

BOARD OF PHARMACY

Professional and Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

MINUTES (OS)

Date: December 21, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: PVL Exam Room
HRH King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, 3rd Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Members Present: Alanna Isobe, Chairperson (“Chair Isobe”)
Brandon Rabang, Public Member
Sheri Tokumaru, Pharmacist

Members Present Virtual: Patrick Adams, Pharmacist
Kent Kikuchi, Pharmacist

Staff Present: James Skizewski, Executive Officer (“EO Skizewski”)
Lee Ann Teshima, Executive Officer (“EO Teshima”)
Shari Wong, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG Wong”) (virtual)
Lorna Eugenio, Secretary
Johnny Li, Tech Support Staff

Excused: Catalina Cross, Public Member
Mark Brown, Pharmacist

Guest(s): Scott Welch - Preston’s Pharmacy

Virtual Guests: Adam Meyesc
American Wellness Pharmacy
Annie Macapagal
b. gellenbrek
Chelsea – Lanai Community Health Center (LCHC)
Christi Gimber
Cindy Figuerres - Lanai Community Health Center (LCHC)
Cory Lehano - Mauiola Pharmacy
Douglas Smit
Erick Abe - Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA)
Grace Sesi
HTH – Burke Michael
Jacey Laborte - Lanai Community Health Center (LCHC)
Jared Medeiros - Lanai Community Health Center (LCHC)
Kevin Judeich

Guest(s): continued Michael Astumian
Richard Anderson
Sara Watson

S. Bizube
Scott Welch
Tiffany Yajima
tsuessmuth
Victoria Kroger
Corrie Sanders – Hawaii Pharmacist Association (HPA)

Call to Order: Chair Isobe took a roll call of the Board members. After taking roll, quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

Chair's Report: **Announcements**

The emergency prescription assistance program for Maui residents closed on December 16, 2023. Residents are being asked to contact the normal Medicaid service if more medication is needed.

Approval of Minutes **August 24, 2023 Meeting**

By motion of Mr. Kikuchi, seconded by Mr. Rabang, the minutes for the August 24, 2023, meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business: Lanai Community Health Center Pilot Project – Request for Extension and Proposed Legislation

Chair Isobe stated that the Lanai Community Health Center (LCHC) has requested an extension for their pilot project.

Mr. Abe was promoted as a panelist.

Mr. Abe introduced himself as the Public Affairs Director for the Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA). He stated that he is in support of the LCHC's pilot telehealth project. HPCA has been working with law makers on having legislation regarding the Telehealth Project that was introduced. Mr. Abe stated that it is unclear whether any subsequent amendments to this draft that may be offered by the Board would be integrated prior to the bill introduction deadline. Mr. Abe thanked the board for the opportunity to testify.

Mr. Abe was returned to attendee.

Jared Medeiros, Lanai Community Health Center, was promoted to panelist.

Mr. Medeiros introduced himself as the associate director at LCHC. Mr. Medeiros mentioned that he submitted response to Board requests for information related to the project. Mr. Medeiros stated that LCHC provided a workflow on prescribed medications and how the dispensing of medications is processed.

Ms. Chelsea (LCHC) was promoted to panelist.

Ms. Chelsea introduced herself as the Medical Manager at LCHC. Ms. Chelsea stated that for their workflow, the Computer-RX is their choice of pharmacy program. When their provider orders the medications, the order is sent electronically through the Computer-RX system. In the e-script section, they are able to view which medication is needed to be filled for the patient. The patient's name is selected, and the administration process of the medication label starts. They then match the name of the patient to the hardcopy of the prescription. When that happens, they run the eligibility for the patient's insurance coverage and make any changes to the directions as needed. The patient's eligibility determines how they will proceed with filling the medication billing. After all information has been verified, the label is printed, and they contact the telepharmacist at Mauliola Pharmacy for the order to go through a verification process and the order is placed in the "will call" bin for the patient to pick up or for delivery.

Ms. Chelsea was returned to attendee.

Jared Medeiros was promoted to panelist.

Mr. Medeiros stated that LCHC was asked to explain compounding. LCHC offers compounding services.

Mr. Medeiros also stated, LCHC was asked to explain in detail, the medication errors that have occurred. This information was provided to the Board. There were four (4) incorrect patient medication errors that were caught by the pharmacist and there were thirty-six (36) dispensing prescription interpretation errors caught by the pharmacist.

For patient outcomes, a list of patients with chronic disease that the telepharmacist provides medication may be provided to the Board upon request.

Mr. Medeiros noted, LCHC is directly involved with the streamlining prescribing and treatment therapies for these patients. There's a list of several patients showing the previous A1C's to current A1C's. Those with hypertension being under control with their blood pressure program at the health center.

EO Teshima asked Mr. Medeiros if there's a reason why you LCHC included compounding in the legislation.

Mr. Medeiros responded that LCHC was following what was already in the previous pharmacy bill and stated that they could look to discuss to remove since it's something they're not currently doing at the telepharmacy.

EO Teshima wanted to confirm that there were thirty-six (36) medication errors and Mr. Medeiros confirmed the errors. Those were errors in the filling process and were caught in the verification process.

EO Teshima asked what procedures have changed to address errors.

Mr. Medeiros responded that LCHC receives training from the pharmacists and the

pharmacy techs ensures that they're verifying the correct medication, confirming the name, date of birth, via hard copy before selecting the patient data RX.

EO Teshima asked, and Mr. Medeiros responded that LCHC is training pharmacy techs at the health center. Cory Lehano and his team at Mauiola Pharmacy is providing direct training to the pharmacy techs at LCHC.

EO Teshima thanked Mr. Medeiros.

Mr. Kikuchi asked, and Mr. Medeiros responded that none of the patients took the medications related to the errors and that the pharmacist and pharmacy techs recognized that there was something different and were able to reach out to the patients. No medications were accidentally taken by any patient.

Mr. Adams asked why LCHC would not only utilize physician dispensing for acute medications and utilize a 340B pharmacy to service patients via mail order.

Mr. Medeiros responded that LCHC did utilize provider dispensing before the telepharmacy project, first with Molokai Drugs and then with Mauiola Pharmacy. LCHC is able to help our patients as we have full circle hub of getting all of their services within the health center. Also LCHC benefits from being able to see our patients benefit from having the medications filled through their insurance. As a 340B pharmacy, we are able to benefit the from business of the pharmacy. That benefit will also benefit patients with 340B cost savings. There are many patients who have extremely high copayments with their medications and with 340B prescriptions we are able to really bring down their costs.

Mr. Adams asked why the health center wouldn't have a provider present and provide services which increases the value of having a pharmacy within LCHC.

Mr. Medeiros stated that LCHC face challenges financially to provide the ability to have a full-time pharmacist here at the health center. LCHC has been doing telemedicine here at the center since 2014. It was a real challenging to get providers to see how telemedicine works and how it saves patient's time.

Mr. Adams asked if having a pharmacist would improve the patient care.

Mr. Medeiros noted it would complement services. Vaccines could be offered directly to patients.

Mr. Kikuchi asked about the relationship with LCHC and the neighboring pharmacy.

Mr. Medeiros noted that if patients desire to get their prescriptions filled at that pharmacy. LCHC will send it there or to any pharmacy they want to go to. Business wise, we have reached out to the pharmacy in the beginning of their establishment here on Lanai to establish a relationship of having a 340B pharmacy. There was no interest. The health center does send prescriptions there. We do work with them closely with the patients that chose to have their medications there. As far as if we want to go forward and see if they

wanted to be a 340B pharmacy. That's something that we could look at it. It is going to be dependent if the pharmacy would like to also be a participant because the compliance factor for 340B needs to be considered and maintained by that pharmacy.

Mr. Kikuchi asked if LCHC has ever done or performed a financial analysis to determine if an in house, 340B pharmacy with a pharmacist would be beneficial.

Mr. Medeiros noted he would reach out to the finance team and that is something we can look at to determine if that is viable. The actual challenge in recruitment is finding people who want to call Lanai home. The telepharmacy pilot program, not only for Lanai being a viable option but for other rural communities who face the same impact and barriers in having people who want to live in the community that they are working in.

Mr. Kikuchi noted that the Board's perspective is related to patient safety. Mr. Kikuchi noted his interest for a thorough analysis, preferably by your 340B provider. Your 340B provider can then determine how much savings is gained.

Ms. Tadema noted that their margins were decreasing due to the constant changes of the rules. As well as the per rate per medication. LCHC will analyze the different methods to reduce that rate so that our profit margin will increase so we can support a in house pharmacist. We did have discussions where the school of pharmacy to see if we could bring somebody on site to do their student vocation with us. LCHC currently provides medical, dental, behavioral health services.

Cindy Figuerres, Lanai Community Health Center, was promoted to panelist.

Cindy Figuerres noted she is the interim executive director at Lanai Community Health Center. LCHC sees more than 70% of the island's patients and allowing telepharmacy to continue we can ensure that their safety and access to more discounted medications. Having that choice for our community is powerful.

Cory Lehano, Mauiola Pharmacy, was promoted to panelist.

Cory Lehano introduced himself as the current owner of Mauiola pharmacy and a contract worker to oversee and manage pharmacy operations at LCHC. Mr. Lehano noted that he has seen that it does improve patient outcomes. Providing alternate settings in any business is healthy and it really brings out the best of all those involved. In regard to an in house pharmacist, an in-depth analysis would be beneficial. The way our agreement is structured, Lanai Community Health Center does not incur a large cost to this operation. They're getting for the fraction of the cost of what it would be for a full pharmacist. The cost to this program doesn't charge the health center for anything more than what we are providing. Again, for Mauiola Pharmacy, our intensions are to assist the patients on the island. There is no financial gain for us here at Mauiola Pharmacy. The errors that were stated in the reports were caught by the team. They weren't dispensed. This is a trailblazing opportunity, and Mr. Lehano is grateful to be a part of it.

EO Teshima asked how many prescriptions are filled at Mauiiolo Pharmacy. Mr. Lehano

responded that they have a handful of prescriptions that we fill for the health center. Most of the medications are immediately dispensed from Lanai Community Health Center.

EO Teshima asked, and Mr. Lehano responded that there are four pharmacists who are trained to verify the prescriptions for Lanai Community Health Center.

Mr. Adams asked how many of the patients that given prescriptions are provided counseling. Mr. Lehano responded that counseling is offered to every patient there at LCHC. We have a video counseling tool that is readily available for patients that is interested in being consulted.

Mr. Adams asked, and Mr. Lehano responded that not many patients request counseling.

Vice Chair Adams asked if Mauiola Pharmacy provides immunizations at your pharmacy on Maui. Mr. Lehano responded that Mauiola Pharmacy does immunizations at their pharmacy location on Maui and that they are one of the primary immunizers on the island.

The Vice Chair Adams asked if Mauliloa provides vaccinations on Lanai. Mr. Lehano responded that Lanai Community Health Center provide staff that administer the vaccinations.

Mr. Adams asked who receives the insurance benefit when the vaccination is provided at the health center. Mr. Lehano responded that the pharmacy receives the prescription benefit, but the administration will be billed minimum. The administration fee will be billed through the medical center.

Mr. Adams asked to confirm that pharmacists don't give the immunization but the pharmacy benefits from the immunization that is given. Mr. Lehano confirmed the understanding

Cory Lehano, Maulioa Pharmacy was returned to an attendee.

Jacey Laborte was promoted to panelist.

Mr. Laborte introduced himself as the Risk Management Safety and Compliance Officer Director of Quality for Lanai Community Health Center and offered his support for the program. Mr. Laborte noted his desire to provide safe and effective health services to patients on Lanai.

Jacey Laborte was returned to an attendee.

Executive Session:

At 9:34 a.m., upon a motion by the Chair, seconded by Vice-Chair, it was voted on and unanimously carried to move into Executive Session in accordance with HRS, 92-4 and 92-5(a) and (4),, "To consult with the board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities".

At 9:56 a.m., upon a motion by Mr. Rabang, seconded by Ms. Tokumaru, it was voted on and unanimously carried to move out of executive session.

By motion of the Chair, seconded by Ms. Tokumaru, the Board appreciates the intent of the draft bill and pilot project related to telepharmacy. However, the Board will not support the bill if it includes compounding and cannot provide definitive position until we review the introduced legislation. The Board approves LCHC's request to extend the pilot until June 1, 2024. The motion made by the Chair, seconded by Ms. Tokumaru, was voted on and unanimously carried.

Executive Officer
Report:

Emergency Proclamation Relating to Maui Wildfires – 8th Emergency Proclamation

EO Skizewski stated that there is an eighth edition of the emergency proclamation related to the Lahaina wildfires which is available on the Governor's website.

Attorney General Lopez Sues Major Pharmacy Benefit Managers to Protect Hawai'i Consumers

EO Skizewski noted that pharmacy benefit managers are being sued by the State of Hawaii. Attorney General Lopez included is CVS, Caremark Express scripts and Optum RX. They're being sued to address the skyrocketing cost of prescriptions, and the suit alleges that the pharmacy benefit managers are engaged in unfair methods of competition and deceptive acts that violate Hawaii law.

IV Hydration Inquiry – Shay Revuelto

EO Skizewski noted the Board received an inquiry from an APRN located on Hawaii island. The inquiry asked the Board to verify some regulations related to intravenous ("IV") therapy. Her questions included, additive limits and if bags need to be mixed under a hood. Also, what level provider is allowed to mix IV solutions.

EO Skizewski added that in his review of US Pharmacopeia ("USP"), if any more than one compound preparation to a bag, it is considered compounding. If any compounding occurs, we require that all entities abide by the guideline's outset in USP 797. Hawaii law restricts compounding to pharmacists or physicians.

Vice-Chair Adams noted that there should only one injection to the bag. It must be commercial product. In other words, it can't be a compounded product. A pharmacy can't send you a compound to do the injection. In addition to that, compounding should be done under a hood. The only people that are allowed outside those guidelines are in hospitals. That is allowable as the compounding is done at the bed or taken to their pharmacy and compounded in their laminar flow hood. It is important to understand that there are risks with these types of hydration bags resulting in negative outcomes.

Mr. Kikuchi noted that the inquirer needs to refer to and be familiar with USP 797, 795.

Hearing no objections, Chair referred the inquirer to USP 797 & 795.

Report from
the Hawaii
Pharmacists
Association:

Corrie Sanders, Hawaii Pharmacists Association (“HPA”), was promoted to panelist.

Ms. Sanders highlighted legislation to be introduced before the 2024 session of the Hawaii legislature. Bills include changes to insurance reimbursement for pharmacists, a bill to create a center for pharmacy to study workforce issues, and expansions of scope of practice as it relates to vaccinations.

Ms. Sanders also noted the lawsuit related to pharmacy benefit managers is one positive step into pharmacy benefit reform.

Executive Session:

At 10:14 a.m., upon a motion by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Rabang, it was voted on and unanimously carried to move into Executive Session in accordance with HRS, 92-4 and 92-5(a) (1) and (4), “To consider and evaluate personal information relating to individuals applying for pharmacy licensure,” and, “To consult with the board’s attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board’s powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities”.

At 11:11 a.m., upon a motion by Ms. Tokumaru, seconded by Mr. Rabang, it was voted on and unanimously carried to move out of Executive Session.

Ratification List:

Upon a motion by the Vice Chair, seconded by Ms. Tokumaru, it was voted on and unanimously carried to approve the ratification list(s) for pharmacists, pharmacies, miscellaneous permits, wholesale prescription drug distributors, and pharmacy/miscellaneous permits closures/cancellation, change of PIC, relocations, and name change.

Applications:

Upon a motion by the Mr. Kikuchi, seconded by Mr. Rabang, it was voted on and unanimously carried to approve all listed pharmacist and miscellaneous permit applications.

Adjudicatory Matters:

Upon a motion by the Mr. Rabang, seconded by The Vice-Chair, it was voted on and unanimously carried to approve the following adjudicatory matters:

- a. In the Matter of the Wholesale Prescription Drug Distributor License of **Airgas USA.,LLC; PHA 2023-26-L, PHA 2023-27-L, PHA 2023-28-L, PHA 2023-29-L, PHA 2023-30-L, PHA 2023-31-L, PHA 2023-32-L, PHA 2023-33-L**, Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board’s Final Order; Exhibits “1”,
- b. In the Matter of the Miscellaneous Permit of **BET Pharm, LLC; PHA 2023-48-L**, Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board’s Final Order; Exhibits “1”-“2”,
- c. In the Matter of the Miscellaneous Permit of **Wells Pharmacy Network, LLC; PHA 2023-41-L**, Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board’s Final Order; Exhibits “1”,

- d. In the Matter of the Wholesale Prescription Drug Distributor License of **Medline Industries, L.P. ; PHA 2023-9-L**, Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order; Exhibits "1"- "3",
- e. In the Matter of the Miscellaneous Permit of **Archway Apothecary LLC ; PHA 2023-1-L**, Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order; Exhibits "1"- "9",

Regulated Industries
Complaints Office
- Pharmacy Advisory
Committee:

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Election of Vice-Chair:

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

Date: February 1, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment:

11:15 a.m.

Reviewed by:
/s/ Lorna Eugenio

Taken by:
/s/ James Skizewski

Lorna Eugenio
Secretary

James Skizewski
Executive Officer

LE:js

02/15/2024

[] Minutes approved as is.
[] Minutes approved with changes. See minutes of _____.