

Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce

Via Microsoft Teams

January 20, 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
Scott Bohlke, 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
Joseph L. Walker, MD

Staff Present

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

Guests

G. E. Dever, MD, PhD, Consultant to the Board
Emily Harris, JD, Assistant Attorney General
Tara Boockholdt, Senior Budget & Policy Analyst
Bethany Sherrer, Medical Association of Georgia
Becca Hallum, Georgia Hospital Association
Martha Elks, MD, Morehouse School of Medicine
Chadburn Ray, MD, Medical College of Georgia
Ed Grimsley, MD, Mercer University School of Medicine
Jean Sumner, MD, Mercer University School of Medicine
Hugh Sosebee, JD, Mercer University School of Medicine

Approval of Agenda

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

On Motion, Barber/Rios, the Board unanimously approved the agenda for the January 20, 2022 meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kemp presented the minutes from the October 21, 2021 meeting 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 conducted the swearing-in of new board member James L. Smith, Jr., MD.

Dr. McFadden spoke regarding the untimely death of LaSharn Hughes in October 2021. She honored LaSharn by reading her obituary and speaking of her dedication to serving the state. She said LaSharn impacted many lives during her career and she will be greatly missed. Dr. McFadden thanked Mr. Montaque for stepping in as Interim Executive Director and Ms. Tucker for coming back to help as needed.

Dr. McFadden welcomed new board members and stated virtual meetings will continue until which time it is safe to resume face-to-face meetings. She informed the Board the April meeting is moved to April 28th. She also updated the board on the search for a new Executive Director. Finally, she spoke of the need to hold a board retreat in-person as soon as it is safe to do so.

Interim Executive Director's Report

Mr. Montaque thanked Dr. McFadden for the wonderful tribute to Ms. Hughes. He informed the Board that staff is still mostly teleworking. He introduced the new External Affairs Coordinator, Aybriel Beckham.

Mr. Montaque presented the idea of honoring LaSharn Hughes by naming the conference room after her and having a plaque and portrait placed in her honor. The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce, Georgia Composite Medical Board, and the Pharmacy and Dentistry Boards agree with this idea.

Governor's Budget Recommendations AFY 2022 & FY2023

Mr. Montaque reviewed the Governor's budget recommendations for Amended Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023. For AFY2022, the Governor is recommending an increase in funds of \$24,234 in the Board's Administration budget to provide for a \$5,000 pay increase for all full-time, benefit eligible state employees to address agency recruitment and retention needs. This is a statewide recommendation for eligible state employees. That is the only recommendation in the Amended Budget.

For Fiscal Year 2023, the Governor has made the following recommendations:

Administration: \$66,521

- Increase funds to provide a \$5,000 cost-of-living adjustment for all full-time, benefit-eligible state employees, effective July 1, 2022, to address agency recruitment and retention needs - \$33,623
- Increase funds to allow eligible state employees to withdraw up to 40 hours of earned annual leave annually from their accrued leave balance - \$2,549
- Reflect a change in the Employees' Retirement System employer contribution rate to fully fund the actuarial determined employer contribution, provide for a cost-of-living adjustment for retirees, increase the employer 401(k) match for Georgia State Employees' Pension and Savings Plan (GSEPS) employees, and fund the employer share of accrued forfeited leave for retiring employees - \$30,349

Graduate Medical Education: \$3,626,327

- Increase funds to reflect an adjustment in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 66.85% to 66.02%. - \$411,342
- Increase funds for 136 new residency slots in primary care medicine. - \$2,534,985
- Increase funds for a pilot program to perform echocardiograms of pregnant and postpartum women to address maternal mortality. - \$680,000

Mercer School of Medicine Grant: \$1,073,231

- Increase funds for the third year of the seven-year plan for Mercer School of Medicine's medical school campus in Columbus. State General Funds - \$1,073,231

There was discussion among Board members regarding the pilot program recommendation. Dr. Barber stated no one objects to the pilot program, but he was just unsure if it belongs under the GBHCW budget, as the Board is not currently staffed for oversight of such a program. Dr. Rios agreed with Dr. Barber's concerns, stating if it remains in the Board's budget, other programs may come our way that do not follow the Board's mission.

Mr. Montague reviewed the budget process and reminded the Board it is just the beginning of the legislative session and these recommendations may stay and/or change as the budget moves through the House and Senate recommendations.

Loan Repayment

Ms. Speight presented the list of loan repayment applicants for the FY2022 cycle:

Physician Assistant Loan Repayment

Ms. Speight reviewed the applicant list for the 21 available awards. There are 16 renewals, 6 new applicants, and 2 incomplete applications.

PA 2022			
Applicants	Rank	Specialty	Practice Counties
RENEW- 16			
Daniel L. Dasher	89	Internal Medicine	Toombs
Archie Kirkley	84.25	Pediatrics	Toombs
Jodi B. Gilmer	81.75	Emergency Medicine	Emanuel
Renah J. Hightower	77.5	Allergy/ Immunology	Laurens
Sera G. Story	77.5	Family Medicine	Emanuel
Brandi Parker	74	Family Medicine	Haralson
Lesley E. Maples	73	Emergency Medicine	Decatur/Grady
Jacob Lunsford	70.5	Emergency Medicine	Candler
Kathryn Blevins	69	Emergency Medicine	Tift
Cody War	68	Emergency Medicine	Wilkes/Jenkins/Screven
Courtney B. Stevens	62.5	General Surgery	Tift
Ivey E. Allen	59.75	General Surgery	Thomas
Jennifer L. Vincent	57.5	Cardiology	Greene
Christopher J. Mock	56	Anesthesiology	Thomas
Ashley Long	53.5	Primary Care	Morgan
McKayla Tanner	52.5	Anesthesiology	Thomas
NEW- 5			
Callie A. Wilkes	91	Pediatrics	Toombs
Anna Williams	81.5	Family Medicine	Screven
Payton E. Burriss	77.5	Family Medicine	Wilkes
Marissa Highnote	77	Internal Medicine/ Pediatrics	Wilkes/Elbert
Dillon Veal	72.25	Emergency Medicine	Ware

Pending Availability of Funds: John M. Pracht
 Incomplete Applications: Justin Roberts, Brittany L. Harrison

On Motion (Barber/Reeves), the Board unanimously voted to approve the PA loan repayment awards as presented.

Dentist for Rural Areas Assistance Loan Repayment

Ms. Speight reviewed the list of applications for the DRAA awards. There were 4 renewals and 10 new applicants for the 13 available awards.

DRAA 2022	
Applicants	Practice Counties
RENEW- 4	
Clay S. Oliver, DMD	Dodge
Wallis S. Hobby, DMD	Turner
William C. Fussell, DMD	Coffee/ Jeff Davis
Gary L Crawford, DMD	Coffee
NEW- 9	
Chiung F. Hsu	Pickens
Justin M. Young	Lee/ Sumter
Jessilee B. Grantham	Coffee/ Jeff Davis
Eun J. Shin	Oconee
Stephen D. Hobby	Turner
Sharon P. Vickers	Thomas
Roderick R. Dunham	Tattnall
Jacoby V. Bell	Tattnall
Nathan Buck	Tattnall
Kajuana F. Sutton	Colquitt

On Motion (Barber/Rios), the Board unanimously voted to approve the DRAA loan repayment awards as presented.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Loan Repayment

Ms. Speight reviewed the applications for the 21 APRN Loan Repayment awards. There were 10 renewals and 11 new applicants that all qualify. Ms. Speight noted there are 5 incomplete applications and an additional 32 qualifying applications if funding was available.

APRN 2022			
Applicants	Rank	Specialty	County
RENEW- 10			
Ashlie L. Brackin	82.5	Family Practice	Miller
Rhonda F. Oglesy	77	Family Practice	Emanuel
Steven M. Lashley	77	Emergency Department	Toombs
Angel L. Gilreath	76	Midwifery	Toombs
Whitney C. Walls	73.5	Anesthesiology	Sumter

Jennifer E. Taylor	73	Oncology	Crisp
Debbie Purvis	72.5	Family Practice	Coffee
Jessica D. Milner	70	Psychiatry	Baldwin
Merrie C, Hamby	67	Internal Medicine	Stephens
Sharonda Brown	64.5	Primary Care	Tift
RENEW- 11			
Andrea Morgan	94/81.5	Internal Medicine	Treutlen/Toombs
Jody L. Dolan	85.25	Pediatrics	Upson
Morgan Carter	83.5	Internal Medicine	Stephens
Laurel Sapp	82.75	Primary Care	Toombs
Anna M. Money	82	Family Practice	Berrien
Catherine Dennis	80	Family Practice	Upson
Sybil Lew	79.75	Family Practice	Upson
Carmen Y. Jackson	77.5	Family Practice	Ware
Megan B. Robbins	77.5	OB/GYN	Tift
Katlyn T. Hogg	77.5	Internal Medicine	Baldwin
Jeanette L. Hale	77.25	Family Practice	Appling

Incomplete Applications:

Timothy J. Turner
Amanda C. Tomberlin
Hannah J. Vickers
Tekisha Jones
Brooke Childers

Pending Availability of funds:

Linda M. Bixler	Alisha Holloway	Amanda Hollandsworth
Sarah Maraman	Kymerly Anderson	Nicholas B. Luecke
Kera A. Carter	Lauren Spears	Tara D. Smith
Candace Nesmith	Sarah K. Rooks	Marie Bauch
Glenda Kepler	Lori E. Fuller	Tracey G. Smith
Cala B. Tanner	Stephanie S. Heleski	Melanie Outlaw
Brandi T. Watson	Kristen Ley	Brittani Sales
Savannah C. Ross	Danielle L. Elam	Ashley Naquin
Sandra M. Stone	Esther Amprofi	Stacie L. Rolland
Dawn L. Driggers	Justin D. Nicholson	Mary L. Wheeler
Matthew Hodges	Courtney Voss	

On Motion (Rios/Clevinger), the Board unanimously voted to approve the APRN loan repayment awards as presented.

Georgia Physician Loan Repayment Program

Ms. Speight reviewed the applications for the GPLRP program. There were 5 renewals and all qualified, 2 applicants were ineligible and 2 additional applicants that qualified pending availability of funds.

GPLRP 2022		
Applicants	Specialty	Practice Counties
RENEW- 5		
Joshua M. Lang	Family Medicine	Greene
William H. Cheeley	Internal Medicine	Greene
Thomas J. Ferrari	Internal Medicine	Emanuel
Jacqueline O' Kane	Family Medicine	Berrien
Michael Sumner, Jr.	Internal Medicine	Washington

Ineligible:

Kirk Munsayac (For Profit)
Jeffrey Nasworthy (Not Primary Care)

Pending Availability of funds:

Dominq E. Okoduwa
Grace Patterson

On Motion (Barber/Garrett), the Board unanimously voted to approve the GPLRP loan repayment awards as presented.

Physicians for Rural Areas Assistance Loan Repayment Program

Ms. Speight reviewed the applicant list for the PRAA program. There were 29 renewals and 8 new applicants for the 37 awards available. There were also 4 incomplete applications and 7 additional qualified applicants pending availability of funds.

PRAA 2022			
Applicants	Rank	Specialty	Practice Counties
RENEW-29			
Caitlyn S. Coleman	87.25	Pediatrics	Wayne/ Pierce
David M. Carstens	79.75	Family Medicine	Brantley
Shad A. Stormant	79.75	Family Medicine	Ware
Nicholas Webster	75.05	Pediatrics	Tift
Brandi W. Warren	75	Family Medicine	Thomas

Henry Ferland	74	General Surgery	Toombs
Brandi W. Warren	73.75	Family Medicine	Thomas
Shaista Hussain	72.55	Family Medicine	Coffee
Jack B. Royal	72.5	Anesthesiology	Crisp
Rachel P. Anderson	70.55	Family Medicine	Thomas
Erin Tanner	70.25	Internal Medicine	Candler
Kendrix Evans	70	General Surgery	Toombs
Logan C. McCool	70/69.5	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	Coffee/ Bacon
Thaihang Nguyen	69.25	Family Medicine	Coffee
Alicia Register	66.8	General Surgery	Crisp
Geri E. Justice	65	OB/GYN	Thomas
Lindsay Dowis	64.75/54.75	Family Medicine	Lumpkin/ Rabun
Carol Williams	64.25	Pediatrics	Coffee
Joshua Wilburn	64	Internal Medicine	Haralson
Shannon L. Price	63.5	OB/GYN	Tift
Priscilla Amoah	63.05	Pediatrics	Tift
Patrick Hanson	60.5	Orthopedics	Laurens
James G. Hamilton III	60.25	Family Medicine	Lumpkin
Josh Simmons	60	Internal Medicine	Thomas/ Decatur
Christina H. Noguera	59.55	Family Medicine	Lamar/ Upson
Jason Moye	59.3	OB/GYN	Decatur
Mana L. Kasongo	59.3	Emergency Medicine	Crisp
Thaihang Nguyen	57	Anesthesiology	Thomas
Ravin B. Talati	56	Family Medicine	Habersham
Johan Koo	49.25	Family Medicine	Lumpkin
NEW- 8			
Kristina L. Kruse	85.3	Family Medicine	McDuffie
Robert Quick	79.25	Family Medicine	Stephens
Dominiq Okoduwa	77	Internal Medicine	Sumter
Nikkia Blake	77	Emergency Medicine	Butts
Grace Patterson	77.3	Pediatrics	Stephens
Abraham Mathai	73.05	Internal Medicine	Fannin
Jason Kimbel	69.8	Internal Medicine	Tift
Sherida L. Williams	68.8	OB/GYN	Upson

Pending Availability of Funds: Stalina Gowdie, Justin Peterson, Ngozi E. Okanu, Barbara H. McCollum, Ito E. Daniels, Megan C. Smith, Janae E. Miller

Incomplete Applications: Jeffrey Nasworthy, Rhonda Williams, Sarah H. Bouck, Christopher M. Tossing

On Motion (Rios/Kemp), the Board unanimously voted to approve the PRAA loan repayment awards as presented.

Dr. Barber informed the Board a lot of time was spent going over the formula used for ranking applicants and the current formula works. The problem is lack of funds available for all qualifying applicants.

Repayment Requests

Mr. Montaque summarized the requests of 3 scholarship recipients:

Leila Borders, MD

Dr. Borders defaulted on her scholarship obligation and is required, by contract, to repay \$240,000. She has repaid over half of the amount and is requesting once she reaches the \$160,000 mark to a) have the remaining \$80,000 forgiven or b) could she give her monthly payment directly to Mercer University to support their Primary Care Accelerated Track Program.

The Board members had a lengthy discussion regarding the proposals and ultimately agreed they have to follow the contracts.

On Motion (Barber/Rios), the Board unanimously agreed to deny both of Dr. Border's requests and she is required to pay her remaining balance of \$80,000 to the Board.

Matthew Pearce, MD

Dr. Pearce has submitted a payment proposal for the Board's review. His proposal is to repay his obligation of \$160,000 quarterly over an 8-year period by paying \$5,000 per quarter beginning September 1, 2022. Payments will be due on March 1st, June 1st, September 1st and December 1st throughout the payment period. At the end of the 32 payments his obligation to the GBHCW will be fulfilled.

Dr. Rios reminded the Board that recipients know going into a fellowship it may be harder to find a rural practice and could impact their contract obligation.

On Motion (Rios/Barber), the Board voted unanimously to accept Dr. Pearce's repayment proposal as presented to repay his obligation over eight years at \$5,000 per quarter, beginning September 1, 2022.

Josephine Pearson, MD

Dr. Pearson has been repaying her scholarship default through a promissory note initiated by the Attorney General's office in 2017. She is requesting the Board either consider forgiving her loan repayment, or reduce the amount owed due to falling on hardships from COVID-19.

Ms. Harris, from the Attorney General's office, stated if the Board were to entertain restructuring her payment plan temporarily, there would be no need for a new promissory note. If the Board were to entertain a permanent change to her payment plan, she would be required to sign a new promissory note. Ms. Tucker asked Ms. Harris since Dr. Pearson's file was turned over to the Attorney General's office for collection, should Dr. Pearson's requests be going through her office instead of directly to the Board. After lengthy discussion, the board agreed additional clarity from the Attorney General's office was needed before action could be taken on this request.

On Motion (Barber/Gautney), the Board unanimously voted to postpone action on Dr. Pearson's request to give the Attorney General's office additional time to research the proper steps on collections.

Annual Report

Mr. Montaque gave a brief overview of the Annual Report of the Board. He noted it was the last report completed by Daniel Dorsey and that Ms. Beckham would be completing the report, going forward.

New/Old Business

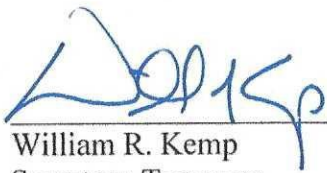
Dr. McFadden reminded the Board the next meeting would be April 28, 2022, not April 21st as previously published. She asked if members of the Board had any other thoughts on ways to honor LaSharn. Several things were mentioned, including naming a loan repayment program after Ms. Hughes and offering support to staff members. Dr. McFadden appointed an ad-hoc committee to discuss options. Members of the ad-hoc committee are: Mr. Montaque, Dr. Clevenger, Dr. Rios, Ms. Reeves and the Executive Committee.

Dr. Barber wanted to inform the Board there is a bill floating around that would provide funds for rural physicians. It is the same bill from last year: House Bill 42 by Representative Schofield.

Adjournment

On Motion (Barber/Gautney), there being no further business, the Board unanimously moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'WR Kemp', written over a horizontal line.

William R. Kemp
Secretary-Treasurer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Freeman Montaque', written over a horizontal line.

Freeman Montaque, M.B.A.
Interim Executive Director