



MEDICAL REVIEW BOARD

Meeting Minutes July 15-16, 2019

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Medical Review Board (MRB) met on July 15-16, 2019, in Arlington, VA. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public. Gina Pervall, M.D., MRB Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. on Monday, July 15, 2019.

The following individuals attended the meeting:

MRB COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gina C. Pervall, M.D., Chairman
Gerald (Gerry) Harmon, M.D.
Michael T. Kelley, M.D., M.P.H.
Brian T. Morris, M.D., J.D., M.B.A., M.P.H.
Albert Osbahr III, M.D., M.S.

FMCSA AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES

Alan Hanson, Deputy Administrator
Theresa Hallquist, Research Division
Christine Hydock, Chief, Medical Programs Division, Office of Policy
Arlene McCarthy, Ethics Attorney, General Law Division, Office of the Chief Counsel
Larry Minor, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Joseph Sentef, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Shannon Watson, Senior Policy Advisor and Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

OTHER ATTENDEES

Jake Einwechter, Truckload Carriers Association
Jay Grimes, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA)
Natalie P. Hartenbaum, M.D., M.P.H., FACOEM
Stacey Koutroumpis, Maryland Department of Transportation (MTA)
Eppie Martinez, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
Michael Megehee, D.C., Team CME
Eric Miller, Transport Topics
Julie Perrot, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
Abigail Potter, American Trucking Associations
Michelle Watters, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
Michael Winger, Maryland Department of Transportation (MTA)

REMARKS AND COMMITTEE ACTION

The MRB meeting minutes from June 25-26, 2018, were approved unanimously.



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Ethics Training for MRB Members: Arlene McCarthy, Ethics Attorney, General Law Division, Office of the Chief Counsel, FMCSA

Arlene McCarthy presented an ethics overview for the MRB members, who serve as special government employees (SGEs) under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). MRB members must monitor their social relationships closely for conflicts of interest. MRB members cannot disclose information that is not public knowledge and may only speak for themselves and not the board when addressing groups or serving in other capacities. Once members have left the MRB, they are still bound to the ethics laws and cannot disclose or transfer information to a private cooperation with conflicts of interests. If an MRB member questions the ethics of any situation, that member must consult with the Agency's ethics official.

Presentation: "FMCSA Educational Video Series MEDICATIONS I": Joseph Sentef, M.D., M.P.H, M.B.A, Chief Medical Officer, FMCSA

FMCSA plans to launch an educational video series to provide information to certified medical examiners (MEs) on the National Registry to aid them in making medical qualification decisions. Dr. Sentef presented information on medications used commonly by commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers and their potential effects on highway safety. Specifically, drug classification, half-lives, side effects, and drug interactions were discussed to determine if the information should be included in the educational series.

Meet the Deputy Administrator: Remarks from Alan Hanson, FMCSA

Alan Hanson, Deputy Administrator, welcomed new board member Gerald Harmon, MD. He acknowledged the importance of the Board's work in supporting FMCSA's mission to reduce CMV crashes on our nation's highways and their associated fatalities and injuries. He noted that the work of the MRB helps the FMCSA achieve this goal. The Deputy Administrator thanked all the members for their service to the Agency and to furthering motor carrier safety.

Task 17.1, Review of Medical Examiners Handbook (MEH): Gina Pervall, MD, Chairman

Building off last year's meeting, in compliance with Task 17-1, the MRB resumed assessment of the recently updated MEH.

Discussion Points:

- Board recommended that FMCSA define the purpose of the MEH as to educate MEs on how to use the information a driver provides to make a medical qualification determination. Board identified the importance of differentiating the regulations and advisory components of the MEH.
- Natalie Hartenbaum, MD, recommended reformatting the MEH to follow the same pattern for each topic and be consistent with the wording of "guidance", "best practices", or "guidelines".
- Board recommended unanimously that FMCSA stay consistent with the blood pressure advisory criteria for now.



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- Natalie Hartenbaum, MD, suggested clarifying the use of determination pending because some MEs are not aware that drivers placed in determination pending status can still drive on their current certificate.
- Board recommended the agency convene a panel of type II diabetes experts to assist in developing guidance for evaluating affected drivers.

Presentation: “FMCSA Educational Video Series MEDICATIONS I”: Joseph Sentef, M.D., M.P.H, M.B.A, Chief Medical Officer, FMCSA

Joseph Sentef, MD, presented the second medication topic that FMCSA plans to add to the educational video series to provide information to medical examiners (MEs) to aid in making medical qualification decisions. In this presentation, first and second-generation antipsychotics, antidepressants, and bipolar medications were discussed. To include outlining their uses, half-lives, side effects, and drug interactions.

Presentation: “Update on the Status of the Report: Examining FMCSA Vision Standard for Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers”: Theresa Hallquist, Research Division, FMCSA

Motions voted on by the MRB:

- Motion was made to recommend that FMCSA maintain the current vision standard. Committee members approved unanimously.
- Motion was made that FMCSA continue the current Federal Vision Exemption Program. It passed unanimously.
- Motion was made to investigate shortening the three-year waiting period for drivers who have monocular vision. Committee members approved unanimously.
- Motion was made to review the Federal Vision Exemption Program with more information at the following MRB meeting. Committee members approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

	Presenter	Presentation
1	Arlene McCarthy, Ethics Attorney, General Law Division Office of the Chief Counsel, FMCSA	Ethics Training for MRB Members
2	Joseph Sentef, M.D., M.P.H, M.B.A, M.R.O, Chief Medical Officer	FMCSA Educational Video Series MEDICATIONS I and II
3	Theresa Hallquist, Research Division, FMCSA	Update on the Status of the Report: Examining FMCSA Vision Standard for Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers

Gina Pervall, MD, concluded the meeting at 4:10 pm. Larry Minor, DFO, and Shannon Watson, Deputy DFO, provided final remarks.



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We hereby certify that, to the best of our knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

//Signed//

Gina C. Pervall, MD
Chairman, MRB

//Signed//

Larry W. Minor
Designated Federal Officer, MCSAC