

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce Board Meeting Minutes

Mercer University School of Medicine
1633 1st Ave.
Columbus, GA 31901

July 20, 2023

Dr. McFadden, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. with the following board members present:

James Barber, MD, Vice-Chairman
William Kemp, Secretary-Treasurer
Garrett N. Bennett, MD
Scott Bohlke, MD
Steven Gautney, MSHA
Michael Groover, DMD
Lily Henson, MD
Indran Indrkrishnan, MD
Amy Reeves, PA-C
Joseph L. Walker, MD

Staff Present

Chet Bhasin
Cherri Tucker
Anita Dunbar
Yvette Speight
Sharon Wilson
Leanna Greenwood
Augustine Agbontaen

Consultant to the Board

Al Dever, MD, Ph.D., Faculty WellStar Kennestone Family Medicine Program
Jocelyn Curry, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General of Georgia

Guests Present

Matt Hatchett, Mercer University and Georgia House of Representatives
Dean Seehusen, M.D., M.P.H., Chairman, Dept. of Family and Community Medicine, Medical College of Georgia
Errol Crook, M.D., Sr. Assoc. Dean for Clinical Affairs & C.M.O for Morehouse Healthcare – Morehouse School Medicine
Mary Enloe, Program Analyst, Senate Budget, and Evaluation Office
Merrilee Gober, Medical Association of Georgia
Becca Hallem, Georgia Hospital Association

Hugh Sosebee, JD, Vice President for External Relations, Mercer University
Bryan Ginn, Chief Campus Officer, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Suwanee
Katey Hughes, PhD, Professor, Mercer University School of Medicine
Helen Sloat, Legislative Consultant at Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough, representing
PCOM and Scion Health
Betty Bates, Bates, and Associates, Morehouse School of Medicine, and GA Chapter of
American Academy of Pediatrics
Luke Ray, Asst. Director, State Government Relations, Augusta University
Don Nakayama, M.D., M.B.A., Professor, Mercer University School of Medicine Columbus
Campus
Ela C. Lena, M.S- B.S.N., President and C.E.O., Southern Regional Medical Center
Kim McKelveen, MSM, EdD, Assoc. Professor, Mercer School of Medicine, Columbus Campus
Jean Sumner, M.D., Dean, Mercer School of Medicine
Alice House, M.D., Professor, Mercer University School of Medicine, Columbus Campus

Approval of Agenda

Dr. McFadden presented the meeting agenda for approval.

ON MOTION (Kemp/Barber), the Board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kemp presented the meeting minutes for the April 20, 2023, meeting for review and approval.

ON MOTION (Bohlke/Groover), the Board unanimously approved the April 20, 2023, meeting minutes as presented.

Introductions

Dr. McFadden asked Board members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves.

Chairman's Report

Dr. McFadden began her report by thanking Mercer University School of Medicine for hosting the board meeting at their Columbus Campus.

Dr. McFadden reported this meeting would be her last as chairperson of the Georgia Board of Healthcare Workforce (GBHCW). She listed some of the accomplishments and challenges the Board faced during her tenure, including, but not limited to, strategic planning, elevating the brand of the Board, unexpected loss of the Executive Director, hiring a new Executive Director,

seeing staff leave, seeing new staff come in, and creating the Nursing Advisory Workforce Committee (NAWC). She thanked Dr. Barber and Mr. Kemp for their time on the Executive Committee, especially during the past two years. She thanked the staff for their hard work and welcomed two new Board Members, Dr. William Fricks and Dr. Kitty Carter-Wicker.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Bhasin began his report by reporting on GBHCW's move to the new location at the Twin Towers and the two (2) open staffing roles within the department.

He advised that for FY24, contracts would start to go out next week and would go out in waves due to adjustments being made after a review by the Attorney General's Office. Mr. Bhasin advised the contract's outgoing speed has increased due to converting to DocuSign.

Mr. Bhasin reported the board is closing out FY23 with no significant issues, which is good from a financial perspective. He also reported that staff uses Laserfiche, an online repository for GME reports, surveys, and loan repayment applications.

Mr. Bhasin advised that the Nursing Advisory Workforce Committee has met twice and is looking to fill one open vacancy with a hospital Chief Nursing Officer. He reported the next meeting would center around re-entry programs for return-to-work nurses. Mr. Bhasin stated that Senate Bill 246 created a nursing faculty loan repayment program, and the General Assembly allocated \$250,000.00.

Budget Items

Mrs. Wilson began her budget report by reviewing expenditure for FY23. There were three areas where the funds were expended at 100%: Mercer Operating Grant, Undergraduate Medical Education, and Morehouse Operating Grant. She also advised that there were three areas where the funds were not fully expended: Administration, Graduate Medical Education, and Physicians for Rural Areas (Loan Repayment Programs).

She informed the Board for FY24, there is an overall increase in the Board's budget of 8%.

Increases included:

- Administration: funds for staff cost-of-living adjustments; funds for additional staff and technology due to loan repayment program expansion; and funding for a neurology assessment to evaluate current and future needs.
- Graduate Medical Education: Additional funds to offset the adjustment in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP); additional funding for 116 new GME slots in various specialties; funds for Graduate Medical Education feasibility grants; funds for various fellowship programs; and funds to support the start-up of a new rural OB/GYN GME program at Morehouse School of Medicine.
- Mercer School of Medicine: funds for the fourth year of the seven-year plan for the medical school's Columbus campus.

- Morehouse School of Medicine: funds to support the increase of the medical school's class size and expand rural clinical education.
- Physicians for Rural Areas: funds to a loan repayment program for mental health professionals; increase funds to increase award and update program guidelines for the Physicians Loan Repayment Program; and increase funds for additional loan repayment for five physician assistants and 39 advanced practice registered nurses.
- Undergraduate Medical Education: funds to establish a nursing faculty program.

Mrs. Wilson also noted several new funding items were “disregarded” in the Governor’s Veto Statement, including the neurology assessments, the child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship funding for the Medical College of Georgia, and the loan repayment program for mental health professionals.

Dr. McFadden inquired of Mr. Bhasin on how the disregard would affect the board over the next year.

Mr. Bhasin advised if a project has been disregarded, then the Board would not engage in that project.

Mrs. Wilson ended her report, and Dr. McFadden opened the floor to questions. There were no questions for Mrs. Wilson.

Board Officer Election

Dr. McFadden stated it had been an honor serving as board chairwoman. She then advised the board to select or write in the desired candidates for the positions up for election. She reported the votes would be tabulated, and the new officers would be announced later in the meeting.

Data Presentations

Mr. Agbontaen reported on the 2023 Medical School Graduate Survey. He reported that the response rate from Georgia’s five medical schools this year was 36.4%, down from 73.3% in 2022. The medical school with the lowest response rate was Emory, with 5.3% of graduates completing the survey, and the medical school with the highest response rate was Mercer, with 78.7% of graduates completing the survey. He reported on the following key findings:

- Demographics: 50.6% of respondents were male; the average age of all respondents was 27.8 years old; 98.5% of respondents were U.S. citizens; 53.3% of respondents identify as white; and 9.1% of respondents identify as Hispanic.
- Intended Practice Location After Residency: 75.4% of respondents intend to locate their practice in an underserved area; 38.5% of those respondents plan to locate in a rural community, and 36.9% plan to practice in an inner-city community.
- Specialty: 64.6% of respondents intend to practice in a primary care/core specialty after training.

- Choice of and Match to Georgia Residency Program: 50.2% of respondents listed a Georgia residency program as their top three choices during the Match.

Mr. Agbontaen ended his report, and Dr. McFadden opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Bhasin reported the different schools responded in different ways. He advised going forward, schools receiving medical school capitation funds would find those funds at risk if they don't have certain performance thresholds.

Ms. Greenwood reported on the 2023 Match Data. She stated the total number of graduates from Georgia's five medical schools was 734, with 716 matching graduate medical education (GME) programs. She reported 509 (71.1%) of graduates matched to primary care/core specialty programs and 225 (31.4%) matched to Georgia GME programs.

Ms. Greenwood also reported on the 5-Year Composite UME Outcomes, 2019-2023. The five-year average of medical school graduates entering primary care/core specialty GME programs were:

- Mercer: 78.5%
- Morehouse: 75.6%
- Emory: 66.4%
- PCOM-GA Campus: 76.4%

Dr. Barber inquired about the absence of MCG in the 5-year composite data. Ms. Greenwood advised the Board does not have a contract for undergraduate medical education with MCG.

Dr. McFadden asked for a motion to accept and publish the data reports.

ON MOTION (Bohlke/Barber), the Board voted unanimously to accept and publish the data reports as presented.

Board Officer Final Vote

Dr. McFadden announced the results of the vote for officers of the Board. She stated the tabulated results were as follows:

- Chairman – Dr. James Barber
- Vice Chairman – Mr. William Kemp
- Secretary – Dr. Lily Henson

ON MOTION (Bohlke/Bennett), the Board unanimously approved the slate of officers as presented.

Loan Repayment Clarification

Mr. Bhasin reported on the loan repayment award for Elizabeth Proenza. He advised her application was formally approved for an award under the advanced practice registered nurse loan repayment program in January, and a contract has been executed. He informed the Board staff that the loan was not held with an established banking institution and that staff inadvertently overlooked the reported lender during the application review process. He asked the board to vote to honor and administer the loan. He asked Ms. Curry to comment on the issue.

After discussion, Dr. McFadden asked for a motion to accept and honor the loan repayment award for Elizabeth Proenza.

ON MOTION (Bennett/Barber), the Board unanimously voted to accept and honor the contract for the loan repayment award for Elizabeth Proenza and make her aware it is a one-time award exception unless she takes out loans with a qualifying institution.

Practice Approval

Mr. Bhasin advised that Dr. Thomas Ferrari is seeking approval from the board to change his practice location to Candler County, a county with a population of 23,000.

Dr. McFadden asked for a motion to approve Dr. Ferrari's change of practice location request.

ON MOTION (Barber/Kemp), the Board unanimously approved the change of practice location request for Dr. Ferrari to practice in Candler County.

Presentation

Ela Lena, Chief Executive Officer of Southern Regional Medical Center, presented the status of the development of graduate medical education programs at the hospital in Riverdale, Georgia.

Old/New Business

There was no old or New Business identified to come before the Board.

Adjournment

Staff presented Dr. McFadden a plaque and gavel in appreciation of her leadership as Chairman of the Board.

Dr. McFadden informed the Board the next meeting would be held on January 18, 2024, at the Board's administrative office.

Dr. McFadden stated there was no further business to be discussed and asked for a motion to adjourn.

ON MOTION (Bennet/Barber), the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Respectively Submitted,

DocuSigned by:

F22A551D32FE41D... _____ Lily Henson, Secretary

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7A0E13970BDB444... _____ Chet Bhasin, Executive Director