

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Agency for Health Care Administration
Pediatric Cardiac Technical Advisory Panel
Date: February 2, 2023
Time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM EST
Location: Online Webinar

Member Present: Frank Scholl, MD, Chair; Peter Wearden, MD, Vice Chair; Brian Kogon, MD; T-Y Hsia, MD; Elise Riddle, MD; Melvin Almodovar, MD; Alfred Asante-Korang, MD; Michael Puchalski, MD; Redmond Burke, MD; Anthony Rossi, MD; Blaine John, MD; Mark Bleiweis, MD; Biagio Pietra, MD; Rajesh Shenoy, MD; Michael Shillingford, MD; Eric Eason, DO; Jorge McCormack, MD; and Ruby Monica Sanford, APRN.

Staff Present: Kimberly Smoak, Deputy Secretary for Health Care Policy, and Oversight; Jamie Bustos, Bureau Chief of the Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis; Richard Shoop, Senior Attorney for AHCA General Counsel; Patricia Vidal, Administrator, Cruz Conrad, Adrienne Henderson, Dana Watson, Thomas Tran and Jennifer Fell, Florida Center staff.

Interested Parties: William Blanchard, MD; Gerold Schiebler, MD; Chantel Alfred; Valery Augustin; Kristin Barnette; Sephanee Crumbaker; Stephen Ecenia; Amy Haddon; Jeff Jacobs; Sue Ellen Kremper; Melissa Reinhold; Jason Rodriguez; Manu Sharma; and Linzi Spitzmiller.

Welcome, Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Overview: Dr. Frank Scholl, Chair, welcomed guest and panelist and called the Pediatric Cardiac Technical Advisory Panel (PCTAP or Panel) meeting to order. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present. Dr. Scholl began the meeting by giving an overview of the meeting agenda.

Agency Updates: Dr. Scholl turned the meeting over to Kim Smoak, Deputy Secretary of Health Care Policy, and Oversight, who provided the Panel with updates on Agency activities. Ms. Smoak announced Jason Weida as the new appointed Secretary of AHCA. Ms. Smoak stated that Secretary Weida has been with the Agency since November 2021, in previous roles as the Agency's Chief of Staff and the Assistant Deputy Secretary for Medicaid Policy and Quality. Ms. Smoak stated Secretary Weida's hope of meeting panel members and participating in future meetings.

Sunshine Law Presentation: Ms. Smoak turned the meeting over to Richard Shoop, Senior Attorney for AHCA General Counsel, who provided a presentation on Sunshine Law. The presentation overviewed how the law pertained to the PCTAP concerning public meetings, communication between panel members, public participation, and public records. After the presentation, there were no questions from panel members. Mr. Shoop stated if members had additional questions, they could forward them to AHCA staff, and he would answer them in a timely manner.

Rule Language: The meeting was turned back over to Dr. Scholl who gave background on the creation of the rule language and its status, highlighting two areas of concern; volume requirements for surgical programs and certification approval for non-board-certified physicians. Dr. Scholl stated in previous years, panel members had agreed to look at quality of care as opposed to volume requirements, using an Observed to Expected mortality ratio for overall index cases based on data reported to the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. He stated the Rule was amended by AHCA to include a volume requirement, which became a point of contention for several programs resulting in a public hearing. Based on the input from

the hearing and responses from AHCA, the volume requirements were removed and reverted back to a quality metric.

Regarding using a quality metric, Dr. Mark Bleiweis noted that confidence intervals for smaller programs could be very wide, so it was important to look at both volume and a quality metric. Dr. Hsia noted the importance of quality care and the legal implications of reintroducing a volume requirement. Dr. Jorge McCormack stated that the selection of a volume number would always be a contentious matter and agreed that the panel should move away from an absolute number and instead monitor outcomes.

Dr. Scholl stated the goal of the Rule was not to penalize programs, but for programs to work together to improve care across the state. Additionally, Dr. Peter Wearden noted he was a proponent of confidence intervals, which could identify challenged programs. He stated putting forth a volume number could give the misimpression that if you have a certain number of cases, then you're a good program. Jamie Bustos, Bureau Chief of the Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis, stated that once the Panel has a final product, it would continue in the rulemaking process. Individuals would be given a chance to participate in a public hearing, where they can provide additional input.

Dr. Hsia also raised a concern about rule language related to the certification of non-board-certified physicians. He stated the American Board of Thoracic Surgery has a certification pathway that allows these physicians to attain national credentialing. He stated he believed it was more appropriate to have the same level of certification at the national level, for both domestic and foreign trained cardiac surgeons. Dr. McCormack also voiced his concern in leaving the certification approval for non-board-certified physicians up to the hospitals.

Dr. Melvin Almodovar stated the language around non-board-certified physicians sought to not penalize programs who recruited internationally qualified surgeons. He stated the hope was the recognition of equivalent qualifications like the congenital heart surgery certification by ABTS. He also agreed with Dr. Hsia that the language deferring approval to the local hospital credentialing committee needed improvement.

Dr. Scholl suggested to add rule language that required equivalent alternative certification be approved by PCTAP members. Additionally, Panel members recommended the PCTAP approval be by a majority vote. Once the language was amended, Dr. Scholl asked Panel members for a motion to approve the new rule language amendments.

Rule Language Amendment Vote: Dr. McCormack made the motion to amend the rule language to; "...equivalent alternative certification endorsed by at least a majority vote of the Pediatric Cardiac Technical Advisory Panel and acceptable to the medical director and hospital's governing board or designated credentialing committee." Dr. Elise Riddle seconded the motion. Each present panel member and alternate member cast their vote, a quorum was met, and the vote was passed. For specific votes, see the voting grids below.

Public Comment and Adjournment: There were no public comments. Dr. Scholl summarized the meeting and the Panel adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Action Items:

1. AHCA staff provide a copy of amended 395.1055(10) Rule to Panel members.
2. AHCA staff provide a copy of previous meeting minutes to Panel members discussed in meeting.
3. Panel members to provide AHCA staff with alternative email addresses if needed.