

**BOARD MINUTES**  
**MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE**  
**June 27, 2019**

The Hospice meeting of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure was held on Wednesday, June 27, 2019, in the Board Room of the Office of the Board located at 1867 Crane Ridge Drive, Jackson, Mississippi.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:**

J. Ann Rea, M.D., Columbus, President  
David W. McClendon, Jr., M.D., Ocean Springs, Vice President  
Charles D. Miles, M.D., West Point

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Kenneth Cleveland, Executive Director  
Mike Lucius, Deputy Director  
Anna Boone, Interim Director, Licensure Division  
Leslie Ross, Director of Investigations  
Kristin Wallace, Clinical Director of Physician Compliance  
Jonathan Dalton, Investigations Supervisor  
Frances Carrillo, Staff Officer  
Arlene Davis, IT Director  
Hope Ladner, The Clay Firm  
Tina Highfill, Mississippi Board of Nursing  
Susan McCoy, Mississippi Board of Pharmacy  
Gerry Ann Houston, M.D., MACM  
Randy Easterling, M.D.  
Claude Brunson, M.D., Executive Director MSMA  
R. David Roberts, III, MSMA  
Lt. John Harless, MBN  
Jim Craig, MSDH

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m., by Dr. Miles. Dr. Miles opened the meeting to discuss Hospice and how to better utilize the resources of hospice and the team approach safer for the people of Mississippi.

Dr. Miles requested each speaker identify who they represent, and they will have five minutes to speak on an issue reserving questions and comments for the end of the meeting.

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### **Dr. Miles recognized Gerry Ann Houston, M.D., Medical Assurance Co of MS**

Dr. Miles asked Dr. Houston to summarize the operations of her Hospice group and live discharge rate.

Dr. Houston advised that patients are carefully evaluated to determine eligibility for hospice care. After admission of the patient, they use the team approach to manage the treatment as needed until death.

Dr. Houston summarized the referral and initial evaluation of hospice patients, admission, medication, and the doctor patient relationship in her hospice process.

Dr. Houston answered questions and discussed live discharge rates.

Dr. Miles suggested to consider adding a case review component to the hospice process to analyze live discharges.

### **Dr. Miles recognized Mr. J. David Roberts, Chief of Staff/Director of Government Affairs, Mississippi State Medical Association**

Mr. Roberts introduced himself and Dr. Brunson and thanked Dr. Miles for the opportunity to be a part of this discussion regarding the proposed hospice regulation. Mr. Roberts stated that MSMA believes the proposed regulation does replicate what is proper in the terms of determining the doctor / patient relationship.

### **Dr. Miles recognized Mr. Jamey Boudreaux, Executive Director, Louisiana ~ Mississippi Hospice and Palliative Care Organization**

Mr Boudreaux discussed the live discharge rate data for Mississippi hospices in reference to the state's standing nationally.

Discussion continued covering the proposed regulation in the requirements of the doctor / patient relationship in terms of prescribing opioids. In particular with live discharges of patients addicted to opioids.

### **Dr. Miles recognized Lt. John Harless, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics**

Lt. Harless introduced himself as Supervisor for Mississippi's Statewide Diversion unit with the Bureau of Narcotics. Lt. Harless advised his unit focuses on the conversion of illicit pharmaceutical drugs to misuse. Lt. Harless commented on the MBN's synergistic relationship with the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure and does not want to become involved in policing medical doctors. He advised there is cause for concern for those practices that deviate from what the Medical Board defines as standard of care of best medical practice in the prescribing of schedule II medications. He advised that there

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are known cases of opioid diversion within the hospice care system in the state of Mississippi.

### **Dr. Miles recognized Dr. Easterling, Vicksburg, MS**

Dr. Easterling summarized on the history of the regulation, Part 2640: Prescribing, Administering and Dispensing, in regard to hospice care from when he served as a MSBML Board Member. Dr. Easterling commented that there are certain exceptions for Hospice patients in the regulation, but not for the requirement of establishing a doctor / patient relationship.

**Dr. Rea was recognized.** Dr. Rea commented on the proposed Hospice regulation regarding best hospice practice.

### **Dr. Miles recognized Dorothy Saad Dunning, Saad Hospice / Healthcare, D'Iberville, MS**

Ms. Dunning introduced herself and her healthcare company. Ms. Dunning complimented the Board for working to establish best hospice care. Ms. Dunning summarized the process in hospice patient management and CME requirements. Ms. Dunning recognized that there is a problem in regard to the proper management of hospice patient care.

Additional discussion continued regarding Hospice referral, medication management, Hospice patient discharges and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) criteria regarding hospice care.

### **ADJOURNMENT 2:26**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm.



**Charles Miles, M.D., Chair**  
**Rules, Regulation & Legislative Committee**

**Minutes taken and transcribed**  
**By Frances Carrillo**  
**Staff Officer**  
**June 27, 2019**