

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: July 2, 2013
ATTENTION: Board Members
SUBJECT: Prescribing Task Force
STAFF CONTACT: Renee Threadgill

REQUESTED ACTION:

This report is intended to provide an update to the Members on the activities of the Prescribing Task Force. No action is needed at this time.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

At the April 24-25, 2013 Board Meeting the Members approved the establishment of a Prescribing Task Force in order to address the serious problem of prescription drug abuse. Ms. Yaroslavsky and Mike Bishop, M.D. were appointed to the Task Force.

On July 2, 2013, the Task Force Board Members met with Staff to discuss and establish the mission, vision, and objective of the Task Force. The Members adopted a mission and vision statement and developed objectives for the Task Force.

Mission Statement

The Task Force will identify ways to proactively approach and find solutions to the epidemic of prescription drug overdoses through education, prevention, best practices, communication, and outreach by engaging all stakeholders in this endeavor.

Vision

To significantly reduce prescription drug overdoses.

Objectives

- *Identify appropriate patient information that can be shared/discussed between the prescriber and the pharmacist*
- *Identify best practices for prescribing*
 - *Revisit the current Pain Management Guidelines*
 - *Educate prescribers on best practices for prescribing and the public on diversion, disposal and additional information regarding overprescribing and addiction*
 - *Define an outreach plan to provide information to all stakeholders*
- *Review the Board's policy on experts for overprescribing cases*

The first meeting of the Task Force will be an all-day meeting held in September, 2013 in Sacramento. The Task Force meeting will be a working meeting with all invited interested parties providing input toward the objectives of the Task Force based upon their areas of expertise/perspective. The interested parties will include individual prescribers from all specialties and dispensers from all types of facilities/settings, but also representatives from:

Attorney General's Office

District Attorney's Offices

County Sheriff's Offices

Other Healing Arts Boards (Pharmacy, Registered Nursing, Physician Assistants, Dental, etc.)

Drug Enforcement Administration

Consumer and Advocate Groups

All Prescriber Associations (California Medical Association, California Nursing Association, etc.)
California Pharmacist Association
Specialty Boards
Kaiser
California Hospital Association
Media
Schools (including medical, pharmacy, dental, etc.[all prescribers/dispensers])
Teaching physicians/pharmacists
Department of Insurance
Insurance Companies
Senate and Assembly Committees (B&P, Health)

Several meetings may be required in order to meet all of the objectives of the Task Force. The Task Force Board Members have identified the first two objective on the above list as its first priorities. The Task Force will also be asking all interested parties to articulate problems from their perspectives. As these problems are brought forward, they will be added to the objectives list and the working group will establish solutions that can then be shared with the prescribing and dispensing communities.