

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce

Via Microsoft Teams April 28, 2022, Minutes

Dr. McFadden, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following Board members present:

Carolyn Clevenger, DNP
James Barber, MD, Vice-Chairman
Garrett Bennett, MD
Steven Gautney, MSHA
Michael J. Groover, DMD
Lily J. Henson, MD
Indran Indrakrishnan, MD
William Kemp, Secretary-Treasurer
Amy Reeves, PA-C
Antonio Rios, MD
James L. Smith, Jr., MD

Staff Present

Freeman Montaque
Leanna Greenwood
Yvette Speight
Cherri Tucker
Aybriel Beckham
Jocelyn Hart

Guests

Tara Boockholdt, Senior Budget & Policy Analyst, Georgia House of Representatives
Becca Hallum, Georgia Hospital Association
Chadburn Ray, MD, Medical College of Georgia
Emily Harris, JD, Assistant Attorney General
Jean Sumner, MD, Mercer University School of Medicine
Hugh Sosebee, JD, Mercer University School of Medicine
Betsy Bates, Morehouse School of Medicine
Linda Adkinson, Ph.D, PCOM-GA Campus
Bryan Ginn, PCOM-GA Campus
Martha Elks, MD, Ph.D., Morehouse School of Medicine
Al Dever, MD, PhD, Faculty WellStar Kennestone Family Medicine Program & Consultant to the Board
Bethany Sherer, Medical Association of Georgia
Shannon Thomas, Emory School of Medicine
Christine Charaf, MD, Morehouse School of Medicine

Olivia Buckner, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough

Approval of Agenda

Dr. McFadden presented the agenda for the meeting to the Board for approval.

On Motion (Barber/Kemp), the Board unanimously approved the April 28, 2022 meeting agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kemp presented April 28, 2022, meeting minutes for review and approval.

On Motion, (Rios/Indrakrishnan,) the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 21, 2021, meeting.

Introductions

Freeman Montaque conducted a roll call of board members (including those new to the Board), staff, and guests.

Chairperson's Report

Dr. McFadden thanked Mr. Montaque for taking on the role of Interim Executive Director while maintaining his Budget Manager role, especially during the legislative session. She also thanked Ms. Tucker for stepping in as a consultant to the Board during this transition period and she thanked the Board staff for their hard work during the past several months. Dr. McFadden also thanked the Executive Committee and Executive Director Search Committee for their work during this time. She then provided the Board an update on the executive director search.

Dr. McFadden informed the Board that Governor Kemp issued an Executive Order on April 21, 2022, establishing the Healthcare Workforce Commission. She reviewed the executive order, noting it will be composed of 15 members appointed by the Governor and the Commission shall collaborate with this Board and the Office of Health Strategy and Coordination in making its findings and recommendations. She stated the Commission is charged to conduct a thorough study of the state's current healthcare workforce pipeline, including, but not limited to, identifying significant data trends in healthcare workforce changes and areas of concern within the existing pipeline, and shall make recommendations for improvements to said pipeline, including, but not limited to, recommendations regarding the expansion of education programs and clinical placements, methods to further develop and strengthen the pipeline, scholarship and loan forgiveness programs that may support workforce initiatives, investments in technology to improve workforce readiness and expand education program capacity, and programs and strategies to improve retention and resilience of the current healthcare workforce. She noted the Commission must make a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor no later than December 31, 2022.

Dr. McFadden said she would be meeting with Mr. Montaque, Ms. Tucker, Ms. Greenwood and Dr. Dever, to discuss data and what reports needed to be updated and placed on the website.

Dr. McFadden briefly reviewed two workforce related bills that were discussed previously but did not make it through the legislative session:

- HB 1371 which would have created a Rural Health Advancement Commission to develop private-sector solutions to address short-term and long-term health care and long-term care workforce shortages, with an emphasis on rural areas; and
- HB 1520 which would have created the Georgia Council for Addressing Health Care Workforce Challenges

Dr. McFadden stated she hopes to resume in-person meetings and use the July meeting for the retreat.

Interim Executive Director's Report

Mr. Montaque started his report by thanking Denise Kornegay, Statewide AHEC Executive Director, for working with members of the General Assembly to obtain funding for all of the filled new GME program slots in the FY2022 Amended Budget (\$1.7 million) as well as the FY2023 budget (\$3.9 million). Ms. Kornegay had been working with Ms. Hughes to determine the amount of funds required for the new GME slots that did not receive funding in FY2021.

Mr. Montaque spoke about SB 340 which has been sent to the Governor for his signature. This was agency requested legislation that amended O.C.G.A. 31-7-95 to reflect the name of the GME Accrediting Agency as well as amended the requirement for a teaching hospital to have 50 residents. Hospitals are now required to have at least 1 ACGME accredited residency program, excluding any stand-alone fellowship program. Ms. Hughes had worked with Senator Kirkpatrick on carrying the bill.

Mr. Montaque reviewed several bills of interest that went through the legislative session:

- HB 1038, was introduced and read a second time in the House. The bill would have changed the law for the rural physician tax credit to allow rural physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners and physician assistants to be eligible for the tax credit.
- HB1520, tabled by the Senate and not brought to vote, would have created the Georgia Council on Addressing Health Care Workforce Challenges, a 27-member council for the purpose of providing strategic thought leadership and recommendation on the future of the healthcare workforce in Georgia.
- HB 1013 – The Mental Health Parity Act was signed by the Governor on April 4, 2022. The bill adds a section to the Board's law to create and maintain the Behavioral Health Care Workforce Data Base for the purposes of collecting and analyzing minimum data set survey for behavioral health professionals.

Mr. Montaque thanked Mr. Kemp and Dr. Barber for reaching out to their legislators during the legislative session. Dr. McFadden stated it is critical for Board members to interface with their legislators going forward.

Mr. Montaque concluded his report by informing the Board everyone located at 2 Peachtree Street will be moving to the Twin Towers by the end of the year. This move will change the

plans of naming of the 6th Floor conference room to honor Ms. Hughes. He stated we are still looking for other ideas.

Budget Items

Mr. Montaque discussed changes to FY 2022 budget:

- Morehouse School of Medicine was awarded a one-time increase of \$500,000 to support planning efforts for a new nursing program and patient navigators for maternal health;
- 3 million dollars was added for equipment and operating grants for nursing programs with wait lists and additional current student capacity; and
- 1.7 million dollars was added to GME to fund new resident slots that were not funded in FY2021.

Mr. Montaque informed the Board of highlights of the FY2023 Budget, as passed, which puts the Board budget over 104 million dollars:

- Administration Budget: 3 statewide increases plus \$400,000 to implement a Behavioral Health Care Workforce Database;
- GME Budget: 8 items added including funding for 199 new GME slots, funding for new residency at Archbold Medical Center, funding for fellowships at Augusta University, one-time funding for a statewide dental workforce assessment to evaluate current and future needs, provide capitation funds for 7 new residency slots at Emory University, funds for planning and start-up of a new fellowship program at Memorial Health Meadows Hospital, funding for planning and start-up of a new residency program at Coffee Regional Hospital;
- Mercer School of Medicine Grant: funds for the 3rd year of a 7-year funding plan for MUSM Columbus Campus;
- Morehouse School of Medicine Grant: funds to support child and adolescent psychiatry and psychiatry residency programs and funds for MSM clinical campus expansion;
- Physicians for Rural Areas: funds for additional loan repayment grants for physicians, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses;
- Undergraduate Medical Education: funds for the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine South Georgia Campus to support growth and funds for equipment and operating grants for nursing programs with wait lists and additional student capacity.

Data Presentations

Ms. Greenwood presented three reports to the Board. The first report was the GME Exit Survey. After reviewing the report, Ms. Greenwood asked if there were any specific questions the Board would like to add to the survey document and to please provide any feedback for the surveys moving forward. Ms. Greenwood said the report will be posted on the Board's website.

The second document presented by Ms. Greenwood was the five-year outcome document that summarized the trends for all four medical schools over the past 5 years.

The final report Ms. Greenwood presented was the Match Report showing the number of medical school graduates entering primary care / core specialty GME programs. The report also shows how many graduates matched to Georgia GME programs.

Ms. Hart reviewed the 2021 Dentist Workforce Report.

Dental Loan Repayment Update –

Ms. Speight presented one applicant for the Dental Loan Repayment Program and requested Board approval.

On Motion (Rios/Clevenger), the Board unanimously approved Mike W. Jin, DMD to receive an award through the Dental Loan Repayment Program.

Default Repayment Request

Freeman Montaque presented Dr. Josephine Pearson's request to the board asking to reduce or forgive her default repayment amount.

On Motion (Rios/Barber), the Board unanimously voted to deny Dr. Pearson's request to reduce or forgive her default repayment amount.

Practice Approval Requests

Ms. Beckham gave a brief overview regarding the status of Dr. Evan Fountain and Dr. Jasmine Shell's practice approval requests.

Evan Fountain, MD – Dr. Fountain received the GBHCW scholarship from FY2011 to FY2014 to attend the Medical College of Georgia. He completed an Internal Medicine Residency and received approval from the Board in April 2017 to defer his obligation by 1 year to complete a Chief Resident Year from July 2018 through June 2019. In January 2019 he wrote the Board requesting an additional 2-year deferment to complete a pulmonary medicine/critical care fellowship. The Board approved his request and Dr. Fountain will be completing the fellowship in June 2022. Dr. Fountain has submitted a practice approval form asking the Board to approve his practice location in Brunswick Georgia beginning July 25, 2022. Brunswick is located in Glynn County which has a population of 84,499 based on the 2022 Census and 79,626 based on the 2010 Census which was the decade his 4 contracts were signed.

On Motion (Rios/Clevenger), the Board voted to deny Dr. Fountain's practice approval request of Glynn County due to not meeting the population requirements of the program.

Jasmine Shell, MD – Dr. Shell received \$80,000 from the Scholarship Program. She appeared before the Board in October 2017 to inform the Board she was no longer in the general surgery GME program and was completing a preventive medicine fellowship. The Board approved the deferment of her obligation until which time she completed the fellowship with the understanding that she needs to return to GA to fulfill her obligation. In January 2021, Dr. Shell requested to change to an addiction medicine fellowship. The Board approved the request but noted this was the last time they would defer her obligation for a fellowship. She completes the addiction medicine fellowship in July 2022. She has submitted a practice approval form to

practice addiction medicine in Augusta Georgia at the Charlie Norwood Veterans Affairs Medical Center and as an attending through Augusta University Medical Center serving various locations that she states are considered part of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. The contracts do state "...or when approved by the Board and employed on a full-time basis at any facility operated by or under the jurisdiction of the state Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, ... as approved by the Board, the applicant shall receive credit for the amount of the scholarship received during any one year in medical school."

Dr. Shell's practice approval request was Tabled by the Board until July to gather additional information regarding how many hours she is working at each facility and if the hours at the DBHDD facility meets the full-time basis requirement in her contract.

Any Old/New Business

There was new or old business, however many board members want to meet in person for the July meeting.

Adjournment

On Motion (Barber/Gautney), there being no further business, the Board unanimously moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 am.

Respectively Submitted,

William R. Kemp
Secretary-Treasurer

Chet Bhasin, FACHE
Executive Director