

ARKANSAS KIDNEY DISEASE COMMISSION

Meeting Date: Wednesday December 8, 2010 **Time:** 12:30PM

Location/Room: ARS Little Rock Field Office - Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

Board Members Michael Bierle, MD; Curt Calaway; Garry Glasco, MD; Nigel Hall; Kathy Pierce; Robert Treviño; Scott Young, MD
Guests Steve Bryant; Mary Wilson; Jennifer Woodward; Bobby Walker; Mary A. Luttrell; Bonnie Bradley; Katie Anderson; Sarah Agee; Andrea Easom.
ARS Staff Jim Moreland; Richard Ward
AKDC Staff Katrina Betancourt; Helen Cobb

CALL TO ORDER

Board Member, Dr. Michael Bierle declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES

Dr. Bierle requested Board Members to review the minutes of the last meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was declared. The motion was seconded and the motion passed.

COMMENTS FROM ARS COMMISSIONER ROBERT TREVIÑO

Commissioner Treviño acknowledged that we have first time guests in attendance and suggested that everyone introduce themselves and whom they represented. The commissioner shared with the board that Mr. Abbott received the 2010 Annual Volunteer Of The Year Award, from the American Association for Kidney Patients (AAKP) annual meeting. The commissioner was proud to announce that Mr. Abbott was recognized nationally for his effort. Mr. Abbott thanked the board for their enthusiasm concerning his award and hoped that AAKP's 38th annual meeting will be held in Little Rock. Commissioner Treviño shared with the board our expectations to have AAKP's next annual meeting held here, tentatively in August, the intent of working with local business and different entities, seeking their support to sponsor this event to ensure that AAKP's next annual meeting be held in Little Rock.

At this time the commissioner shared that our Web Page will be updated, that INA will start working on our Web Site starting in January to collectively combine our agencies into the web page. More information concerning this project will be forth coming. He expressed, to the board, that he would like their input concerning this process as well.

The commissioner next reminded the board that the World Kidney Day event will be held March 5th and that ARS will provide transportation to UAMS where the event will be held. He explained that Ms. Betancourt will speak more on the event later.

The commissioner's final point was to remind the board, during previous meetings, the possibility of transportation vouchers were talked about. He went on to explain that due to the economic situation, the initial idea had to be postponed. If the board entertained the possibilities again, that he would consider using all agency resources by assigning certain duties to an employee that would work with Ms. Betancourt and together help identify particular clients in need of assistance with transportation. More information concerning this matter will be forthcoming via e-mail.

WITH NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR THE COMMISSIONER, DR. GLASCO ASKED THE PROGRAM MANAGER TO PROVIDE THE BOARD WITH THE STATISTICAL REPORT.

STATISTICAL REPORT

AKDC Program Manager Katrina Betancourt provided the Board an update regarding client statistical information. She reported that since the last Board meeting the AKDC having added 140 new clients with the program providing services to **1,051** individuals current fiscal year to date. She reported the program providing services to approximately 90 fewer clients this fiscal year when compared to the same time frame last year. She also provided a summary regarding the approval of clients for prior-approved drugs as well as pre-transplant dental services.

AKDC Clients

Clients Added Since Last Meeting	119
Clients Receiving Paid-for Services Last Fiscal Year	1141
Clients Receiving Paid-for Services Fiscal Year to Date.....	663
Clients Receiving Prescription Drugs Fiscal Year to Date.....	645
Clients Receiving Pre-Transplant Dental Services	18

AKDC Clients Receiving Prior-Approved Drugs

Clients Added to Renvela Approval List Since Last Meeting	9
Clients Added to Fosrenol Approval List Since Last Meeting.....	3
Clients Added to Sensipar Approval List Since Last Meeting	4

Clients Approved for Pre-Transplant Dental Services	11
Following discussion Ms. Betancourt provided the financial report.	

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms Betancourt provided the Board an update of the AKDC's current financial information. She reported program client service expenditures fiscal year to date totaling \$826,704 with that number being down about \$90,000 when compared to the same time frame last fiscal year. She provided the Board an overview of expenditures including prescription drug and pre-transplant dental costs.

Previous Fiscal Year

Amount spent by the AKDC for Client Services Last Fiscal Year	\$ 885,314
Amount spent for Prescription Drugs	\$ 827,264
Amount spent for Pre-Transplant Dental Services	\$ 30,723
Amount of Nepro Purchased	\$ 27,327

Current Fiscal Year

AKDC Client Service Budget for State Fiscal Year	\$ 950,000
Amount Processed by the AKDC for Client Services Fiscal Year to Date	\$ 283,717
Amount Processed for Prescription Drugs	\$ 270,093
Amount Processed for Pre-Transplant Dental Services	\$ 13,624

Following Ms. Betancourt's report consideration was given as to what to do with any current fiscal year surplus funds. After discussion, a motion was made for the AKDC to complete a bulk purchase of the nutritional supplement Nepro in an amount consistent with the recommendation of the ARS Chief Fiscal Officer. The motion was seconded and passed.

With no further questions or comments Dr. Glasco asked for a motion to approve the statistical and financial reports as given by Ms. Betancourt. A motion was made and seconded. The motion was passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Nepro Distribution

Ms. Betancourt reminded the board that Nepro was purchased with the surplus funds and has been completed distributed to all dialysis units.

Mr. Abbott asked if Nepro was beneficial, Dr. Glasco answered yes and explained that Nepro is especially formulated and essential for dialysis patients because it provides the right amount of nutritional supplement for what their bodies need.

Chain of Life Award

Three examples were presented at last, Dr. Young suggested appointing a sub-committee, all agreed. Commissioner Treviño, Ms. Betancourt and Mr. Abbott were selected. Ms. Betancourt reminded the Board of the three examples presented at last meeting. At this point one sample was selected; all agreed, a motion was entertained Mr. Abbott made the motion to accept the selection, and the Chain of Life Award was noted. The motion was made and seconded. The motion was passed.

The Renewal Process

At this point Ms. Betancourt informed the board, AKDC did not have a renewal process at this time. Once client's were approved they are considered clients' for life. For auditing purposes, the AKDC needs to establish an annual renewal process. Ms. Betancourt reminded the board that at our last meeting Dr. Glasco requested her to establish a renewal process and present the outline at this meeting. At this time she informed the board how the process would work, and that the outlined and structure was enclosed in their notebook for their review as she explained the process. At this time she explained the present Referral Application being used, the Renewal Application Form, the Approval/ Denial Letter and the Changed Status Report which is being used at this time. She also explained that the renewal process will be used annually based on the approval date. She emphasized insurance and drug coverage.

Mr. Abbott was of the opinion that this process will entail a lot more involvement, Ms. Betancourt assured him that because of what we are currently doing it will not be a problem, the only difference is the annual renewal process, if a person is denied how they can re-apply if their financial status changes. Ms. Betancourt went on to explain how some clients are confused how to establish their income and number of people living in the household, which is better explained in the new application. She informed the board that she would like to start this process in January.

After much discussion on the subject, Mr. Moreland stated; if we don't establish a process now, we will be forced to establish one later, and Dr. Glasco added, that patients will have to be more responsible in validating and updating their information to be eligible for AKDC's assistance.

With no further questions or comments Dr. Glasco asked for a motion to approve the renewal process. A motion was made and seconded. The renewal process was adopted and the motion was passed.

PATIENT EDUCATION

Ms. Betancourt introduced Andrea Easom (UAMS). Ms. Easom reported that for last nine years UAMS has been providing an Audio Educational Program for primary care providers, that in 2009 she managed to get the Rural Hospital Association involved, she explained that the program provided financing to film each hour long segment, that each session will go on their website and that providers across the state will have access to this information with no added fee. She also shared that AAKP expressed an interest to combine an all day professional meeting that professional people will be scheduled for the morning session and AAKP people will meet in the afternoon. Because of a grant received, nurses and medical students will have free admission. Ms. Easom informed the board that the filming of both sessions and the educational aspects of the sessions, that Ms. Betancourt wanted to make the film available to AKDC client as well as people across the state, and the importance of including the film at the Health Fair which will be held Saturday, March 5th at UAMS.

Formulary:

Ms. Betancourt mentioned that the formulary changes throughout the year and updated usually every two years; however, when the Web Page is established it can be updated more frequently. At this point she acknowledges Mr. Bryant of Bryant Pharmacy shared with the board that several drugs will be available in the generic form which will lower cost and can be possibly added to the formulary. At this time Ms. Betancourt expressed that her concerns were not necessarily adding drugs to the list but removing them from the list. She went on to explain how removing them could affect our clients. At this point Dr. Glasco shared that some generic brands are not as effective and brand names that what works is what's important therefore its cost verses effectiveness. At this point Mr. Bryant shared his reasoning why Hyzaar and Cozaar (a blood pressure medicine) should be re-evaluated and put back on the list, after further discussion the board agreed. The next discussion concerned the drugs Crestor and Avandia, the doctors on the board explained their reasons why both drugs should be removed from the list, both were removed Mr. Moreland suggested a caveat be established to authorize payments to our vendors with the stipulation that payment will cease as of December 31, 2010.

An addendum was approved with a caveat date established. The motion to add Actos, Coreg, Cozaar, Hyzaar and remove Avandia and Crestor was seconded and passed.

With no other questions or comments concerning the formulary, the motion was moved, seconded and passed

Announcements:

Dr. Glasco asked if there were any announcements, none were forthcoming.

A motion to adjourn the meeting is made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.
