



**Janet Napolitano**  
Governor

**Joey Ridenour**  
Executive Director

## Arizona State Board of Nursing

### **MEDICATION TECHNICIAN PILOT STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE**

#### **MINUTES**

**JANUARY 29, 2008**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Betty Earp, Mesa CC (telephonic)  
John Linda, AzHCA  
Debra Piluri, AZDHS  
Christine Walker, Kachina Point (telephonic)  
Dean Wright, Pharmacy Board

#### **BOARD STAFF ATTENDING:**

Joey Ridenour, Executive Director  
Pam Randolph, Associate Director, Education  
Lila Van Cuyk, Education Consultant

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

M. Hunter Perry, Co-Chair  
Steve Robertson, Co-Chair  
Jane Black, SoAZ Nurses Assoc.  
Kathleen Collins-Pagels, AzHCA  
Julie Gordon, AzAHA  
Mary Griffith, AzNA  
Jo A. Podjaski, Sun Health  
Cheryl Roat, Grand Canyon University  
Genny Rose

#### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Jackie Arnett, (telephonic)  
Paul Dorrance, D&S Diversified (telephonic)  
Cathie Hauf, Good Shepherd  
Maria Montion (telephonic)  
Tim Pitriech, D&S Diversified (telephonic)  
Annie Quarles, Shadow Mountain  
Nancy Spector, NCSBN (telephonic)

### **I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL MINUTES**

Randolph called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. Ridenour moved and Wright seconded to approve the Medication Technician Pilot Study Steering Committee meeting minutes for October 2, 2007 with correction. The motion carried.

### **II. OVERALL PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **A. Pilot Facility Reports**

Randolph invited Pilot Facility representatives to share their progress and challenges in training and utilizing pilot study medication technicians.

Copper Mountain: Representative Paula Mitchell reported that one pilot study medication technician is working at the facility. Copper Mountain will be training in future but a start date for the new class has not been established yet. Mitchell also reported that the nurses at the facility have responded favorably to the use of the pilot study medication technician.

Good Shepherd: Representative Cathie Hauf stated that Good Shepherd is utilizing four pilot study medication technicians. A total of six students were trained to date. A new class is tentatively scheduled for late March/early April. One of the Good Shepherd pilot study medication technicians will graduate from an LPN program in June. This student reported that medication technician training was beneficial and provided far more instruction in the area of medication administration.

Heritage Healthcare: There was no representative in attendance.

Mountain View: Representative Maria Montion reported that pilot study medication technicians will be put on regular schedules in February. A federal survey was conducted at the facility during which no medication errors were reported. Jackie Arnett will be initiating another medication technician class. Montion anticipates four more students based on candidate criteria.

Shadow Mountain: Representative Annie Quarles stated that one student passed the class. During the facility's annual survey the medication technician did well and did not receive any deficiencies for medication errors. Shadow Mountain would like to start a new class but needs to have an instructor participate in the train-the-trainer program. Shadow Mountain anticipates two students for the next class. Post data collection has not take place yet. Quarles will provide contact information.

Silver Ridge Village: Randolph reported that Silver Ridge Village was one of the first facilities that trained medication technicians. Nine passed written and manual skills tests. This facility was the first to use pilot study medication technicians. A federal survey was conducted during the summer. Because of the deficiencies noted, Silver Ridge has been placed on sanction. Errors in medication administration were reported at 9%. Board decided to continue to allow Silver Ridge to participate in the program with monthly pharmacy reports to the Board. Piluri added that when DHS conducted their survey no deficiencies were noted. However, when federal monitoring surveyors visited the facility deficiencies were noted. Two pilot study medication technicians were involved. Significant medication errors were reported. Silver Ridge offered a plan of correction. When DHS returned there were no new deficiencies. Spector expressed concern with allowing the pilot study medication technicians to continue in the study. Randolph noted the complexity of medication administration in long-term care. Spector will explore the matter with Kathy Apple at National Council. Members noted that pharmacists contributed and may have been partially responsible for the errors because of improper labeling of medications.

### **III. TESTING/RESEARCH UPDATE**

#### **A. Testing Results/Item Review**

Dorrance reported that there has been no new testing activity since the last report. There is no test scheduled at this moment. Pietrich stated that post data collection will be conducted in the latter part of April. The facilities will include Copper Mountain, Heritage Healthcare, Mountain View, and Shadow Mountain.

Randolph stated that 84 new items from the Arkansas Board were approved at the last test review panel meeting. Dorrance reported approximately 600 active questions are in the test item pool.

A total of thirty-two candidates were tested, thirteen in 2007 and nineteen in 2006. This information will be added to the report provided by D&S Diversified Technologies and share with Committee members and representatives from the participating facilities.

#### **B. Satisfaction Survey Progress Report**

Dorrance reported that Dr. Scott-Cawiezell posted interviews on the two sites that had data collection completed. Dr. Scott-Cawiezell reported that she received positive feedback.

Committee members and facility representatives discussed the satisfaction of licensed staff with the use of medication technician. Hauf offered that nurses at Good Shepherd rely on the medication technicians, and prefer not to work without them.

#### **C. Medication Error Rates Progress Reports**

This item was discussed under Agenda Item II.

### **IV. REVIEW OF TIMELINE**

Dorrance stated that D&S Diversified Technologies can meet the April 30, 2008 date for post data collection. Randolph noted that facilities must retain and use the medication technicians through the post data collection as a condition of participation.

### **V. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

There were no public audience members.

**VI. FUTURE TOPICS – DEBRIEFING**

Next meeting will be scheduled after data collection takes place in April. Randolph will provide 2 to 3 weeks notice.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Randolph adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Minutes Approved by:  01/29/08  
Pamela Randolph, RN MS PNP Date  
Associate Director of Education and Evidence Based Regulation

kgb