

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 4, 2021. Board staff personnel in attendance were Dusty Johnston, General Counsel, Jena Abel, Deputy 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 discussed outreach, including related to peer support partners (please see related section below), social media posts, and information in publications such as the Texas Organization for Nursing Leadership (TONL) Newsletter and BON Bulletin. Additionally, the case managers have received training related to stigma and toxicology. There are two new case managers that started in January. One case manager assistant resigned and TPAPN is recruiting for a replacement. The program director is transitioning to the Texas Nurses Association Practice Director position but is overseeing the TPAPN program while the search for a new TPAPN Director proceeds.

Peer Support Partners

The TPAPN Program Director reported there were 136 peer support partners. There were 28 peer support partners without participants for various reasons such as the need to attend a peer support partner workshop prior to being assigned participants. The handouts provided to the committee indicated there were 195 participants that have a peer support partner and 34 participants awaiting a partner for an average of just over one participant per peer support partner (1.43).

To provide information about the peer support partner role, TPAPN continues to offer monthly informational sessions with the next sessions scheduled for May 24, 2022, and June 21, 2022. The Peer Support Partner Workshop is required for a new peer support partner and supports current peer support partners. At the time of the advisory committee meeting the next Peer Support Partner Workshop was scheduled for April 8, 2022 with a future workshop scheduled for July 15, 2022. Additionally, current peer support partners are supported in part through monthly peer support partner educational groups with scheduled meetings on April 21, 2022, May 26, 2022, and June 23, 2022.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee was provided information in draft form related to establishing an early release procedure for Board Ordered TPAPN Participants. Historically, TPAPN has not participated in the process when a nurse with a Board Order petitioned the Board of Nursing for early release from the requirements of the order. TPAPN is drafting a procedure to establish criteria for TPAPN to use in submitting documentation to the Board of Nursing, specifically for the Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee related to a letter of

support when the TPAPN participant meets specific criteria. The committee discussed the proposed process and provided feedback on the draft procedure. The feedback will be incorporated and the draft document of the proposed procedure will be further refined prior to sending to the committee for further feedback.

The next TPAPN Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to occur on Friday June 3, 2022. This is a non-action item for informational purposes only.