

**ARKANSAS KIDNEY DISEASE COMMISSION**

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday September 14, 2011 **Time:** 12:30PM

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

**ATTENDEES:**

**Board Members** James Campbell, MD; Garry Glasco, MD; Nigel Hall; John Heard; Kathy Pierce; Scott Young, MD; Bob Abbott; Curt Calaway  
**Guests** Amy Bell, Jennifer Woodward; Mary Wilson; Bobby Walker; Mary A. Luttrell; Bonnie Bradley; Sarah Agee; Malanie Mechum; Nicole McCain  
**ARS Staff** Jim Moreland; Richard Ward  
**AKDC Staff** Katrina Betancourt; Helen Cobb

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Scott Young declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES**

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

**COMMENTS FROM ARS COMMISSIONER ROBERT TREVIÑO**

Due to unforeseen circumstances Commissioner Treviño was not able to attend this meeting. Mr. Moreland conveyed the commissioner's apologies to the board.

**DR. YOUNG ASKED THE PROGRAM MANAGER TO PROVIDE THE BOARD WITH THE STATISTICAL REPORT.**

**STATISTICAL REPORT**

Katrina Betancourt, Program Manager, provided the Board an update regarding client statistical information. She reported that since the last Board meeting the AKDC having added 85 new clients with the program providing services to 399 individuals current fiscal year to date. 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 .....	85
Clients Receiving Paid-for Services Last Fiscal Year .....	1175
Clients Receiving Paid-for Services Fiscal Year to Date.....	399
Clients Receiving Prescription Drugs Fiscal Year to Date.....	396
Clients Receiving Pre-Transplant Dental Services .....	8

**AKDC Clients Receiving Prior-Approved Drugs**

Clients Added to Renvela Approval List Since Last Meeting .....	15
Clients Added to Fosrenol Approval List Since Last Meeting.....	3
Clients Added to Sensipar Approval List Since Last Meeting .....	14
Clients Approved for Pre-Transplant Dental Services .....	8

Following discussion Ms. Betancourt provided the financial report.

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**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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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	\$ 925,100
Amount spent for Prescription Drugs	\$ 835,806
Amount spent for Pre-Transplant Dental Services	\$ 22,842
Amount of Nepro Purchased	\$ 27,327
Amount Processed for Transportation Reimbursement	\$ 39,125

**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	\$ 148,711
Amount Processed for Prescription Drugs	\$ 144,350
Amount Processed for Pre-Transplant Dental Services	\$ 4,361

With no other questions or comments on the financial report Dr. Young made a motion to approve the financial report. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

At this point Ms. Betancourt recognized and introduced our newest board member Mr. John Heard, CEO of McGhee Hospital and welcomed him to our board.

Mr. Heard announced that he was appointed to the board by the governor's office through the Arkansas Hospital Association, and had been an affiliate to the association for ten years. Mr. Heard inferred that McGhee in his estimation is the cholesterol belt in Southeast Arkansas and how kidney disease has affected so many people in the area and that he felt by being a board member affords him the opportunity to find out what's available for the people in the state.

And for the benefit of Mr. Heard, Dr. Young suggested everyone introduce themselves and a brief synopsis of who they are.

<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>
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**AAKP Convention:**

Ms. Betancourt share that the AAKP Convention was a great success, she expressed that it had a great turnout with approximately three to four hundred participates. She went on to share that through the fundraising efforts from AKDC and Inveritas they raised \$55,000.00 from Arkansans alone and with additional donations from various sources provided scholarships funds which were used for the registration cost to kidney patients and their caregivers. One Hundred dollars of the registration fee was paid with scholarships funds to people with limited income which left them paying only thirty five dollars of the fee this effort included family members and caregivers. The fund also assisted some people who couldn't afford the \$35.00. Ms. Betancourt also shared that seventy two scholarships were awarded as well as paying for some recipients at 100% and she was proud to announce that all were from Arkansas.

At this point Ms. Betancourt announced that Mr. Bob Abbott received two awards, from the AAKP convention, one being the most prestigious of the two the Samuel Orenstein Award. Everyone congratulated Mr. Abbott.

Mr. Abbott shared that it wasn't easy convincing AAKP to have their annual convention in Little Rock; he went on to say that with the help of Mr. Moreland and Ms. Betancourt and the contribution of time from the volunteers helped to make the convention a success. Mr. Abbott thanked them both for their efforts. He also thanked other board members for their contribution.

### **Nepro:**

Ms. Betancourt shared with all that July 31<sup>st</sup> is our fiscal year and if by year's end we have a surplus she explained that we purchase Nepro (a vitamin supplement) which is delivered to dialysis units in Arkansas for our clients that are in need of it, she went on to say that we are ahead of our delivery schedule, due to Mr. Moreland and some interns that were hired for the summer.

With no others questions or comments on to New Business.

### **New Business:**

#### **AKDC Rules Review:**

Ms. Betancourt shared with the board that after reading over the present AKDC's rules she realized that the rules have not been revised since 2004, and explained the need to revise them. She stated that since The Chain of Life Awards and the Renewal Process had not been added, these two entities needed to be added and brought before the legislature for approval. Ms. Betancourt spoke on other additions such as creating new programs in the future, incorporating patient education resource and possibly adding additional medical services, she shared her future plans are to meet with Commissioner Treviño and Mr. Moreland to establish a clear and precise up-to date draft to include future implementations. She concluded that the new revisions will be shared with the board hopefully by December's meeting for their approval and afterwards taken to the legislature for their approval.

#### **Financial Eligibility and Cap:**

Ms. Betancourt reported that as of now to become eligible a person has to have an income of \$2,400 or less for a single person and each additional person added in the household is an additional \$400.00. In addition, liquid assets must be \$6,000 or less excluding the home for which they reside. She went on to explain that these amounts are deemed to be adequate for AKDC and their clients. However, if the board deems that this process needs adjusting, she asked if it could be discussed at this time. Ms. Betancourt suggested approving the process for this year and if further discussions were warranted, the Eligibility process can be added to our agenda to be discussed at our next quarterly meeting in December.

Mr. Moreland interjected at this time and explained that in our old rules the eligibility process was reviewed annually, and he recommended that we keep the process as is including the \$5000.00 cap for services per client. If a client requires additional assistance above the cap amount like in the past be brought before the board for approval to pay over and above this amount. Mr. Moreland also suggested that if the board agrees to keep the Eligibility process as is he asked for their approval which is required to continue the process as is.

Ms. Betancourt also shared that clients rarely go over the \$5000.00 cap and if by chance they do, it will be brought before the board as in the past for approval. She shared that last year there was not any clients that had exceeded these amounts. She assured the board that prior to a client reaching the \$5,000.00 cap the social worker is contacted to make sure the client has insurance and discuss the reasoning behind this amount. Recommendations are also offered.

Dr Young added that in terms of transplants in relation to the cap, expenses looked hopeful due to more Generic Drugs on the market. Mr. Moreland added that co-pays were less too as much as 40%.

Dr. Young entered a motion to approve the Financial Eligibility Process and the Cap amount to remain the same.

With no other questions or comments a motion to approve was made and seconded.

#### **Pharmacy Billing:**

Ms. Betancourt reported that several large chain pharmacies have decided to go corporate, meaning electronic billing and we are not equipped at this time. She specifically mentioned USA drugs to explain the present problems we're experiencing with the various pharmacies under their corporate umbrella.

All USA pharmacies were assigned one vendor number by request for their billing purposes. Prior to this request our dealings were with their individual stores sending in claims for payment with no problem. By going corporate each store was required to submit their billing to corporate; the accounting department in turn submits the hand written claim form to AKDC. This procedures has presented a problem in terms of

incorrect billing, when an error presents itself on a claim form a letter is sent to the corporate office and not properly relayed to the individual store causing a disconnect in communication. An example was provided by Mrs. Betancourt: "As with all of our pharmacy vendors, we pay 20% of Medicare allowable rate with Medicare paying 80% and the client paying a \$2.00 co-pay for immunosuppressant drugs that are on the formulary." USA drug has been requesting the AKDC to reimburse at 100% against the rules of our commission. USA drug is also under the assumption that the AKDC owes them over \$100,000 which is incorrect. The AKDC is currently reviewing these claims.

Ms. Betancourt also share that we're in the beginning stage of trying to integrating electronic billing into our database or perhaps requesting a page on Medicare's website and AKDC having a second or third party billing system.

Mr. Moreland interjected that discussions concerning ways to have access inside Arkansas Medicaid's pharmacy program and if possible to request a screen page inside their program. This includes discounts and rebates which may reduce our pharmacy cost, and it's a system that pharmacies are familiar with. Mr. Moreland added that now would be a good time due to the different changes taking place thus far and the billing process problem would be solvable.

Dr. Glasco asked if identifiers were attached to the claim forms, Ms. Betancourt answered yes and explained that both the clients and vendors had identifiers that have to match. However, because USA Drug has opted to review claims at their corporate accounting department all claims are submitted under one vendor number. Mr. Moreland interjected that the problem exists with only one store and that's USA Drugs.

Dr. Young commented that he was sure that Electronic Billing was discussed at a previous meeting, voted and approved on. Mr. Moreland agreed.

At this time a variety of ways were discussed regarding Electronic Billing such as Libra System Seven and partnering up with Medicaid.

Mr. Abbott's commented at this time that he was of the understanding that AKDC funds were to be used for AKDC client only and all policies concerning the budget were at the board's discretions.

After further discussions Dr. Glasco entered a motion to approve the gathering of additional information regarding Electronic Billing for installation

The motion was approved and seconded.

Dr. Campbell's questioned at this time if there were ways to find out which pharmacies accepted AKDC and wanted to know if social workers were informed. Ms. Betancourt replied that USA Drugs and Wal-Mart were the only two that didn't participate, adding that social workers are kept abreast of such changes as well.

#### **Chain of Life Award:**

Ms. Betancourt dispersed nomination forms to the board. She requested that the board and anyone from the public to complete this form if they have a suggestion or nomination. She requested that they should turn it in no later Friday December 9, 2011. Ms. Betancourt shared the reason for the deadline date is to allow sufficient time to schedule a meeting with Governor Beebe for his signature and have a ceremony underway for the chosen candidates for 2012.

#### **Board Appointments:**

Ms. Betancourt informed the board that a copy of their appointments with term dates were inserted into their binder for their review.

No further questions or comments concerning Old Business was forthcoming at this time.

**Announcements:**

The Next meeting will be held **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** at 12pm at Corporate Hill Drive.

A motion to adjourn the meeting is made and seconded.

The meeting was adjourned.

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