

# Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce

Virtual Board Meeting

August 31, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Barber, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with the following Board members present:

Lily Henson, MD – Secretary/Treasurer

Terri McFadden, MD

Garrett Bennett, MD

Scott Bohlke, MD

Carolyn Clevenger, DNP

Steven Gautney, MSHA

Michael Groover, DMD

Indran Indrakrishnan, MD

William Fricks, MD

Amy Reeves, PA-C

James Smith Jr, MD

Joseph Walker, MD

Kitty Carter-Walker, MD

## **Board Members Not Present**

Will Kemp – Vice Chairman

## **Staff Present**

Chet Bhasin

Cherri Tucker

Anita Dunbar

Yvette Speight

Leanna Greenwood

Augustine Agbontaen

Kimberly Rogers

## **Consultant to the Board**

Al Dever, MD, Ph.D., Faculty WellStar Kennestone Family Medicine

Jocelyn Curry, JD, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General of Georgia

## **Guests Present**

Marilane Bond, MD – Associate Dean of Medical Education, Emory University

Dean Seehusen, MD – Chair of Family Medicine, Medical College of Georgia

Jean Sumner, MD- Dean, Mercer University School of Medicine

Scott Maxwell – Lobbyist, HCA, Georgia Association of Public Health

Andrea Mann, DO – Dean, PCOM Georgia

Keri Connolly – Georgia Hospital Association  
Betsy Bates – Lobbyist, Morehouse School of Medicine  
Howard Mosby – Grady Memorial Hospital  
Helen Sloat – PCOM, Kaiser, Saint Francis Hospital  
Kiwita Phillips, MD – OBGYN Program Director, Morehouse School of Medicine  
Jessica Rivenbark – South Georgia Medical Education and Resource Consortium  
Jacob Berry – Piedmont Athens Regional Graduate Medical Education  
Hugh Sosebee – External Affairs, Mercer University School of Medicine  
Morgan Hall - House Budget and Research Office  
Martha Elks, MD, PhD – Sr. Assoc. Dean of Educational Affairs, Morehouse School of Medicine  
Melody Trimble, CEO, St. Francis – Emory Healthcare, Columbus

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

On **Motion (Executive Committee, Does not require a second motion)**, the agenda was approved using the General Consent method.

### **Introductions**

Anita Dunbar conducted a roll call with board members, staff, and guests.

Dr. Barber began the meeting by introducing Mr. Bhasin to present the budget priorities.

### **Amended FY2024 and FY2025 Budget Request**

Mr. Bhasin provided a summary of the Governor's budget instructions stating the Board was allowed to request enhancements totaling \$3.47 million (3% of total base budget). Staff identified potential enhancements and the items were sent to Board members to rank order the priority of the items. The tabulation of the rank order list is:

1. \$600,000 for additional funding for the new Physician Loan Repayment Program.
2. \$575,062 for the Graduate Medical Education Slots at existing programs that have more residents than the contracted number.
3. \$165,000 for an additional data analyst due to additional workforce and additional software for the data analyst team.
4. \$600,000 for a grant program for physician practices in rural areas to convert from paper charts to electronic medical records (EMR).
5. \$900,000 (tied for fifth place) to expand the dental loan repayment program.  
\$507,018 (tied for fifth place) to contract with a third-party consultant to study certain licensures or specialties within licensure determined by the Board where most need exists.

On Motion (Executive Committee, Does not require a second motion), the Executive Committee recommends approving the ranking list of enhancements, as presented, for the Amended Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 budget request.

Using the General Consent method, the motion to accept the ranked list of enhancement requests was unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Barber proceeded to the next item of business brought by the Executive Committee and asked Mr. Bhasin to continue with the budget request.

Mr. Bhasin advised the Governor's Budget Instructions required agencies to submit reductions of 1% of the agency base budget. For the Board, the total reduction the Board is required to submit is \$1,115,673.

Mr. Bhasin stated the two budget lines where the required reductions are being recommended are the operating grants for Morehouse School of Medicine and Mercer University School of Medicine, with equal amounts of \$557,837 from each school.

**On Motion (Executive Committee, Does not require a second motion),** the Committee recommends accepting the areas for reductions as presented.

Using the General Consent Method, the Board unanimously approved the areas for reductions as presented.

Dr. Barber next asked Mr. Bhasin to review the proposed Rules for the Georgia Physician Education Loan Repayment Program.

Mr. Bhasin reviewed the proposed rules for the new long-term commitment physician loan repayment program to be released for public comment. He stated the program would require a 4-year commitment, and payments for the \$150,000 award would be made at the end of each year of service, starting with a payout as follows:

- Year 1 – \$25,000 or 15% if the total loan balance is less than \$150,000.
- Year 2 – \$35,000 or 20% if the total loan balance is less than \$150,000.
- Year 3 - \$40,000 or 30% if the total loan balance is less than \$150,000.
- Year 4 - \$50,000 or 35% if the total loan balance is less than \$150,000.

After discussion, Dr. Clevenger offered a motion to amend the rules.

**On Motion (Clevenger/ Gautney),** amend the Georgia Physician Education Loan Repayment Program rules to include recipients must include in the initial and annual reporting the portion of attributed patients enrolled in Medicaid and Peachcare and does not actively restrict Medicaid and Peachcare recipients as part of their practice.

Using the General Consent Method, the Board voted to approve the amendment to the rules.

**On Motion (Executive Committee, Does not require second motion),** approve releasing the rules for the Georgia Physician Education Loan Repayment Program as amended.

Using the General Consent Method, the Board voted unanimously to release the proposed rules for the Georgia Physician Education Loan Repayment Program as amended.

Dr. Barber informed the Board the next meeting would be held via TEAMS on October 19, 2023.

Using the General Consent Method, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 a.m.

Respectively Submitted,

DocuSigned by:  
*Lily Henson*  
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Lily Henson, Secretary

DocuSigned by:  
*Chet Bhasin*  
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Chet Bhasin, Executive Director