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Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce
Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2026

I. Call to Order

The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce convened its September 8, 2026 meeting via Microsoft Teams. Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Attendance

Present

Board Members

Chairman William Kemp
Madame Vice-Chair Dr. Lily Henson
Treasurer Mr. Steven Gautney
Dr. Garrett Bennett
Dr. Carolyn Clevenger
Dr. Michael Groover
Mrs. Amy Reeves, PA
Dr. Joseph Walker
Dr. William Fricks
Dr. James Barber
Dr. Terri McFadden

Absent

Board Members

Dr. Indran Indrakrishnan
Dr. Kitty Carter-Wicker
Dr. James Lofton Smith
Dr. Cecil Bennett

Staff

Alexandria Dave-Moses, External Affairs and Program Manager

Staff

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

Guests

Sherri Morgan, M.D.
Rashae Oliver
Helen Sloat
Kamryn Wham
Chelsea Hagopian
Scott Steiner

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Barbara Menchan. M.D.
Chinedu Ivonye, M.D.
Chadburn Ray, M.D.
Laurie Ott
Jonathan Williams, D.O.

I. Administrative

A. Call to Order – No action required
B. Roll Call and Introductions – No action required

II. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Kemp stated that the agenda had been provided to Board members in advance and asked whether there were any additions, deletions, or changes. There were no proposed changes from the Board members.

On Motion (Henson/Barber), the Board approved the September 8, 2026 agenda as presented.

III. Chairperson's Report

Chairman Kemp thanked the Board members for participating in the additional meeting and expressed appreciation for their continued time and service to the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce.

Chairman Kemp then recognized Mr. Bhasin for the Executive Director's Report.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Bhasin thanked Chairman Kemp and the Board members for their participation. He stated that he would defer his full Executive Director's Report until the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting at the end of October.

Mr. Bhasin expressed appreciation to the Board for its continued interest and participation.

V. Public Comment

Chairman Kemp opened the public comment period. He stated that individuals wishing to provide public comment should use the "raise hand" feature in Microsoft Teams and would be recognized in the order determined by the Chairman. Each speaker was limited to two minutes and was asked to state his or her name, title, and organization.

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No individuals requested to provide live public comment.

Mr. Bhasin reported that two written public comments had been received in advance of the meeting and within the established deadline. Dr. Watkins, representing the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Physicians, submitted comments in support of the proposed changes to the existing loan repayment program rules. Michael Parkerson of PCOM Georgia submitted comments in support of the proposed Medical Student Capitation Program rule change.

There being no additional public comment, Chair Kemp closed the public comment period.

VI. Rule Change Proposals

A. Existing Loan Repayment Program Rules

Ms. Tucker presented proposed amendments to the existing loan repayment program rules. She explained that the proposed changes were intended primarily to standardize language among the Board's various loan repayment programs concerning the definition of an eligible or qualified applicant and eligibility requirements, including Georgia residency.

The programs addressed included:

- Physician for Rural Areas Assistance Program;
- Dental Loan Repayment Program;
- Physician Assistant Loan Repayment Program;
- APRN Loan Repayment Program;
- Georgia Physician Education Loan Repayment Program;
- Georgia Dental Education Loan Repayment Program; and
- Georgia Behavioral Health Provider Loan Repayment Program.

Ms. Tucker reviewed proposed language requiring an eligible provider to be a United States citizen or national and a Georgia resident or resident of a contiguous county, as applicable. The proposed rules also require an active Medicaid provider number and participation in the treatment of Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids patients. Additional requirements apply to individuals residing in contiguous counties, including applicable qualified-county requirements.

The proposed eligibility criteria also require the applicant to be a Georgia resident, hold an unrestricted license in good standing, and actively treat Medicaid patients.

Ms. Tucker noted that no negative public comments had been received concerning the proposed amendments.

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Chairman Kemp asked if there were any questions or discussion from the Board regarding this rule amendment. There were no questions or discussion from the Board and Chairman Kemp asked for a motion.

On Motion (Henson/Gautney), the Board approved the proposed amendments to the existing Loan Repayment Program rules for the 7 listed programs.

B. Georgia Optometrist Education Loan Repayment Program Rules

Ms. Tucker presented proposed rules for the Georgia Optometrist Education Loan Repayment Program. She explained that optometrists were added to the loan repayment program through legislation enacted during the most recent legislative session and that the proposed rules establish guidance for staff and participants regarding the administration of the program.

Ms. Tucker noted that the proposed rules are generally consistent with the Board's other loan repayment programs while incorporating requirements specific to optometrists and include the Georgia residency requirement.

No public comments were received regarding the proposed Optometrist Education Loan Repayment Program rules.

Chairman Kemp asked if there were any questions or discussion from the Board regarding the proposed rules for adoption. There were no questions or discussion from the Board and Chairman Kemp asked for a motion.

On Motion (Gautney/Henson), the Board adopted the rules for the Georgia Optometrist Education Loan Repayment Program.

C. Medical Student Capitation Program Rules

Ms. Tucker presented proposed amendments to Rule 195-9-.02, concerning the Medical Student Capitation Program.

She explained that the proposed amendments included technical and wording corrections, including changing "reasonable" to "reasonably" in Section 1 and correcting the use of "on" to "of" in Section 2. She also explained that the payment process would be updated from a paper form to an online form and under the proposed process, medical students in years one through four would be required to complete an online residency verification form.

Ms. Tucker noted that one public comment had been received from PCOM Georgia in support of the proposed rule change.

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Chairman Kemp asked whether there were any questions or discussion. There being none, he called for a motion.

On Motion (Henson/Gautney), the Board approved the proposed rule amendments to the Medical Student Capitation Program rules.

VII. Old Business

Chairman Kemp asked whether there was any old business to come before the Board.

There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

Chairman Kemp asked whether there was any new business to come before the Board.

There was no new business.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Kemp entertained a motion to adjourn.

On Motion (Gautney/Henson), the Board approved the motion to adjourn the September 8, 2026 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:
Steven Gautney
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Steven Gautney
Secretary/Treasurer

DocuSigned by:
Chet Bhasin
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Chet Bhasin
Executive Director

Approved by the Board on: 10/29/2026