

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, December 2, 2022. Board staff in attendance were Tony 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 by Roland Rodriguez, TPAPN Case Management Team Lead. TPAPN outreach activities included informational presentations about the TPAPN program and information specifically directed towards the peer support partner aspect of the program. TPAPN had an in-person Peer Support Partner Workshop in Austin on October 28, 2022. This was the first in-person workshop since fall 2019.

TPAPN had one case manager resign and has been recruiting for that position as well as for the program director position. A new program director has been hired with a scheduled start date of January 3, 2023. A new case manager has been hired with a scheduled start date of December 12, 2022.

Peer Support Partners

As of November 30, 2022, there were 133 peer support partners. The number of peer support partners without a participant has increased and is currently 47. TPAPN participants may choose to have a peer support partner as an option in the program. There are 137 participants with a peer support partner (a decrease). The participant to peer support partner ratio is just over 1 (1.03 participants per peer support partner).

There were two new peer support partners in attendance at the October 28, 2022, workshop that are completing the process to be added to the total of peer support partners. A task force met the week before the Advisory Committee meeting to begin discussion about strategies to increase information provided to participants regarding the benefits of having a peer support partner.

Advisory Committee

The committee discussed the Advisory Committee Membership policy. Since there will be a new TPAPN Program Director in January, the committee discussed holding any changes to the policy until the new Director has a chance to have input.

The next TPAPN Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to occur on Friday March 3, 2023. This is a non-action item for informational purposes only.