



## **Georgia Board for Physician Workforce**

State of Georgia

# **Georgia Board for Physician Workforce Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, October 24, 2013  
8:51 a.m.

MCG/UGA Partnership Campus  
1425 Prince Avenue, Russell Hall, Room 241  
Athens, GA 30606

### **Board Members Present:**

Mark Hanly, M.D., Chairman; Antonio Rios, M.D.; Tommy Hatchett, M.D.; David Kay, M.D.; Bill Herringdine, William Kemp, Frank Carter, M.D., Terri McFadden-Garden, M.D.; William Waters, IV, M.D.

### **Board Members Absent:**

Jacinto del Mazo, M.D.; James Lowry; Joe Sam Robinson, M.D., George McCluskey, III, M.D., Jimmy Childre, Carol Burrell.

### **Staff Present:**

Cherri Tucker; Cheryl Culp, Pamela Smith

### **Guests Present:**

Barbara Schuster, M.D., GRU/UGA Medical Partnership; Shelley Nuss, M.D., GRU/UGA Medical Partnership; Terry Steyer, M.D. GRU/UGA Medical Partnership; Pat Cota, Georgia OB/GYN Society; Erin Mundy, Georgia Statewide AHEC; Joseph Hobbs, M.D., Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Regents University Augusta; Bryan Ginn, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine – Georgia Campus; Nakisha Hall, Morehouse School of Medicine; Betsy Bates, Morehouse School of Medicine; Hugh Sosebee, Mercer University School of Medicine; Caroline Abercrombie, M.D.; Victor Moldova; Ashley Carter, Foothills AHEC; G. E. Alan Dever, M.D., Ph.D., Health Services Analysis; Penny Hannah, Georgia Department of Law.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Hanly called the Board Meeting to order at 8:51 a.m. and introduced Dr. Barbara Schuster, Dean of the GRU/UGA Partnership campus in Athens. Dr. Schuster welcomed the Board to the campus and discussed some of the history of the partnership. She stated the partnership started 5

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years ago and the first class will graduate in May 2014. She introduced Dr. Shelley Nuss, Associate Dean of GME and Dr. Terry Steyer, Chair of Clinical Sciences at the partnership campus. Dr. Schuster also mentioned the ACGME had done their first site visit for the Internal Medicine GME program at St. Mary's Hospital and they hope to have Internal Medicine residents beginning their residencies in July 2015. She thanked the Board for their support of GME and for holding the meeting at the GRU/UGA partnership campus.

Dr. Hanly then requested attendees introduce themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Rios presented the minutes from the July 18, 2013 and August 27, 2013 Board meetings for approval.

**Action**

On **Motion (Hatchett/Waters)**, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from July 18, 2013 and August 27, 2013 Board meetings.

**PUBLIC COMMENT****A. Georgia OB/GYN Society**

Pat Cota, the Executive Director for the Georgia OB/GYN Society appeared before the Board to discuss the current OB/GYN situation in Georgia. She thanked the Board for the work they do to get physicians into rural Georgia. She hopes her group can work with GBPW to prevent OB/GYN scholarship recipients from defaulting on their contracts due to lack of qualifying practice locations. She stated the face of OB/GYN is changing and the practice model for OB/GYN must also change to keep up. Dr. Hanly stated the Board plans to review scholarship law and rules to consider changes that can be uniformly applied to all.

**B. Georgia Statewide AHEC**

Erin Mundy with the Georgia Statewide AHEC organization appeared before the Board to present the 2013 Primary Care Summit recommendations. She informed the Board for several years, the Georgia Statewide AHEC program has held a Primary Care Summit. Stakeholders from across Georgia are invited to participate in crafting a Primary Care Physician Plan aimed at reducing the growing shortage of primary care physicians in Georgia. Some of the recommendations from the 2013 Summit include increasing state funded GME loan forgiveness awards to levels competitive with the National Health Service Corps, providing tax credits for primary care community based faculty, and addressing the existing and worsening deficit of GME faculty. The next Primary Care Summit will be held in May 2014 at Clayton State University.

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**EXPENDITURES TO DATE**

Ms. Smith presented the Expenditure Report as of September 30, 2013. She noted scholarship awards have been paid and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter GME payments are set to pay within the next couple of weeks.

**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**A. Practice Approval Requests**

1. Elizabeth Long, M.D.

**Action**

On **Motion (Rios/Carter)**, the Board approved the schedule change of Elizabeth Long, MD. She must provide monthly documentation to GBPW staff for verification of compliance.

2. Joanna Bayles, M.D.

**Action**

On **Motion (Rios/Kemp)**, the Board approved the practice approval request of Joanna Bayles, M.D. to practice at the Cobb County Correctional Facility in Marietta Georgia.

**B. Letter from Recipient**

1. Lawrence Wilson, M.D.

Dr. Wilson is an OB/GYN physician who will be completing a fellowship in June 2014. He has had no luck obtaining a position in a GBPW qualifying county in which to practice and does not want to default on his obligation. He is requesting advice from the Board as to what additional steps he can take next.

**Action**

On **Motion (Carter/Waters)**, the Board approved the motion made by Dr. Carter for GBPW staff and GA OB/GYN society to locate practice options for Lawrence Wilson, M.D.

**C. Compliance Updates**

1. Royce Cannington, M.D.
2. Cory Butzon, M.D.

Mrs. Tucker updated the Board on Dr. Cannington and Dr. Butzon's documentation provided for compliance verification. Both are in compliance based on these documents.

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**GEORGIA PHYSICIAN AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROFESSIONS DATA BOOK**

Ms. Culp presented the highlights of the 2010-2011 Physician and Physician Assistant Data Book. 2010 is the first year since physician workforce planning began that every county in Georgia had at least one physician that practiced primarily in that county. In 2011, 49 counties did not have a PA that practiced primarily in that county. The physician and physician assistant data is presented via numerous tables, charts, maps, etc for review by interested parties and will be made available on the GBPW website.

Dr. Waters requested information on physicians planning retirement and replacements in place. Dr. Dever stated that there is some dated information on migration in and out of practice that he can update and provide at a later meeting.

**LAW AND RULES REVIEW**

Penny Hannah, Senior Assistant Attorney General, presented the GBPW statutes for the Board to review. GBPW has 3 code sections: O.C.G.A 49-10-1 (social services) which gives the Board its basic authority; O.C.G.A 31-34-3 (health) which contains PRAA law; and O.C.G.A. 20-3-510 (education) which contains scholarship law.

Mrs. Tucker then presented the Rules and Regulations for the Scholarship Program prior to the Board discussion and possible revisions of said rules.

Dr. Hanly informed the Board the Rules subcommittee had met in September and the suggested changes are included in Board member binders. He asked Mrs. Tucker to begin the discussion with the suggested Rule changes and then the Board could determine if law changes are needed.

Mrs. Tucker began with 195-11-.01 General Definitions. She went through the minor corrections needed in definitions 1-10. She then stated definition 11 contains one of the major items the Board must decide on. The Board must decide whether they want to change the population limit for all specialties or have different limits for certain specialties. Any change to definition 11's population requirements must first be changed in the law. Then the Board will have the authority to make rule changes as deemed necessary.

Since this would be changing a major component of the scholarship program, Mrs. Tucker suggested this may be the time to consider whether or not the scholarship program has run its course. It was created in the 1950s and perhaps should be phased out in preference of the PRAA program. Dr. Hanly stated the increasing frequency of issues involving scholarships may warrant a phase out or a revision or restructure of the program.

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Dr. Kay stated that he agrees with phasing out the scholarship program. To his knowledge, every medical student today is presented with a financial aid packet that covers tuition and living expenses. He said the scholarship program issues create an administrative burden on the Board.

Dr. Hanly agreed and said that this is something the Board should look at closely. Funds could be better used in the PRAA program as long as the funds were allowed to go to PRAA. Mrs. Tucker explained the State budget is program based and funds can only be moved between programs with legislative approval. Scholarships and PRAA belong to the same program known as GBPW Physicians for Rural Areas. Since they are sub-units of the same program, it would not be difficult to move the funds from scholarships to PRAA loan repayments.

Dr. Hanly suggested making a summary motion at the end of the review. Mrs. Tucker continued with the review of definitions 12-31. The Board agreed to keep the 12% interest rate discussed in definition 17. There was also discussion on definition 21 concerning Residency and Graduate Medical Education specialties. The Board agreed to approve Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, and Obstetrics/Gynecology only. As Dr. Kay mentioned, the Board does not have the enough funding for the current amount of applicants so there would be no point in adding additional approved specialties such as Psychiatry and Emergency Medicine. The Board also decided to remove General Surgery as an approved residency/GME specialty.

Definitions 30 and 31 concerning telemedicine will be discussed at a later date along with the possible phase out of the Country Doctor Scholarship program.

**Action**

On **Motion (Hatchett/Rios)**, the Board approved all rule changes listed in Board meeting binder for Scholarship rule 195-11-.01 with these exceptions: Definition (17) – Interest rate will remain at 12% for defaults; Definition (21) – Specialties will include Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, and Obstetrics/Gynecology only; Definitions (30) and (31) concerning telemedicine will be addressed at a later date.

**Action**

On **Motion (Rios/Water)**, the Board voted to present a request for a law revision to change the population definition in Scholarship law O.C.G.A 20-3-513 from a “board approved rural county in Georgia of 35,000 or less” to “an underserved rural area” to mirror the same definition used in PRAA law section O.C.G.A. 31-34-5.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Raymond “Tripp” Evans, M.D. – Repayment Request**

**Action**

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On **Motion (Rios/Kay)**, the Board voted to deny the change in repayment obligation for Dr. Raymond “Tripp” Evans.

**B. Caroline Abercrombie, M.D. – Repayment Request**

**Action**

On **Motion (Waters/Kay)**, the Board declared Caroline Abercrombie, M.D. in default of her contract and voted that she repay the full amount of scholarship funds received plus 12% interest from the inception of the first award due immediately. There was one vote against.

**C. Joy Rankin, M.D. - Appeal**

**Action**

On **Motion (Carter/Waters)**, the Board voted to approve Dr. Joy Rankin’s request to remove the default declaration and allow her time to obtain her medical license and enter practice. She has a one year time frame to complete this.

**D. Tiffany Stanfill Thomas, M.D. – Practice Approval**

The Board deferred a decision on Tiffany Stanfill Thomas’ practice approval request due to lack of a quorum. Dr. Waters abstained from voting.

The Board agreed to meet via conference call as soon as possible to vote on the practice approval request of Tiffany Stanfill Thomas, M.D.

The next scheduled meeting date will be January 30, 2014 in Atlanta at the GBPW office.

The Board meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m. (Waters/Rios)

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mark Hanly, M.D.  
Chairman

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Cherri Tucker  
Executive Director