



Mark Hanly, MD
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

LaSharn Hughes, MBA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Georgia Board for Physician Workforce Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 28, 2016
8:30 a.m. – Conference Call

GBPW Administrative Office
2 Peachtree St., NW, 36th Floor Board Room
Atlanta, GA 30303

Board Members Present:

Mark Hanley, M.D.; David Kay, M.D.; William Kemp; Thomas Hatchett, M.D.; George McCluskey, M.D.; Norma Jean Morgan; Terri McFadden-Garden, M.D.; Frank Carter, M.D.; William Waters, M.D.

Board Members Absent:

Antonio Rios, M.D.; Jacinto Del Mazo, M.D.; Carol Burrell; Bill Herringdine; Jimmy Childre;

Staff Present:

Melissa Carter; Olive Jones-Golden; Yvette Speight

Guests Present:

Martha Elks, M.D., Morehouse University; LaSharn Hughes; Cherri Tucker

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Hanley called the Board Meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. He introduced LaSharn Hughes as the new Executive Director of the Board. Dr. Hanley also informed the Board that Cherri Tucker was on the call and will be staying on as an advisor to ensure very smooth transition. He also

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thanked Melissa Carter for assuming the role of interim executive director during this time. At Dr. Hanley's request, Mrs. Jones-Golden called the roll and Ms. Carter determined that the board had a quorum.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Hanley gave Mrs. Hughes a chance to say a few words. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to server as executive director and said she would be contacting each board member and looked forward to meeting them in person soon. Mrs. Hughes also stated she would be providing the Board with her plans for the next 30, 60 and 90 days. Dr. Hanley asked Mrs. Tucker if she would like comment. She stated that she will be working with Mrs. Hughes during the transition as well as helping to close out the year end budget due to the current absence of Ms. Smith.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**A. Practice Approval Requests**

Ms. Carter reported there are two requests for Practice Approval. Dr. Sidney James Morgan is requesting to practice in Screven, Georgia, which is a qualifying county.

On Motion (Hatchett/Carter), the Board unanimously approved the practice approval request for Sidney James Morgan, M.D.

Dr. Laura Clemmons is requesting approval to practice in Mitchell County, which is also a qualifying county.

On Motion (Carter/Kemp), the Board unanimously approved the practice approval request for Laura Clemmons, M.D.

PHYSICIANS FOR RURAL AREAS ASSISTANCE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**A. Location Waiver**

Ms. Carter informed the Board that Dr. Joy Rogers is a pediatrician and Scholarship recipient. She will be practicing in Coffee County, which does not qualify under the PRAA loan repayment program. The Board was provided a letter from Dr. Rogers making her argument for the waiver.

Dr. Hanley stated Coffee County does not quite qualify but the counties surrounding it are so terribly underserved. A lot of the counties around there do not have pediatricians and many of them use Coffee County as a medical center for any health care. He stated

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that should be taken into consideration and asked if anyone else would like to speak on that topic.

Dr. Carter stated while we agree with her argument, the Board has rules that are legislatively established. He continued that Dr. Rogers can go to any other of those surrounding counties in that perimeter to meet the qualifications. Dr. Hanley agreed. He asked Ms. Tucker if there had been an instant where the Board requested that a recipient show where patients originated. Mrs. Tucker replied yes, a radiologist under the scholarship program and the Board required him to submit patient's cities of origin and zip codes of the x-rays he read.

Dr. Carter stated if the Board let everybody put in a list of numbers of underserved people, every neurosurgeon in Augusta qualified for repayment. He stated the Board must be very careful. Dr. Waters asked if he could amend Dr. Carter's comment in which he believed Dr. Carter was correct. What the Board has done in the past, and this may not apply to this physician, is base it on whether the physician requires a medical center or a significant outpatient resource to apply their trade. Dr. Waters asked what extent of the county itself is underserved and stated there may be a disproportion number of physicians or low care level in the county that's served. Dr. Hanley stated he knows Coffee County pretty well and they are desperate for physicians.

Dr. Kay asked if she is requesting scholarship repayment or is this loan forgiveness. Mrs. Tucker stated the board has already approved scholarship forgiveness at that location. She is now asking for the board to approve this site under the loan repayment program.

Dr. McFadden referred back to Dr. Waters' point about the number of physicians per capita, particularly the number of pediatricians in the county. She asked if the Board has the ability to look at the ratio of doctors to the population or are we strictly bond by the 35,000 rule? Mrs. Tucker noted there are different factors in the rules that the Board can review besides the 35,000 population.

Dr. Carter made a motion for the Board to send a positive letter to the recipient explaining the rules and ask her to readdress the situation with the Board before the next meeting. Dr. Waters asked to speak before the Board voted. He stated everything that has been said is correct. He thinks one more thing the Board can look into is whether or not the 35,000 is just some arbitrary number. That is what we keep struggling with, the 35,000 arbitrary number does not mean anything keeps hitting us in the face. Dr. Dever said the 35,000 is arbitrary. He stated the Board does need to revisit this and come up with a more valid way to determine the need of physicians in an area. Dr. Hatchett agreed that this 35,000 arbitrary limit that was established 50 years ago is no longer valid. The legislation that gave us more flexibility three years ago was in the spirit of perhaps this particular incident. He continued that hopefully the Board will review this and it will come back where the Board has more freedom to approve something like this.

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On Motion (Carter / Waters), the Board voted to send a positive letter to Dr. Rogers explaining the rules and ask her to readdress the situation with the Board before the next meeting.

GEORGIA PHYSICIAN LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (GPLRP)

Ms. Carter reviewed two applications for the HRSA loan repayment program.

Mandy K. Lucas, M.D. is a Family Medicine physician and practicing in Berrien County. Felicia Sumner, M.D. is also a Family Medicine physician and will be practicing in Miller County. If she is approved today, it will be pending her practice starting on July 1, 2016

On Motion (Carter / Garden), the Board unanimously approved the 2 GPLRP applications for awards with Dr. Sumner's pending her practice beginning on July 1, 2016

FY2017 BUDGET AS APPROVED

Ms. Carter reviewed the FY2017 Budget as follows:

- The Graduate Medical Education Program: 1.1 million dollars was added to the budget for 72 residency slots in Primary Care Medicine that begins July 1 and \$208,000 was transferred to the Administration Budget. \$100,000 was transferred to the Physicians for Rural Areas program for Georgia South Family Medicine Rural Residency Training program.
- \$219,000 was added to provide funds to start an Emergency Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Health University Medical Center.
- \$122,000 was added to increase funds for 8 slots in existing OB/GYN Residency Programs: Two in Emory, two at the Medical College of Georgia, two at Morehouse and two at Navicent Health in Macon.
- \$208,000 transferred from GME to Administration will be used to hire additional staff individuals. We also have \$100,000 added of new funds for a facilitator position to specialize in emerging residency programs.
- \$200,000 was added for to the Physicians for Rural Areas program for a loan repayment program for advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistant for rural underserved areas. \$100,000 were transferred from GME into this program is to assist the Georgia South Family Medicine Rural Residency Training Program.

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- \$318,000 was added for to the Undergraduate Medical Education program for 50 certified residents at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the board will be held on Thursday, July 21, 2016 in Atlanta.

ADJOURNMENT:

On Motion (Waters / Carter) the Board approved adjourning the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

LaSharn Hughes, M.B.A., Executive Director

Antonio Rios, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer