Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

GEORGIA BOARD OF HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 23, 2026
8:04 a.m. – 11:43 a.m.

University of Georgia
School of Medicine
Athens, Georgia

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present:

- William "Will" Kemp – Chair
- Lily Henson, M.D. – Vice Chair
- Steven Gautney – Secretary/Treasurer
- James Barber, M.D.
- Garrett Bennett, M.D.
- Carolyn Clevenger, D.N.P.
- Michael Groover, D.M.D.
- Indran Indrakrishnan, M.D. (Virtual)
- Amy Reeves, P.A.-C
- James Lofton Smith, M.D. (Virtual)
- Dr. Joseph L. Walker, M.D.
- William Fricks, M.D.
- Cecil Bennett, M.D.

Board Members Absent:

- Kitty Carter-Wicker, M.D.
- Terri McFadden, M.D.

Staff Present

- Chet Bhasin, Executive Director
- Freeman Montaque, Finance and Budget Manager
- Ashley Hambrick, Finance and Budget Assistant
- Alex Dave-Moses, External Affairs and Program Manager
- William Hamilton, Communications Specialist
- Dr. Leanna Greenwood, Data Team Manager
- Augustine Agbontaen, Data Analyst
- Briana Harris, Data Analyst
- LePrissa Moore, Data Researcher
- David Proferes, Rural Health Transformation Program Manager
- Cherri Tucker, Board Consultant

Staff Absent

- Alice Chen, Data Analyst (Absent)

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

Consultative Support

- Alan Dever, M.D., Ph.D., Faculty, WellStar Kennestone Family Medicine
- Ms. Joycelyn Curry, J.D., Georgia Attorney General's Office

Guests

- Ashton Blackwood, Director of State Government Relations, Augusta University
- Betsy Bates, Consultant, Morehouse School of Medicine / Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Charlotte Stansfield, Intern, Georgia Higher Education Health Initiative (GAHEHI)
- Connor Paletta, Intern, Georgia Higher Education Health Initiative (GAHEHI)
- Donna Brown, Associate Designated Institutional Official, Northeast Georgia Medical Center
- Elizabeth Holcomb, Executive Director of Government Affairs, Northeast Georgia Health System
- Helen Sloat, Partner, Gold Dome Partners
- John Maddox, Analyst, Georgia Higher Education Health Initiative
- Jon Hoin, Senior Health Policy Manager, Georgia Dental Association
- Kamryn Wham, Health Policy Analyst, Georgia Hospital Association
- Laurie Ott, Executive Director, Georgia Higher Education Health Initiative
- Mark Sanders, Government Relations Counsel, PCOM Georgia
- Morgan Hall, Senior Budget and Policy Analyst, Georgia House Budget and Research Office
- Shelley Nuss, M.D., Dean, University of Georgia School of Medicine
- Shawn Little, D.N.P, Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, University System of Georgia

---

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Call to Order

Chair Kemp called the Regular Meeting of the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce to order at 8:03 a.m. at the University of Georgia School of Medicine in Athens, Georgia. He welcomed Board members, agency staff, invited guests, institutional partners, and members of the public attending both in person and virtually.

Chair Kemp expressed appreciation to the University of Georgia School of Medicine for hosting the meeting and acknowledged the importance of continuing to engage with Georgia's medical schools and healthcare partners across the State.

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

B. Roll Call and Introductions

Chair Kemp recognized Mr. William Hamilton to conduct the roll call utilizing the official attendance roster. A quorum was established, and Chair Kemp declared the Board was duly constituted to conduct official business.

Board members, agency staff, invited presenters, and guests introduced themselves for the record.

C. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Kemp presented the agenda for the July 23, 2026 Board Meeting for approval.

On motion (Barber/Henson), the meeting agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Kemp recognized Mr. Steven Gautney, Secretary/Treasurer, who presented the minutes of the Board's previous regular meeting for consideration.

On Motion (Henson/Barber), the minutes of the April 23, 2026 Board Meeting and Executive Session were approved by unanimous consent.

E. Welcome Remarks

Chair Kemp recognized Dr. Shelley Nuss, Dean of the University of Georgia School of Medicine.

Dr. Nuss welcomed the Board to the University of Georgia School of Medicine and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to host the July meeting. She highlighted the School of Medicine's mission to educate future physicians dedicated to improving healthcare throughout Georgia and emphasized the importance of strong partnerships among medical schools, residency training programs, healthcare systems, and state agencies in addressing physician workforce shortages.

Dr. Nuss discussed the continued growth of the University of Georgia School of Medicine and its commitment to preparing physicians to practice in communities across the State, particularly in rural and underserved areas. She recognized the Board's leadership in supporting graduate

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

medical education, workforce research, and healthcare workforce development initiatives and thanked Board members for their continued investment in Georgia's future healthcare workforce.

Chair Kemp thanked Dr. Nuss for her remarks and expressed appreciation to the University of Georgia School of Medicine for its hospitality and continued collaboration with the Board.

F. Chairperson's Report

Chair Kemp welcomed attendees and reflected on the Board's continued progress in advancing its mission to improve access to healthcare in Georgia.

Chair Kemp recognized the growth in the Board's responsibilities in recent years, noting the expanded legislative investments in graduate medical education, loan repayment programs, rural healthcare initiatives, and workforce data continue to position the Board as a statewide leader in healthcare workforce planning.

He emphasized the Board's success results between strong collaboration among Board members, agency staff, educational institutions, healthcare systems, professional associations, legislators, and state agencies. Chair Kemp commended agency staff for their professionalism, responsiveness, and commitment to implementing Board priorities while maintaining responsible stewardship of public resources.

Chair Kemp encouraged continued collaboration throughout the meeting and thanked Board members for their ongoing service to the citizens of Georgia.

G. Executive Director's Report

Chair Kemp recognized Mr. Chet Bhasin, Executive Director, to present the Executive Director's Report.

Mr. Bhasin thanked the University of Georgia School of Medicine for hosting the meeting and acknowledged the continued partnership of Georgia's medical schools, residency programs, teaching hospitals, legislators, state agencies, healthcare organizations, and community stakeholders in advancing the Board's mission.

He reported agency staff continued to successfully administer an expanding portfolio of healthcare workforce programs while maintaining a strong focus on accountability, customer service, fiscal stewardship, and operational excellence. He noted activities associated with recent legislative appropriations remain on schedule and staff continue to strengthen internal processes supporting grant administration, contract management, procurement, financial oversight, and program monitoring.

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

Mr. Bhasin highlighted continued progress with Graduate Medical Education initiatives, including ongoing collaboration with sponsoring institutions to establish new residency training positions across Georgia. He emphasized expanding graduate medical education remains one of the Board's highest strategic priorities because physicians are significantly more likely to establish permanent practice in the communities where they complete residency training.

He also reported on the Rural Health Transformation Program initiative, advising the Board staff remain engaged with participating healthcare organizations to ensure timely execution of contracts, compliance with program requirements, and successful implementation of newly funded residency positions designed to strengthen healthcare access in rural Georgia.

Mr. Bhasin discussed the continued administration of the Board's healthcare provider loan repayment programs, noting staff remained focused on timely application processing, contract administration, payment management, participant monitoring, and customer service. He emphasized the importance of these programs in recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals in medically underserved communities throughout the State.

He further highlighted the work of the agency's Data Team in expanding the Board's healthcare workforce research capabilities through the development of new reports, dashboards, and analytical resources that support policymakers, educational institutions, healthcare organizations, and community leaders. Mr. Bhasin advised the Board several of these reports would be presented later in the meeting for formal consideration.

Mr. Bhasin concluded his report by recognizing agency staff for their professionalism and dedication in managing the Board’s many statewide initiatives while maintaining the Board's commitment to transparency, accountability, and exceptional service to stakeholders.

II. FINANCE / BUDGET

H. Budget Reports

1. FY26 and FY27 Budget Update

Chair Kemp recognized Mr. Freeman Montaque, Finance and Budget Manager, to present the FY2026 and FY2027 Budget Updates.Mr. Montaque reviewed how the agency closed out the 2026 fiscal year, highlighting the respective budgets, expenditures and balances in six areas – Administration, Graduate Medical Education (GME), Healthcare Education Programs (HEP), Mercer, Morehouse and Healthcare Practitioner Loan Repayment (HPLR) – and provided rationale for any noticeable balances. He also noted, with the assistance of Mrs. Dave-Moses and Ms. Hambrick, among others, the closeout period was enormously successful, and the vast majority of the loan repayment checks had been distributed by the time of the meeting.

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

Mr. Montaque also provided a look ahead at the current 2027 fiscal year budget, which included notable increases in the budgets for Graduate Medical Education, Health Education Programs, and Mercer's Operating Grant, respectively. He also mentioned there were some items that were disregarded from the final approved appropriations bill.

Mr. Bhasin supplemented the presentation by noting that prudent financial management has enabled the agency to successfully administer an expanding portfolio of statewide programs while maintaining transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

III. DATA

I. Data Presentations

Chair Kemp recognized Dr. Leanna Greenwood, Data Team Manager, to introduce the agency's workforce data presentations. Dr. Greenwood provided an overview of the Data Team's continued efforts to develop objective, comprehensive, and actionable healthcare workforce information to support the Board's strategic planning responsibilities, legislative reporting, and statewide workforce policy initiatives.

Dr. Greenwood noted that the reports presented to the Board represent ongoing efforts to improve healthcare workforce analytics through enhanced data collection, visualization, and longitudinal analysis. She further advised that these resources continue to support policymakers, healthcare organizations, educational institutions, and community stakeholders in understanding current workforce trends and future healthcare needs.

---

1. Spotlight on Undergraduate Medical Education in Georgia Report

Chair Kemp recognized Mr. Augustine Agbontaen, Data Analyst.

Mr. Agbontaen presented the *Spotlight on Undergraduate Medical Education in Georgia Report*, providing information on graduates from Georgia's undergraduate medical education programs (medical schools). Staff looked at five years of data from the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce's Match Reports from fiscal years 2022–2026 and Medical School Graduate Survey Reports from fiscal years 2021–2025. The report summarized enrollment trends, medical school capacity, graduate production, institutional growth, and the relationship between undergraduate medical education and the State's physician workforce pipeline. Highlights include:

- **Medical School Graduates:** All five of Georgia's medical schools expanded their graduating classes during the time period from 694 in 2022 to 879 in 2026, indicating a

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

26.7% increase. PCOM-GA recorded the largest growth in graduates at 52.5%, followed by Mercer at 45.9%.

During the same time period, the number of graduates entering GME programs increased from 682 in 2022 to 861 in 2026, representing a 26.2% increase. PCOM-GA also has the highest growth (49.6%) in the number of graduates entering GME, followed by Mercer at 45.8% and MCG at 19.9%.

- **Georgia's Medical School Graduates Practice in Georgia:** The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) "U.S. Physician Retention by Training, 2024" report indicates that 37.6% of U.S. physicians practice in the same state where they completed their undergraduate medical education.

The median state rate stands at 39.0%. Georgia retains 43.2% of physicians who complete their undergraduate medical education in state, 5.6 percentage points higher than the national average of 37.6%. Georgia ranks 17th among all states.

Regionally, several nearby states post stronger in-state retention rates than Georgia. Florida (47.2%, 10th), Alabama (46.8%, 12th), and South Carolina (43.9%, 13th) all achieve higher retention rates and national rankings. North Carolina, however, falls behind the region with a 38.0% retention rate and a 27th place ranking.

- **How much does it cost to attend medical school in Georgia? How much debt do Georgia medical school graduates carry?**

Current AAMC data10 shows that the median debt for the class of 2025 is $215,000. The median four-year attendance cost for the class of 2026 is $297,745 at public schools and $408,150 at private schools.

Georgia's medical school tuition has risen dramatically over the past 20 years, with increases ranging from 48% to 167%, and an overall average rise of 89.9%.

The average tuition cost for in-state residents at Georgia's public medical school (the Medical College of Georgia) is $31,675 in 2025-202612. The average tuition for residents attending a private medical school is $56,488.

Based on the GBHCW 2025 Medical School Graduate Survey, the average undergraduate debt is $48,024, and the average medical school debt is $244,088.

---

2. 2026 Medical School Graduate Survey Report

Chair Kemp recognized Ms. LePrissa Moore, Data Researcher.

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

Ms. Moore presented the results of the Board's 18th annual Medical School Graduate Survey, reflecting responses from graduating medical students across Georgia's five medical schools, with an overall completion rate of 85.1% (748 of 879 graduates). The report highlights trends in specialty selection, residency placement, anticipated practice location, educational experiences, and factors influencing graduates' career decisions.

She informed the Board the report includes both aggregated statewide findings and medical school-specific results and demonstrates continued participation by Georgia's medical schools and provides valuable insight into the career intentions of graduating medical students. Ms. Moore explained that the survey remains an important planning tool for evaluating physician workforce trends and assessing the effectiveness of state-supported healthcare workforce initiatives. High-level key findings are presented below.

Demographics: The respondent population had an average age of 27.8 years and was predominantly female (59.6%). Most respondents were native-born U.S. citizens (79.8%), with 14.4% naturalized citizens, 4.5% permanent residents, and 1.2% reporting other citizenship status. In terms of race and ethnicity, respondents were most commonly White (46.0%), followed by Asian/Pacific Islander (23.7%) and Black/African American (22.7%). Hispanic origin was reported by 10.2% of respondents.

Education & Debt Profile: Respondents reported approximately $166.2 million in total educational debt, with medical school debt accounting for the overwhelming majority (89.3%) of all reported debt. Undergraduate debt represented 6.0% ($9.9 million), while additional educational debt accounted for 4.8% ($7.9 million). Approximately 21.8% of respondents reported no medical school debt. These findings suggest that medical education costs remain the primary driver of overall student debt among graduating medical students.

Specialty Matched To: Based on those who matched (n = 709), Internal Medicine was the most selected specialty (23.4%), followed by Family Medicine (10.9%), Surgery (8.2%), Pediatrics (7.5%), Obstetrics and Gynecology (7.2%), and Psychiatry (6.9%). Emergency Medicine accounted for 5.6% of matched respondents, while 6.1% were in preliminary or transitional training positions. *There were 39 respondents who did not report a successful match outcome.*

Residency Match Outcomes & Geographic Placement: Most respondents (94.8%) successfully matched into a residency program, while 5.2% did not report a successful match outcome. Among those who matched (709), 462 graduates (65.2%) matched to residency programs outside of Georgia, while 247 graduates (34.8%) matched to programs within Georgia, indicating that approximately one-third of matched respondents remained in-state for residency training.

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

---

3. Physician Primary Care/Core Specialty Fact Sheets

Chair Kemp recognized Ms. Briana Harris, Data Analyst.

Ms. Harris presented updated Physician Primary Care and Core Specialty Fact Sheets summarizing physician supply, specialty distribution, geographic practice patterns, and demographic characteristics across Georgia. She stated the fact sheets provide concise, data-driven summaries intended to assist legislators, healthcare organizations, educational institutions, and community stakeholders in understanding physician workforce availability throughout the State. Ms. Harris discussed updates incorporated into the current edition and reviewed several notable workforce trends reflected in the data.

Specialties reviewed were family medicine, internal medicine, emergency medicine, general surgery, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics and psychiatry. The fact sheets were generated using the 2023-2024 physician survey data. Overall, 27,954 respondents completed the survey with 26,094 listing a specialty. Of the survey respondents selecting a specialty, 143 different specialties were selected and 21,880 respondents, or 78%, self-identified as Board Certified. The national average is 88%.

Board members recognized the continuing value of these publications as a public resource supporting healthcare workforce planning and encouraged staff to continue expanding and refining the fact sheets as additional data become available.

Chair Kemp thanked all presenters for their reports and called for a motion to publish the reports on the Board's website.

On Motion (Henson/Barber), the Spotlight on Undergraduate Medical Education in Georgia Report, the 2026 Medical School Graduate Survey Report and the 2024 Primary Care/Core Specialty Physician Fact Sheets, were approved by unanimous consent to be posted on the website.

---

4. Georgia Graduate Medical Education Slots Coming Online

Chair Kemp recognized Dr. Leanna Greenwood, Data Team Manager.

Dr. Greenwood presented an update regarding newly approved and developing Graduate Medical Education residency positions throughout Georgia. Her presentation summarized anticipated residency program growth, implementation timelines, specialty distribution, sponsoring

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

institutions, and the projected impact of recently funded residency positions on Georgia's healthcare workforce.

Dr. Greenwood emphasized the continued importance of expanding Graduate Medical Education opportunities as a long-term strategy for improving physician retention and increasing access to healthcare throughout the State. She also discussed ongoing monitoring efforts intended to evaluate implementation progress and future workforce outcomes associated with newly established residency programs.

Board members expressed appreciation for the continued expansion of the Board's workforce analytics and recognized the importance of monitoring Graduate Medical Education investments to ensure successful implementation and measurable workforce outcomes.

The Board received the report as presented.

Chair Kemp thanked Dr. Greenwood, Mr. Agbontaen, Ms. Moore, and Ms. Harris for the professionalism and quality of the Data Team's work. He noted that the Board's continued investment in workforce research has positioned Georgia as a national leader in healthcare workforce planning and acknowledged the significant value these reports provide to policymakers and healthcare stakeholders throughout the State.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

J. Rule Change Proposals

Chair Kemp recognized Mrs. Cherri Tucker, Board Consultant, to present proposed amendments to Board rules as well as a new chapter to be added to the rules for the Board's consideration. Mrs. Tucker advised that the proposed revisions were intended to clarify existing administrative processes, improve program administration, and ensure the Board's rules remain consistent with current statutory authority and operational practices.

1. Georgia Residency Rule

Mrs. Tucker presented proposed amendments to the Georgia residency rules governing residency requirements applicable to all Board-administered loan repayment programs. She reviewed the purpose of the proposed revisions, summarized the substantive changes, and explained how the amendments would improve clarity and consistency in the administration of the Board's programs. The rule chapters impacted by the amendments include:

- Chapter 195-12 Physicians for Rural Areas Assistance Program;
- Chapter 195-14 Dental Loan Repayment Program;
- Chapter 195-15 Physician Assistant (PA) Loan Repayment Program;
- Chapter 195-16 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) Loan Repayment Program;
- Chapter 195-25 Georgia Physician Education Loan Repayment Program;

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

- Chapter 195-26 Georgia Dentist Education Loan Repayment Program; and
- Chapter 195-27 Georgia Behavioral Health Provider Loan Repayment Program

Chair Kemp thanked Mrs. Tucker for the review of the amendments to the loan repayment rules and called for a motion to release the amendments for public comment.

On Motion (Gautney/Barber), The proposed rule changes for the existing loan repayment programs were approved by unanimous consent to be released for public comment.

---

2. Optometry Loan Repayment Program Rule

Mrs. Tucker next presented proposed rules for the Optometry Loan Repayment Program.

She explained Optometrists were added to the existing loan repayment law during the 2026 legislative session and staff is proposing rules to assist with the administration of the program, clarify participant eligibility requirements, and align the rule with current program operations and statutory authority.

Chair Kemp thanked Mrs. Tucker for the review of the proposed new chapter to the rules and called for a motion to release the amendments for public comment.

On Motion (Henson/Barber), The proposed rules for the Optometry Loan Repayment Program were approved by unanimous consent to be released for public comment.

---

3. Medical Student Capitation Program Rule

Mrs. Tucker presented proposed amendments to the Medical Student Capitation Program Rules.

She summarized the proposed changes and explained that the revisions were intended to improve administration of the Medical Student Capitation Program by required on-line submission of proof of residency while ensuring continued compliance with governing statutes and Board policy.

Chair Kemp thanked Mrs. Tucker for reviewing the rule amendments for the Medical Student Capitaiton Program and called for a motion to release the proposed amendments for public comment.

On Motion (Henson/Walker), The proposed rule changes for the Medical School Capitation Program were approved by unanimous consent to be released for public comment.

Chair Kemp also thanked Mrs. Tucker for her continued work in maintaining the Board's administrative rules and ensuring they remain current, effective, and consistent with legislative direction.

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

K. Board Officer Elections

Chair Kemp recognized Dr. James Barber, Immediate Past Chair, to conduct the annual election of Board officers.

Dr. Barber reminded the Board the three officers of the Board, Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary Treasurer are eligible to be re-elected for one term. The nominating committee solicited nominations for these offices and received three interested individuals, the current chair, the current vice chair, and the current secretary. He presented the slate of nominations to the Board as Will Kemp for Chair, Lily Henson as Vice Chair, and Steven Gautney as Secretary Treasurer and asked for additional nominations. Hearing none, he closed the nominations.

Dr. Barber asked if there was objection to declaring the nominating slate as elected and there being no objection, he stated the three nominees are selected.

Dr. Barber congratulated the newly elected officers and thanked each member for their willingness to continue serving the Board in a leadership capacity.

L. Northeast Georgia Health System Graduate Medical Education Update

Chair Kemp recognized Ms. Elizabeth Holcomb, Executive Director of Government Affairs, Northeast Georgia Health System, to provide an update regarding Graduate Medical Education initiatives within the Northeast Georgia Health System.

Ms. Holcomb presented an overview of the health system's continued investment in Graduate Medical Education and discussed recent progress in expanding residency training opportunities. She highlighted ongoing collaboration with academic institutions, healthcare partners, and state agencies to develop physician training capacity that addresses Georgia's current and future healthcare workforce needs.

The presentation included updates regarding residency program development, institutional partnerships, physician recruitment efforts, and long-term workforce planning initiatives. Ms. Holcomb emphasized the importance of continued collaboration with the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce in expanding Graduate Medical Education opportunities throughout the State.

Chair Kemp expressed appreciation for the update and recognized the Northeast Georgia Health System's continued leadership in physician education and workforce development.

The Board received the report as presented.

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

M. Rural Health Transformation Program Update

Chair Kemp recognized Mr. David Proferes, Rural Health Transformation Program Manager.

Mr. Proferes provided an update regarding implementation of the Rural Health Transformation Program and reported on continued collaboration with participating healthcare organizations, residency sponsors, and community partners.

He reviewed current implementation activities, contract administration, program monitoring, and coordination efforts associated with recently authorized residency expansion projects designed to improve healthcare access in rural Georgia.

Mr. Proferes emphasized that the Rural Health Transformation Program represents a long-term investment in strengthening Georgia's rural healthcare workforce by expanding physician training opportunities in underserved communities.

The Board received the update without objection.

N. Nursing Summit Outcomes and Nursing Updates

Chair Kemp recognized Dr. Shawn Little, Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, University System of Georgia.

Dr. Little presented a summary of recent Nursing Summit activities and provided an overview of current nursing workforce initiatives taking place throughout Georgia. She discussed statewide collaboration among educational institutions, healthcare organizations, and policymakers to strengthen the nursing workforce through expanded educational capacity, strategic partnerships, and innovative workforce development initiatives.

Dr. Little reviewed key observations from the Nursing Summit, including opportunities to address nursing shortages, expand educational pathways, improve clinical training capacity, and strengthen workforce retention strategies across Georgia.

The Board received the report as presented.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

O. New Loan Repayment Platform Update

Chair Kemp recognized Mrs. Alex Dave-Moses, External Affairs and Program Manager, to provide an update regarding the implementation of the Board's new Loan Repayment Platform.

Mrs. Dave-Moses reported the agency continued to modernize administration of its healthcare provider loan repayment programs through implementation of a new electronic application and program management platform. The system is intended to improve operational efficiency,

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

enhance customer service, strengthen program oversight, and provide applicants and participating employers with a more streamlined application and contract management process.

She stated the implementation activities included system configuration, user testing, workflow development, staff training, and integration of existing program data. Mrs. Dave-Moses noted the new platform will improve the agency's ability to manage applications, participant records, payment processing, contract administration, service verification, and program reporting while reducing administrative burden and improving responsiveness to stakeholders.

The Board received the update as presented.

P. Annual Loan Repayment Program Metrics

Chair Kemp recognized Mrs. Alex Dave-Moses to present the Annual Loan Repayment Program Metrics.

Mrs. Dave-Moses presented an overview of the metrics used to rank loan repayment applicants and stated there were no recommended changes. She noted based on loan repayment program rules, the metrics are to be reviewed and approved by the Board at its annual meeting.

Chair Kemp thanked Mrs. Dave-Moses and called for a motion to approve the Loan Repayment Program metrics as presented.

On Motion (Henson/Gautney), the annual loan repayment metrics for ranking loan repayment applications were approved by unanimous consent.

Q. Executive Session

Chair Kemp called for a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters authorized under O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3, including petitions for variance and related confidential matters.

On Motion (Barber/Henson), the Board voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 10:48 a.m. to discuss matters permitted under the Georgia Open Meetings Act.

At approximately 11:13 a.m., Chair Kemp stated the Board has returned to the Public Meeting, stated the Executive Session had concluded and called for a motion to exit Executive Session.

On Motion (G. Bennett/Henson), the Board voted unanimously to exit from Executive Session at 11:14 a.m. and return to the public meeting.

Chair Kemp noted there were no votes or formal actions were taken during Executive Session.

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

R. Petitions for Variance

Following the Board's return to Open Session, Chair Kemp recognized Mrs. Alex Dave-Moses to present the petitions for variance that had been reviewed during Executive Session.

Mrs. Dave-Moses summarized the petition for Kelsey Stone, including the applicable program requirements and the basis for the requested variance. Board members considered the request and Chair Kemp called for a motion regarding the request.

On Motion (Reeves/Henson), the Board unanimously approved the variance/waiver of rule request for Kelsey Stone to void her Georgia Behavioral Health Provider Loan Repayment Contract.

Next, Mrs. Dave-Moses summarized the petition for Kristina Kruse, M.D., including the applicable program requirements and the basis for the requested variance. Following that review, the Board discussed options regarding her petition and agreed additional information was needed to evaluate her progress in securing a position in a qualifying area prior to making a decision. Chair Kemp called for a motion regarding the variance request.

On Motion (Henson/Groover), the Board unanimously voted to defer a final decision on the variance/waiver of rule request for Kristina Kruse, M.D., until its January 2027 meeting and requested she submit an update no later than January 15, 2027.

Mrs. Dave-Moses next summarized the petition for Brandi Smith, including the applicable program requirements and the basis for the requested variance. Board members considered the request and Chair Kemp called for a motion regarding the request.

On Motion (Gautney/Henson), the Board unanimously approved the variance/waiver rule request for Brandi Smith to void her Georgia Behavioral Health Provider Loan Repayment Contract.

Lastly, Mrs. Dave-Moses summarized the petition for Lindsey Burnett, M.D., including the applicable program requirements and the basis for the requested variance. Board members considered the request and Chair Kemp called for a motion regarding the request.

On Motion (Gautney/Henson), the Board unanimously denied the variance/waiver rule request for Lindsey Burnett, M.D. and requested additional information be submitted by October 15, 2026 to be reviewed at the October 2026 Board meeting.

S. Closing Remarks

Chair Kemp thanked the Board members, agency staff, presenters, guests, and the University of Georgia School of Medicine for their participation and continued support of the Board's mission to strengthen Georgia's healthcare workforce.

Docusign Envelope ID: D2FFA0E7-8BBD-84DD-82B5-9787C4A119F2

Chair Kemp specifically recognized the contributions of agency staff for their professionalism in preparing the meeting materials, presentations, and reports, noting that the Board's expanding portfolio of healthcare workforce initiatives continues to be administered with a high degree of accountability, transparency, and service to the citizens of Georgia.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Kemp entertained a motion to adjourn.

On Motion (Garrett/Gautney), the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Chair Kemp declared the meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:
Steven Gautney
07DCF09E670D464...
Steven Gautney
Secretary/Treasurer

DocuSigned by:
Chet Bhasin
7A0E13970BDB444...
Chet Bhasin
Executive Director

Approved by the Board on: 10/29/2026