



Georgia Board for Physician Workforce

State of Georgia

Georgia Board for Physician Workforce Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 31, 2013
8:35 a.m.

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

Board Members Present:

Joe Sam Robinson, Jr., M.D., Chair; James R. Lowry, Vice Chair; Frank Carter, M.D.; Jimmy Childre; Jacinto del Mazo, M.D.; Mark Hanly, M.D.; Carol Burrell; Antonio Rios, M.D.; Bill Herringdine

Board Members Absent:

Dean Burke, M.D.; Tommy Hatchett, M.D.; Duncan Johnson, Jr.; William Waters, IV, M.D.

Staff Present:

Cherri Tucker; Carol Dorsey; Colette Jeffery; Olive Jones-Golden

Guests Present:

Hugh Sosebee, Jr., Mercer University; Penny Hannah, Georgia Department of Law; Bill Bina, M.D., Mercer University School of Medicine, James Zaiden, M.D., Emory University School of Medicine; Linda Womack, Emory University School of Medicine, Joseph Hobbs, M.D., Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Regents University Augusta; Bryan Ginn, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine – Georgia Campus; Susan Moore, Medical Association of Georgia; Martha Elkes, M.D., Morehouse School of Medicine; Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D., Morehouse School of Medicine; George Brown, M.D., Atlanta Medical Center; G. E. Alan Dever, M.D., Ph.D., Consultant; Jessica Rivenbark, South Georgia Medical Education and Research Consortium; Dennis White, Georgia Medical Care Foundation

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Robinson called the Board Meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and requested attendees introduce themselves.

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DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion

Mr. Lowry informed the Board the minutes were sent to them in advance for review and asked if there were any edits or revisions. There were no edits or revisions recorded.

Action

The Board unanimously approved the minutes as written from July 19, 2012, August 23, 2012, and November 8, 2012 as presented by Mr. Lowry.

PHYSICIANS FOR RURAL AREAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Discussion

Staff reported a total of 28 applications were received for PRAA loan repayment program this year. Total FY2013 funds appropriation for PRAA is \$330,000.

There are 3 award amount options from which the Board must choose. Options are:

- 13 awards at \$25,000 each = \$325,000 (\$5,000 remaining)
- 14 awards at \$22,500 each = \$315,000 (\$15,000 remaining)
- 16 awards at \$20,000 each = \$320,000 (\$10,000 remaining)

The Board chose 16 awards at \$20,000 each in order to provide loan repayment assistance to more physicians.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Rios)**, the Board unanimously approved the rate of \$20,000 to enable 16 loan repayment awards to be funded.

Discussion

Staff reported that the PRAA applicants are weighted on the following criteria:

- 1) Specialty
- 2) County Rank (based on rate per 100,000 population)
- 3) Practice Setting
- 4) Amount of Previous Awards from PRAA
- 5) Medical Education Debt

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Staff reminded the Board the PRAA Priority Specialties Rank Order they approved during the November 8, 2012 GBPW Board Meeting:

- 1) Pediatrics
- 2) OB/GYN
- 3) Family Medicine w/OB
- 4) General Surgery
- 5) Family Medicine
- 6) Internal Medicine
- 7) Other Specialties

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Carter)**, the Board unanimously approved the ranking order of the PRAA applicants and authorized staff to offer awards to the top 16 on the list.

PRAA AWARDS FY2013

The following applicants in rank order were approved for awards:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Specialty</u>	<u>County</u>
Rachel Burke, D.O.	Pediatrics	Bacon
Cynthia Mercer, MD	OB/GYN	Union
Lindsay Kinnebrew, MD	Pediatrics	Monroe
Lester Johnston, MD	Pediatrics	Wilkes
Erin London, MD	Family Medicine	Banks
Crystal Bright, MD	Family Medicine	Montgomery
Stalina Gowdie, MD	Family Medicine	Lee
Lorraine Brown, D.O.	Internal Medicine	Talbot
Jonathan Lynch, MD	Family Medicine w/OB	Grady
Kendra Lynch, MD	Family Medicine w/OB	Grady
Jonathan Wade, D.O.	Family Medicine	Bacon
Mark Hancock, MD	Family Medicine	Stephens
Oluwaseun Cole, MD	OB/GYN	Upson
Samantha Boreland, MD	OB/GYN	Crisp
Jennifer Tarbutton, MD	Pediatrics	Washington
James Sutherland, D.O.	General Surgery	Ben Hill

MEDICAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**Practice Approval Requests**

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Discussion

Amy Bailey, MD requested approval for her change of practice location from Hartwell (Hart County) to Carnesville (Franklin County). Franklin County does qualify as an eligible county for scholarship service repayment.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Rios)**, the Board approved the practice location request of Amy Bailey, M.D.

Discussion

Meredith Udell, MD requested approval for her practice location in Colbert (Madison County). Madison County does qualify.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Carter)**, the Board approved the practice location request of Meredith Udell, M.D.

Requests to Defer Service Obligations

Discussion

Lawrence Wilson, MD requested approval to complete a one year fellowship in Critical Care which would defer his practice start date to July 2014.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Rios)**, the Board approved the request of Lawrence Wilson, M.D. to complete a one year fellowship and defer his service obligation start date until July 2014.

Discussion

Lawrence Wilson, MD also requested approval of Albany Area Primary Health Care as his practice location upon completion of fellowship.

This request initiated a lengthy discussion regarding possible changes to the eligibility rules for practice locations of award recipients. Mr. Lowry stated that the face of medicine is changing and that the county population model of 35,000 or less for the basis of practice location is no longer viable in rural Georgia. He recommended that Board staff put together a proposal for changing the eligibility rules of the PRAA program to include primary care service areas rather than counties with populations less than 35,000 to present to the Legislature next year. Dr.

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Carter disagreed stating that the PCSA model is destroying solo practice viability. He believes the current eligibility rules should be maintained. Dr. Hanly also disagreed stating that it would be prudent for the Board to delay making any changes until the Affordable Care Act laws become effective in 2014 and outcomes of these new regulations can be determined. Dr. del Mazo agreed with this stating that more information is needed before the Board makes changes to PRAA law. Mr. Lowry suggested an education session at the next Board meeting in Augusta. Dr. Carter suggested the Board invite members from other agencies and groups connected with rural medicine. Dr. Robinson requested a government official come in and give an overview of what changes can be expected from the Affordable Care Act in 2014.

The Board agreed to have an education session on Wednesday afternoon April 24, 2013 and for staff to invite other agencies and groups in to educate the Board on what they do for rural Georgia and to have someone speak on the Affordable Care Act.

Action

On Motion (Hanly/Lowry), the Board denied the request from Lawrence Wilson, M.D. to practice in Albany, Georgia at the Albany Area Primary Health Care Center.

Discussion

Dr. Joy Rankin graduated from Mercer University School of Medicine in 2005 and entered into a General Surgery residency program in West VA. She was forced to withdraw from her residency program due to health issues with 6 months remaining. Dr. Rankin is asking the Board to defer her scholarship obligation until she can complete her GME program and start practicing. At the July 19, 2012 meeting, the Board requested a release form from Dr. Rankin in order to obtain additional information regarding her request and a letter from her personal physician regarding her ability to re-enter residency. Staff received the requested information and it was presented to the Board.

Action

On Motion (Carter/Hanly), the Board approved the deferment of service obligation for Joy Rankin, M.D. contingent upon her submission of a timeline within 60 days for re-entering and completing a Graduate Medical Education program for the Board to review for approval at its next meeting.

Discussion

Willie Kitchen started his second year at Mercer University School of Medicine in July 2012 and was granted a leave of absence in October 2012. He has received 2 scholarship awards (\$40,000) and Mercer is refunding \$10,000 of the second award. Mr. Kitchen plans to return to Mercer on August 12, 2013 and will resume his studies as a second year student and plans on

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renewing the GBPW scholarship for the 2013-2014 academic year. He is asking the Board to defer acting on his obligation until which time he re-enters and completes school.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Carter)**, the Board approved the deferment of service obligation for Willie Kitchen contingent on his re-entering medical school in August 2013.

Scholarship Recipients in Potential Default

Discussion

Chpryelle Carr, M.D. notified the Board that she resigned from her position at MedLink on November 27, 2012. She had contacted staff earlier in the year for potential practice locations to fulfill her service obligation; however her husband received a career promotion in North Carolina and none of the locations provided to her would have been beneficial for her family. She accepted a job in Charlotte, NC where she can be with her husband and start a family. She completed 28 months of her 36 month obligation and owes \$40,000 in principal and penalties for the remaining 8 months of her service obligation.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Carter)**, the Board declared Chpryelle Carr, M.D. in default of her service obligation and required her to repay \$40,000 for not completing the final 8 months of her service obligation.

Scholarship Recipient Update

Discussion

John William Mix, MD

Dr. Mix is a 2002 Graduate of Mercer University School of Medicine who completed a vascular surgery fellowship in June 2009. He contracted with Tift Regional Medical Center for employment, but they withdrew their contract with Dr. Mix in February 2009 citing economic pressures. After unsuccessfully trying to locate a practice to fulfill his GBPW obligation, Dr. Mix accepted a position with Macon Cardiovascular Institute in August 2009. In July 2009, SMEB voted to defer Dr. Mix's obligation for one year until September 1, 2010 to give him time to locate another practice in a Board approved Georgia County. In December 2010, the Board voted to declare Dr. Mix in default and give him 30 days to repay the \$120,000 in default penalties. Dr. Mix submitted an appeal letter stating that Tift Regional Medical Center should be liable for the penalties. In March 2011, the Board voted to confirm its original decision to proceed with collections from Dr. Mix. A letter was sent to Dr. Mix requiring payment in 30

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days. In April 2011, prior to the 30 day deadline, Dr. Mix's attorney contacted staff requesting a 30 day extension. This was granted, but at the end of this 30 day extension, the attorney contacted staff again requesting additional time for Dr. Mix to locate a Board approved practice location. Dr. Mix appeared before the Board in June 2011 to discuss another extension of time. The Board gave him 90 days to present official signed documentation from his practice and the Central Georgia Health System verifying their opening of an office for Dr. Mix. Dr. Mix provided the documentation in October 2011 but provided no timeline for the opening of the office. In June 2012, staff contacted Dr. Mix for an update on the opening of the Cordele office. He stated that the plans in Cordele did not work out and the practice will open in Eatonton on September 14, 2012. The Board approved the Eatonton practice location provided he fulfill the pre-established regulations requiring 40 hours per week in the qualifying location and provide supporting documentation. On January 30, 2013, Dr. Mix returned his Annual Notification of Status form showing that he only works 16 hours per month at the Eatonton location.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Lowry)**, the Board declared John William Mix, M.D. in default of his service obligation and required him to repay his obligation in cash including penalties, within 90 days.

Discussion

Royce Cannington, MD

Dr. Cannington entered a radiology residency and requested Board approval in 2008 to complete a musco-skeletal fellowship beginning in July 2009. The Board approved the request pending Dr. Cannington enter into a binding contract with a rural community prior to completion of the radiology residency. Dr. Cannington provided the Board with a signed agreement from Donalsonville Hospital that he executed in 2000 when entering medical school which stated he would work there for 4 years after completing his residency training. Dr. Cannington noted in a letter to the Board in March 2009 that the field of radiology is practiced vastly different that it was ten years ago when he signed his contract with the Board as many small rural hospitals in Georgia are turning to teleradiology services. He stated even Donalsonville Hospital utilizes teleradiology services. After completing the fellowship, Dr. Cannington submitted a practice approval request for Alma, Bacon County which was approved by the Board on March 8, 2010 with a beginning practice date of July 1, 2010. It was brought to the Director's attention that Dr. Cannington was residing in Evans Georgia while listing his practice address as Alma Georgia approximately 160 miles apart. Staff contacted him and he responded that he has been working for South Georgia Radiology Associates based out of Alma & Baxley, Georgia providing subspecialty musculoskeletal as well as general radiology coverage for many small, rural hospitals in South Georgia during the past three years. His wife, an allergist / immunologist, began her fellowship in allergy and immunology at MCG in Augusta GA in July 2010 and he provided both remote and on-site (through travel during various times throughout their stay in Augusta) coverage for the group while they were residing in Evans, GA (Greater Augusta area).

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After his wife, Erin, completed her fellowship in June 2012, they moved to Albany GA, as she was offered a job with Asthma and Allergy Clinics of Georgia; a group which has offices in Albany, Americus, Tifton, and Douglas. Dr. Cannington continues to work for South Georgia Radiology Associates (and is now a partner in the group) providing both teleradiology and onsite coverage [as needed] for the group. The group's primary coverage area is rural and underserved hospitals using a combination of both on-site and teleradiology coverage, and is currently seeking to expand those services in SWGA.

The Board must determine if they are going to accept teleradiology in rural areas as satisfaction of physician service obligation.

Dr. Hanly stated that rural radiology departments struggle due to teleradiology. Dr. Carter stated that teleradiology is a big inconvenience for patients and physicians. Results are not available timely and often physicians must treat patients prior to receiving the teleradiology results. Dr. Robinson stated that the health care delivery system is changing and that the Board needs to take this into consideration.

Action

On **Motion (Carter/Lowry)**, the Board voted not to accept teleradiology as fulfilling a physician's service obligation and declared Royce Cannington, M.D. in default of his service obligation and required him to pay the default penalty within 90 days.

RULE CHANGES**Discussion**

The repeal of current New Program Development rules and replacement rules for New Program Development Funding were released for public comment after the last Board meeting in July. The rules were too restrictive and repeal was necessary. One public comment was received and reviewed by the Board. Mr. Lowry suggested removing the term "Underserved Areas" from the rules. He believes this may cause issues if the GME caps are revised under the Affordable Care Act. The Board decided to table the New Program Development rules promulgation for further review by Penny Hannah with the Attorney General's office.

The Board voted to promulgate the changes to Administrative Rules.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Carter)**, the Board promulgated the amendments to rules 195-1-.01 and 195-1-.02.

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PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Discussion

Program outcomes were presented for informational purposes. Two programs are out of compliance and have until mid-February to respond to letters sent to them regarding such. At the next Board meeting, penalties for non-compliance will be discussed.

PHYSICIANS IN GEORGIA – 2010 REVIEW

Discussion

Mrs. Jeffery presented the 2010 data reports beginning with an informational report on the physician assistant workforce in Georgia. Dr. Robinson discussed how the role of mid-level providers in health care will significantly increase with pending physician shortages and the changing health care structure in America. Dr. Valerie Montgomery-Rice stated that Morehouse and Emory are currently working with the Physician Assistant Educational Association on implementing PA programs at their medical schools. The Board discussed the pros and cons of collecting data on a variety of mid-level providers such as nurse practitioners. Mr. Lowry asked if a report could be generated on all types of mid-level providers. Dr. Carter requested a questionnaire for nurse practitioners and other mid-level providers. The problem lies in access to the data from licensing Boards other than the Composite Medical Board. The Secretary of State's office which licenses most mid-level providers is currently struggling to keep up with renewals due to the new immigration laws according to Penny Hannah from the Attorney General's office. It is doubtful that they would have the time to facilitate any GBPW surveys. Dr. del Mazo stated that the Board should stick to their mission of providing physician data.

The Primary Care Specialty maps developed using the AMA ratio were presented by Mrs. Jeffery. The AMA ratio is not an effective standard as demonstrated with these maps for use in determining physician shortages in Georgia.

Dr. Dever explained that the AMA ratio previously approved by the Board as a standard should not be used. It does not address the needs of specific states, but rather the U.S. as a whole. He further explained that the standard deviation of +1/-1 which was previously used is the most accurate standard for use in Georgia.

Action

On **Motion (Lowry/Hanly)**, the Board approved using the +1/-1 standard deviation for the distribution of physicians and the use of the published standards that were adopted prior to the AMA ratio.

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GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Discussion

Mrs. Tucker reviewed the Governor's budget recommendations for FY2013 Amended Budget and FY2014 and also the ZBB program audit of UME. Representatives from the medical schools and the SW GA Consortium spoke on the impacts of budget cuts to their programs.

The Board approved the Chairman writing a letter to the appropriate parties asking that the reductions to GBPW programs be restored.

The next Board meeting will be held in Augusta at Georgia Regents University on April 25, 2013.

The Board meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherri Tucker
Executive Director