



Georgia Board for Physician Workforce Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2015
8:30 a.m.

GBPW Administrative Office
2 Peachtree St., NW, 36th Floor Board Room
Atlanta, GA 30303

Board Members Present:

Mark Hanly, M.D.; Jacinto del Mazo, M.D.; Jimmy Childre; Thomas Hatchett, M.D.; Bill Herringdine; David Kay, M.D.; William Kemp; Terri McFadden-Garden, M.D.

Board Members Absent:

Carol Burrell; Frank Carter, M.D.; George McCluskey, M.D.; Norma Jean Morgan; Antonio Rios, M.D.; William Waters, M.D.

Staff Present:

Cherri Tucker; Melissa Carter; Olive Jones-Golden; Pamela Smith; Yvette Speight

Guests Present:

Robert Pallay, M.D., Memorial Health University Medical Center; William Bina, III, M.D., Mercer University School of Medicine; George Brown, M.D., Atlanta Medical Center; Bryan Ginn, GA Campus – PCOM; Joseph Hobbs, M.D., Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Regents University; Yolanda Wimberly, M.D., Morehouse School of Medicine; Brent Churchwell, Senate Budget and Evaluation Office; Hugh Sosebee, Mercer University; Fatimot Ladipo, Georgia Dental Association; Penny Hannah, Georgia Department of Law; Betsy Bates, Morehouse School of Medicine; Daniel Dawes, Morehouse School of Medicine; Jason Skipper, Peach State Health Plan; Daniel Walls, Morehouse School of Medicine; Nakisha Hall, Morehouse School of Medicine.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Hanly called the Board Meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and requested introductions from attendees.

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Hanly stated that many changes have occurred during the last fiscal year. There were increases in the GBPW budget and changes in Board membership. Dr. Joe Sam Robinson resigned to join the Georgia Composite Medical Board, Dr. del Mazo was reappointed for another term, and Norma Jean Morgan joined the Board. Mrs. Morgan is the chief executive officer and nursing home administrator for the Effingham Health System. GBPW has a new staff member, Melissa Carter, in the position of statistical analyst. Dr. Hanly also mentioned that he and Mrs. Tucker wrote an article about GBPW for the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) journal. GBPW was also privileged to have presentations from Georgia's medical schools which gave a better understanding of the challenges they face and the wonderful work they do.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Hanly presented the minutes from the January 29, 2015 Board Meeting for approval.

On **Motion (del Mazo/Kemp)**, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from January 29, 2015 as written.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Tucker welcomed new staff member, Melissa Carter, who comes to GBPW from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. Mrs. Tucker stated that staff has been busy since the last Board meeting. Two practice opportunity fairs were held in Albany and Augusta; staff attended meetings on the GME payment process; and research on different states' GME and medical school data was performed. Mrs. Tucker participated in a GME roundtable discussion with the Association of Academic Health Centers; gave presentations at the Primary Care Summit, the Georgia Healthcare Foundation board meeting; the returning residents orientation at Morehouse University School of Medicine, the Foothills AHEC residents orientation, and the MAG annual conference.

NEW PRIMARY CARE INITIATIVES FOR FY2016

A. Mercer University School of Medicine – William Bina, M.D., Dean

Dr. Bina began his presentation by stating the mission of Mercer University School of Medicine which is to educate physicians and health professionals to meet the primary care and health care needs of rural and medically underserved areas of Georgia. The State Legislature's FY2016 appropriations included 2 new initiatives for Mercer. The first initiative incorporates clinical rotations at a rural health facility. This initiative involves the development of a Rural Residency Training Track with partners including community physicians from Washington County, Navicent Health Medical Center – IM Residency, and Washington County Regional Medical

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

Center. Dr. Bina hopes to have this in place within 3 years. The second initiative is the expansion of the Family Medicine Accelerated Program at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah. There is currently one student in the program with plans to expand to 6 students in FY2016. The program may also expand to include other specialties such as OB/GYN, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics.

Dr. del Mazo mentioned that contract deliverables will need to be developed for these new programs.

B. Memorial Health University Medical Center – Robert Pallay, M.D. Director of Family Medicine Residency Program

In 2012, Mercer University School of Medicine and Memorial University Medical Center launched one of the first 3 year medical school curriculums (FM-ACT) in the United States seeking to provide a cost effective means of training and retaining Family Medicine physicians in Georgia. Some of the goals of the program are to increase the number of medical students choosing careers in Family Medicine, to enable seamless transition from undergraduate to graduate medical education, and to provide more efficient training of primary care physicians with less financial burden. The additional funding included in the State Legislature's FY2016 appropriations for expansion of this program will enable larger class sizes, direct acceptance into medical school and the fast track program, expansion into Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and OB/GYN, expansion to Columbus and Macon campuses, and tuition relief. The citizens of the State of Georgia will in turn benefit by an increased number of Family Medicine physicians practicing patient-centered care in medically underserved communities.

CONTRACT OUTCOMES

Mrs. Tucker discussed the contract outcomes for FY2015.

A. Match Results

Each of Georgia's Medical Schools had over 60% of their graduates match into GBPW core specialties with the majority matching into Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. The match rates into Georgia residency programs were between 10.9% and 30.7%.

B. Medical School Outcomes

Medical schools receiving state funds for operating grants and medical student capitation must have at least 50% of their graduates enter into a core specialty. Penalties are incurred if this contract deliverable is not met. Using a 5 year rolling average, each Georgia medical school met their deliverables for FY2011 – FY2015.

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS FOR GA'S PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

A. Review

Mrs. Tucker reviewed some Georgia physician workforce data for the Board. Medical school enrollment in Georgia has increased by 78% since 2000. In 2015, there were 509 PGY1 residency slots, but 613 medical school graduates. Of these graduates, 141 entered into a Georgia residency program leaving 72% of slots filled by out of state students. Consistently since 2008, medical school students have chosen their specialty in their 3rd year. 40% ranked Georgia programs in their top 3 choices, but only 23% matched into a Georgia program. Reasons for not ranking a Georgia program include looking for a highly reputable program and family reasons.

B. Medical Schools

Based on the facts listed above, Georgia medical schools need some innovative ideas to retain Georgia students. Some suggestions are promotion of primary care programs, accelerated track curriculums, the AHEC Pathway to Medical School Programs, other pipeline initiatives, and improvement of the practice environment in Georgia.

C. GME Programs

GME program numbers have increased by 18% since 2008. Governor Deal's initiative to add 400 residency slots in Georgia will provide additional expansion in this area. In addition to increasing residency positions, existing residency programs need funding for expansion. GBPW needs to evaluate the return on investment of public GME funds to determine if these funds may be better used.

D. Other

Other areas of concern in Georgia's physician workforce include recruitment of physicians to Georgia, the expansion and support of pipeline programs to "grow our own" physicians, and the practice environment in Georgia which is viewed as unfavorable by many physicians.

PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE

A. OB Unit Closures

Ms. Carter introduced herself to the Board and stated that she is excited to be on staff. She reviewed maps on the Labor and Delivery unit closures in Georgia from 1994-2015. In this time period, 34 units have closed. These closures have significant impact on prenatal care and

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

mother/infant mortality rates in Georgia. Since these closures impact primary care, Ms. Carter suggested that the Board monitor this issue.

B. Overview of Methodology

Ms. Carter and Dr. Dever have proposed changing some of the data gathering methodology of GBPW in order to provide a more refined database. The following categories will be filtered in order to provide an “Active Physician” database:

1. Out of State
2. Retired
3. Not Actively Seeing Patients

On **Motion (Kay/McFadden-Garden)**, the Board approved the changes in methodology for data reporting.

Ms. Carter and Dr. Dever have also proposed reconvening the Workforce Subcommittee to discuss a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) formula to account for physician hours and to discuss other possible data filters to further refine the physician workforce database. Another goal of the subcommittee will be to update Primary and Secondary service areas in Georgia. These have not been updated since 2000.

BUDGET

A. Year End Expenditure Report

Ms. Smith presented the year end budget report noting that 99.76% of the budget was expended.

B. Review of FY2016 Budget as Approved

Mrs. Tucker presented the approved FY2016 Budget. This budget has increased from \$51,417,044 in FY2015 to \$62,214,526 in FY2016 due to increases in the Mercer and Morehouse operating grants programs, the PRAA program, and the GME program.

C. AFY16 and FY2017 Budget Instructions

Budget instructions for AFY2016 and FY2017 are expected to be released on July 16, 2015. As soon as that happens, staff will begin budget development. A conference call will then be scheduled with Board members to review proposed budget documents.

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

D. Funding Request Letters

Funding requests from recipients of state funding were included in meeting binders for review by Board Members.

E. Budget Priorities

Mrs. Tucker requested input from the Board on Budget priorities for AFY2016 and FY2017. For example, would the Board like to increase scholarship and loan repayment amounts, fund additional GME slots, and/or fund uncapitated residency slots? Dr. Hanly believes that enhancing the loan repayment program should be the Board's top priority. Increasing income by providing debt relief is a powerful incentive. Dr. Hatchett stated that making Georgia the best state in the nation for physician practices should be a priority. Increasing Medicaid reimbursement payments to physicians, loan repayments, etc. would provide a "carrot" to entice physicians to Georgia. Mr. Herringdine thinks the Board should increase loan repayment amounts rather than the number of loan repayments. Mrs. Tucker brought up the loan repayment program in Texas that receives funding from a small tax on tobacco products. Dr. McFadden-Garden stated that a tobacco tax has been brought up during the past several Legislative sessions with no success because the Legislature will not pass any new tax laws.

Mrs. Tucker stated that she will work with the Executive Committee to prioritize these suggestions and present them to the Board during the next conference call meeting.

PRAA PROGRAM

A. PRAA Ranking System

Mrs. Tucker presented the PRAA ranking weights for FY2016. These are the same as last year, but the Board is required to vote on them annually.

On **Motion (Kemp/Hatchett)**, the Board approved the PRAA ranking weights for FY2016.

Mrs. Tucker also presented guidelines for use when information does not fit ideally into the approved rankings.

On **Motion (Childre/Kay)**, the Board approved the guidelines for ranking.

RULES

A. Rules for Public Comment – Dental Loan Repayment

On **Motion (McFadden-Garden/Kay)**, the Board voted to release the Dental Loan Repayment rules for public comment.

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

SCHOLARSHIP RENEWALS

The following students are up for scholarship renewal this year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Medical School</u>
Rachel P. Anderson	Early	Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine
Brittany N. Chandler	Jackson	Mercer
Elizabeth Garcia-Cardenas	Gwinnett	MCG
Lynda D. Green	Walker	PCOM
Christopher L. Kiker	Haralson	Mercer
Kyla Elise Mohler	Cobb	MCG
Katie D. Morgan	Wayne	Morehouse
Matthew A. Pearce	Fulton	Mercer
Jontu L. Solomon	Schley	Morehouse
Kaitlyn N. Vann	Forsyth	Lincoln-Debusk

On **Motion (McFadden-Garden/Kay)**, the Board approved the scholarship renewals for 2015-2016 pending receipt of official transcripts from the medical schools.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**A. Practice Approval Requests**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Practice Location</u>
Aaron Thomas, Jr., MD	Internal Medicine	Medlink - Banks County
Christopher H. Taranto, D.O	Emergency Medicine	Phoebe Sumter Med Center-Sumter Co
Daryl F. Remick, MD	Family Medicine	Monroe County Hospital-Monroe Co
Laura G. Williams, MD	Emergency Medicine	Stephens County Hospital-Stephens Co

On **Motion (Herringdine/Kemp)**, the Board approved the practice location requests for Aaron Thomas, MD; Christopher Taranto, D.O.; Daryl Remick, MD, and Laura Gowder Williams, MD.

B. Deferment Requests

- 1) Joy Rankin, MD

Dr. Rankin has requested a deferment in order to complete a residency in Family Medicine.

On **Motion (Herringdine/Kemp)**, the Board approved Joy Rankin's deferment request.

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS
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2) Jeremiah Watkins, MD

The Board will address his request at the October 2015 meeting due to lack of a quorum. Dr. Hanly recused himself from the vote.

3) Ashlee LaFontaine, MD

Dr. LaFontaine has requested a one year deferment of her service obligation in order to complete a Pediatric Sports Medicine Fellowship.

On **Motion (Kay/McFadden-Garden)**, the Board approved Ashlee LaFontaine's deferment request.

4) Earl Stewart, MD

Dr. Stewart has requested a deferment in order to pursue post-residency training in Preventive Medicine at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health.

On **Motion (Herringdine/Kemp)**, the Board approved Earl Stewart's deferral request.

C. Extend Obligation Request

1) Samuel Williams, MD

Dr. Williams has requested a deferment in order to find a position in a qualifying location since his current contract was not renewed.

On **Motion (McFadden-Garden/Kay)**, the Board voted to give Dr. Williams six months to find a qualifying position.

D. Potential Defaults/Repayment Requests

1) Rhonda Kimberly Coker, MD

Dr. Coker's practice has required her to relocate to an unqualifying location. She plans to stay with the practice since she is invested with them.

On **Motion (Hatchett/del Mazo)**, the Board declared Rhonda Kimberly Coker's contract in default with \$154,747.32 due within 90 days.

2) Christie Shanafelt, D.O.

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

Dr. Shanfelt owes \$60,000 for triple damages due to the default of her contract. She proposes to make an initial payment of \$5000 on 10-1-2015; then 4 payments of \$10,000 each in January 2016, July 2016, January 2017, and July 2017; payoff balance of \$15,000 in January 2018.

On **Motion (Kemp/Hatchett)**, the Board approved Christie Shanafelt's repayment proposal.

RECIPIENTS RELINQUISHING AWARD

Joseph H. Johnson, III and Suzann N. Ozturk have both relinquished their scholarships for 2015-2016.

RECIPIENTS ENTERING RESIDENCY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Residency Hospital</u>
Shenique M. Anderson	Family Medicine	Memorial Health
Evan H. Fountain	Internal Medicine	MCG
Justin M. Law	Family Medicine	Memorial Health
Thomas C. Smith	Family Medicine	Gwinnett Medical
Amethyst C. Wilder	Family Medicine	Memorial Health

RECIPIENTS COMPLETING OBLIGATIONS 2015

<u>Name</u>	<u>Specialty</u>	<u>Location</u>
Malcolm Floyd, MD	Family Medicine	Americus, GA
Patricia Fennessy, MD	OB/GYN	Americus, GA
Jessica Ford, MD	Pediatrics	Forsyth, GA
David Gatliff, MD	General Surgery	Sandersville, GA
James Murphey, MD	I/M Pediatrics	Cleveland, GA
Melissa Quiros, MD	Family Medicine	Homer, GA
Trina Webb, MD	Staff Psychiatrist	Valdosta, GA

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at the Georgia Campus of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The Board meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherri Tucker
Executive Director