational interviewing techniques or other needs identified by the peer support partner participants.

TPAPN has increased the frequency of the peer support partner workshops to quarterly with a workshop held virtually on January 12. There were two new peer support partners resulting from the workshop with about 60 persons in attendance. The next TPAPN peer

support partner workshop will be held virtually on May 21, 2021. TPAPN anticipates continuing quarterly peer support partner workshops in the future and will transition from the current virtual format to two in-person and two virtual workshops per year.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee examined the draft policy and procedure related to the advisory committee that was revised since the last meeting. Some elements discussed included membership and committee leadership. The changes discussed during the meeting will be incorporated with the revisions sent to the committee in the near future. There was discussion of confidentiality and application to the committee. TPAPN will create an application form for advisory committee membership and already has a confidentiality agreement. After the Advisory Committee meeting, members of the committee received the TPAPN confidentiality agreement (on March 11) and were to sign and return the agreement to TPAPN.

The next TPAPN Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to occur on Friday June 4, 2021. This is a non-action item for informational purposes only.