



Georgia Board for Physician Workforce

State of Georgia

Georgia Board for Physician Workforce Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 5, 2013
12:00 p.m.
Conference Call

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

Board Members Present:

Mark Hanly, M.D, Chairman.; Jacinto del Mazo, M.D.; Carol Burrell; Frank Carter, M.D.; Jimmy Childre; Tommy Hatchett, M.D.; Bill Herringdine; David Kay, M.D.; William Kemp, Jim Lowry, George McCluskey, M.D.; Terri McFadden-Garden, M.D., Joe Sam Robinson, M.D.; William Waters, IV, M.D.

Board Members Absent:

Antonio Rios, M.D.

Staff Present:

Cherri Tucker, Cheryl Culp, Pamela Smith

Guests Present:

Martha Elks, M.D., Morehouse School of Medicine; Pat Cota, Georgia OB/GYN Society; G.E.Alan Dever, M.D., PhD, Health Services Analysis; Hugh Sosebee, Mercer University School of Medicine; Penny Hannah, GA Department of Law; Daniel Dawes, Morehouse School of Medicine; Detra Brown, Georgia Regents University.

CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

Dr. Hanly called the Board Meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. and attendance was taken.

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

PROPOSED STATUTE CHANGE—SCHOLARSHIP LAW O.C.G.A.20-3-510 et seq

At the October Board meeting, the Board asked staff to contact the Governor's office to request their review of the proposed statute change in O.C.G.A. 20-3-510. The paperwork was due by September 15, 2013, but the Governor's office staff agreed to accept the proposal for review. The major change requested was to remove the section of lines 88-90 which state "by practicing his or her profession in a board approved rural county in Georgia of 35,000 population or less according to the United States decennial census of 1990 or any future such census" and replace this section with "practicing his or her profession in a board approved physician underserved rural area of Georgia. For each full year of practicing his or her profession in such a physician underserved rural area as determined by the Board...". This would mirror the population statement in the PRAA law (O.C.G.A. 31-34-5).

The Governor's office staff then requested a copy of the rule changes that would accompany this statute change. Mrs. Tucker forwarded those along with maps showing potential changes if the statute was amended. After their review, the Governor's office staff contacted Mrs. Tucker and stated that they supported changing the population number in the statute to 50,000 or less rather than underserved. Mrs. Tucker informed the Governor's Office she would inform the Board and get back with them as soon as possible.

Mrs. Tucker told the Board after further review, she did not think changing the population in the law would resolve the issue of scholarship recipients who have elected to practice ob/gyn, general surgery or other specialties in the rural areas and Dr. Hanly agreed stating that this would only be a temporary fix. Dr. Hatchett suggested emphasizing that this statute change would benefit the State of Georgia as a whole and would aid all regions of Georgia with physician shortages.

The Board does not agree with the 50,000 or less population change recommended by the Governor's office staff.

Action

On **Motion (Childre/Carter)**, the Board approved the law changes as presented to be forwarded to the Governor's office.

RULES

At the October Board meeting, the Board voted to exclude General Surgery from the approved residency/GME specialties list. Mrs. Tucker brought this before the Board again to verify this is the action the Board wants to take.

After much discussion, the Board decided to exclude not only General Surgery from the approved Residency/GME list, but OB/GYN also. The Board believes that General Surgery and OB/GYN are now hospital based specialties which cannot be supported in a rural county of

AGENDA ITEMS

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35,000 or less. The Board believes state funds would be better used in placing Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, and General Pediatric physicians in these rural counties.

Action

On **Motion (Kay/Burrell)**, the Board approved the changes to the Scholarship program rules - Chapter 195-11-.01 General Definitions as presented with the exception of line 21 which will be changed to exclude OB/GYN and General Surgery from approved Residency or Graduate Medical Education specialties. Approved specialties will include Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, and General Pediatrics only. Mr. Lowry requested a modification of this motion to state that these scholarships for approved specialties are to be funded with State funds only. Dr. Kay accepted the modification to his motion and the Board approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Action

On **Motion (Burrell/Lowry)**, the Board approved the practice location request of Tiffany Stanfill Thomas with Dr. Waters abstaining from the vote.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2014 in Atlanta at the GBPW administrative office.

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Hanly, M.D.
Chairman

Cherri Tucker
Executive Director