



Georgia Board for Physician Workforce

State of Georgia

Georgia Board for Physician Workforce Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 19, 2012
12:35 p.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; Carol Burrell; Frank Carter, M.D.; Jimmy Childre; Jacinto del Mazo, M.D.; Mark Hanly, M.D.; Bill Herringdine; Duncan Johnson, Jr.; Antonio Rios, M.D.; William Waters, IV, M.D.

Board Members Absent:

Paul Fischer, M.D.; Thomas Hatchett, M.D.

Staff Present:

Cherri Tucker; Cheryl Culp; Colette Jeffery; Olive Jones-Golden; Pamela Smith

Guests Present:

William E. Bina, M.D., Mercer University School of Medicine; Trey Seagraves, Mercer University; George Brown, M.D., Atlanta Medical Center; Ray Moreno, Tift Regional Hospital; Linda Boyd, D.O., MCG at GHSU; Joseph Hobbs, M.D., MCG at GHSU; Martha Elks, M.D., Ph.D., Morehouse School of Medicine; Betsy Bates, Morehouse School of Medicine; Margie Coggins, House Budget Office; Linda Womack, Emory University; Marilane Bond, Emory University School of Medicine; Kate Heilpern, M.D., Emory University School of Medicine; Richard McAdam, Emory University School of Medicine; Penny Hannah, Georgia Department of Law; Brandon Reese, WellStar; Tim Kibler, Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Robinson called the Board Meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. and requested attendees introduce themselves. Mr. Lowry commented on the SW GA Consortium Open House scheduled for July 27, 2012. He thanked GBPW and Dr. Walter Moore at GHSU for their assistance throughout the last two years with the new program development process.

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ATTENDANCE

Dr. Robinson asked Ms. Tucker about the 2 resignations received from GBPW Board Members. Ms. Tucker stated that Dr. Dan DeLoach, a plastic surgeon from Savannah and Dr. Crystal Brown, a family medicine physician from Ft. Valley have both resigned. Staff is working with the Governor's office to find replacements.

Dr. Robinson then brought up the issue of Board Member attendance at Board meetings. He stressed the importance of attending all meetings. He stated that it is an honor to serve on the GBPW and absences should be minimal. If an absence cannot be prevented, the Board must decide whether the absence is excused or unexcused. Three consecutive unexcused absences will result in dismissal. Two Board members were absent from the 7/19/12 meeting. Dr. Tommy Hatchett was on call and could not find anyone to cover. The Board voted to excuse his absence. Dr. Paul Fischer was also absent, stating he could attend a Saturday meeting. Therefore, the Board voted this as an unexcused absence which is the 4th consecutive absence for Dr. Fischer.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Rios)**, the Board excused Dr. Hatchett's absence from the meeting and requested the Chairman send letters to Board members who miss two consecutive meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action

Mr. Lowry presented the minutes from the April 26, 2012 meeting to the Board and they were approved as written.

MEDICAL SCHOOL REPORTS

Dr. Robinson requested updates from medical school representatives in attendance. Dr. William Bina, MD from Mercer University School of Medicine thanked the GBPW and the State of Georgia for their continued financial assistance. He stated that orientation and clinical rotations for 3rd year medical students have begun and that their Humanism Ceremony stressing professionalism and humanism had just occurred. Mercer's 3rd campus in Columbus has opened with 15 students. Marilane Bond from Emory University School of Medicine stated that their residency programs continue to grow. They currently have 91 accredited programs with 3 new programs added this year. Dr. Joseph Hobbs from GHSU stated that they are in the process of developing the State's next comprehensive university in conjunction with Augusta State. GHSU is also excited about the expansion of their Athens campus and the work with Board of Regents' GREAT committee which is attempting to expand new GME program development. Dr. Martha Elks from Morehouse School of Medicine stated that they have continued expanding pipeline efforts to include Atlanta University, Spellman, and Clark University. They also hope to expand alliances with local community hospitals.

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Dr. Robinson thanked the medical school representatives for their updates.

GME PROGRAM REPORTS

Dr. Robinson requested updates from the GME program representatives. Dr. George Brown with Atlanta Medical Center stated that their Board outcome scores continue to steadily increase. According to Dr. Brown, 70-80% of Atlanta Medical residents stay in Georgia after completing their residencies. Katherine Heilpern with Emory University School of Medicine stated that they continue recruiting excellent classes and that their residents are staying in Georgia to practice.

DETERMINATION OF AWARD AMOUNT AND INTEREST RATE

Annually, the Board must set the scholarship award amount and interest rate for default in the event the recipient does not receive a medical degree. According to GBPW rules, the interest rate shall be no less than 12% per annum compounded annually. Mr. Johnson asked where the interest payments go and Dr. Hanly explained that interest payments are returned to the State General Fund. Dr. Hanly has spoken with several legislators regarding establishment of a trust fund for GBPW to retain any interest and default payments which could then be used to fund additional scholarships. He hopes to continue pursuing the trust fund issue during this Legislative Session.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Rios)**, the Board stated the award amount for FY2013 is \$20,000 and the interest rate will remain at 12%.

SCHOLARSHIP RENEWALS 2012-2013

Scholarship Renewals for FY2013 presented to the Board:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>
Holly Barmore-Mahoney	Junior	MCG
Leila Borders	Junior	Mercer
Daphne Chambliss	Senior	Morehouse
Ito Edet	Senior	Morehouse
Evan Fountain	Sophomore	MCG
Samuel Franklin	Junior	Mercer
Timothy Fuller	Senior	Mercer
Megan Harris	Senior	PCOM
Jacob Holley, III	Senior	MCG
Mary Keith	Sophomore	Mercer
Willie Kitchen	Sophomore	Mercer
Brittany Martin	Junior	MCG

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Justin Peterson	Junior	Mercer
Jasmine Shell	Senior	Morehouse
Ryan Shingler	Junior	West VA College of Osteopathic Medicine
Rebecca Staub	Junior	Morehouse
Amethyst Walker	Sophomore	Mercer

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Rios)**, the Board voted to approve scholarship renewals.

Daniel Gordon received his first scholarship award for his second year of medical school at Mercer University School of Medicine in Savannah in July 2011. He notified the Board that he must repeat his second year. He requests the Board renew his scholarship due to his commitment to primary care and his acceptance into the pilot Advanced Track in Family Medicine program.

Action

On **Motion (Carter/Hanly)**, the Board voted to approve Daniel Gordon's scholarship renewal pending validation of letter received from him.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2012-2013

The Board received 12 scholarship applications for FY2013. Each applicant was interviewed individually by the Interview Committee (Dr. Hanly, Dr. Carter, Mr. Childre, Dr. Rios, and Dr. Waters) of the GBPW. The Interview Committee scored and ranked the applicants as follows:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>
Joseph Johnson (1)	Freshman	Lincoln Memorial University
Joe Livingston, IV (2)	Junior	MCG
Lynda Greene (3) Tie	Freshman	PCOM
Katie Morgan (3) Tie	Freshman	Morehouse
Kaitlyn Vann (5)	Freshman	Lincoln Memorial University
Edwin Hamilton (6)	Freshman	PCOM
Thomas Smith (7)	Sophomore	MCG
John Di Blasi (8)	Senior	PCOM
Elizabeth Garcia-Cardenas (9)	Freshman	MCG
Syed Rizvi (10)	Freshman	Morehouse
Shenique Anderson (11)	Freshman	Mercer
Matthew Pearce (12)	Freshman	Mercer

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Rios)**, the Board approved 9 new scholarship awards.

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SCHOLARSHIP PRACTICE APPROVAL REQUESTS

Melanie Hall, MD sent in a Practice Approval Request for Piedmont Mountainside Hospital in Jasper (Pickens County) GA. She is scheduled to begin practice on 9/1/2012.

Action

On **Motion (Rios/Hanly)**, the Board voted to approve the practice approval request of Melanie Hall, M.D., to practice Internal Medicine in Jasper, Georgia, Pickens County.

Jane Maddox, MD has already been approved by the Board to practice Pediatrics with Middle Georgia Pediatrics in Pulaski County. She sent in another form for the satellite office of Middle Georgia Pediatrics in Unadilla, GA (Dooly County) for approval.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Rios)**, the Board approved the practice approval request of Jane Maddox, M.D., to add a satellite office in Unadilla, Georgia, Dooly County.

SPECIAL REQUESTS OR DEFAULT STATUS

J. 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 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 will need to approve Eatonton as his practice location.

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Dr. Hanly requested that staff keep close tabs on Dr. Mix. Ms. Tucker stated that staff can conduct site visits and request documentation from the practice to verify work hours and billing records.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Rios)**, the Board approved the request of John Mix, M.D., to practice in Eatonton, Georgia, Putnam County provided he fulfills the pre-established regulations requiring 40 hours per week in the qualifying location and provides supporting documentation.

Meredith Udell, MD

Dr. Udell was approved by the Board in April 2012 to practice in Liberty County Georgia. Contract negotiations fell through and she is again searching for a qualifying practice location. She is requesting an extension of the 90 day limit of starting practice after completing GME. She is concerned with the delays that may occur with the credentialing process.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Carter)**, the Board approved the request of Meredith Udell, M.D. for an extension of 160 days rather than the contracted 90 days after completing residency to begin practicing in a qualified area in order to complete her obligation.

Brandon Buckner

Mr. Buckner withdrew from PCOM without receiving a medical degree. According to his scholarship contract, he is required to pay principal plus 12% interest accrued annually. As of August 9, 2012, Mr. Buckner owes \$75,586.56. He is requesting that the Board waive any future interest and that he be allowed to pay a level monthly payment over a 10 year period.

Ms. Tucker stated that by law, the Board is not allowed to waive interest accruals.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Carter)**, the Board denied the request of Brandon Buckner and stated he must repay as his contract requires.

Joy Rankin, MD

Dr. 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.

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The Board requested a release form from Dr. Rankin in order to obtain additional information regarding her request. This will be discussed further at the next Board Meeting.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Waters)**, the Board requested a letter from her personal physician regarding her ability to re-enter residency and release form from Dr. Rankin allowing the Board to obtain information regarding her deferment request.

Arthur E. Brice, Jr.

Mr. Brice withdrew from Mercer University School of Medicine in December 2003 without receiving a medical degree. Mercer refunded half of his scholarship award, leaving Mr. Brice responsible for \$10,000 plus interest. The Board notified Mr. Brice that he must either return to Mercer in the fall of 2004 or repay the penalty amount. He did not return to Mercer and in July 2005, he appealed to the Board for a deferment until December 2008. The Board approved the deferment and advised Mr. Brice to borrow funds to pay off the penalty rather than continuing to accrue interest on the balance. Despite numerous attempts by staff to contact Mr. Brice, there has been no contact with him since 2009. Because of this, staff is requesting that his file be turned over to the Attorney General's office for collection. Mr. Brice currently owes \$29,673.28 as of August 1, 2012.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Rios)**, the Board voted to turn over Arthur Brice's file to the Attorney General's office for collection.

BUDGET REPORTS-YEAR END EXPENDITURE REPORT

Mrs. Tucker reported that GBPW expended 99.78% of the FY2012 budget. Dr. Robinson asked why almost \$100,000 had lapsed back to the State. Mrs. Tucker stated that since we use program based budgeting, we are not allowed to transfer funds between programs. The majority of the lapsed funds were in Administration.

RULES-RELEASE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

In February 2012, the Governor issued an Executive Order for agencies to review their respective rules and regulations to reduce inefficiencies, redundancies, and consolidate all rules and regulations to make them more responsive to the citizens of Georgia. Based on this Executive Order, Mrs. Tucker has been reviewing GBPW rules and regulations.

New Program Development – Family Medicine and Pediatrics

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The current New Program Development rules are too restrictive by including only Family Medicine and Pediatrics. These rules sections need to be repealed (195-4-.02 and 195-7-.02).

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Rios)**, the Board approved the release for public comment of the notice of intent to repeal Family Medicine New Program Development (195-4-.02) and Pediatrics New Program Development (195-7-.02) rules with the Attorney General's approval.

New Program Development – Graduate Medical Education

These two New Program Development sections (195-13-.01 and 195-13-.02) will replace the repealed sections listed above

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Rios)**, the Board approved the release for public comment of the notice of intent to adopt New Program Development-Graduate Medical Education Funding rules (195-13-.01 and 195-13-.02).

Administration

The Administration section needs to be amended as follows:

195-1-.01 **General Definitions** (2)a adds the phrase “at least three of whom shall be from rural areas” after the phrase “Five members shall be primary care physicians” and adds the phrase “at least three of whom shall practice in rural areas” after the phrase “five members shall be physicians who are not primary care physicians”. Also, the number one is changed to two members being representatives of rural, nonprofit hospitals.

195-1-.02 **Organization** (1) changes the word “physician” to “health care” and adds the phrase “to increase the number of physicians and health care practitioners practicing in underserved rural areas”. (2) Adds the phrase “by ballot” after the phrase “They are elected” and changes the “two” year term to “one”. (4) Changes “good and valid cause (as determined by the Executive Committee), or without an excused leave of absence from the Chairman (or if the Chairman for any cause cannot act, from the Vice Chairman)” to “excuse approved by resolution of the Board”. (8) Adds the phrase “or for travel as a member of a committee of the Board, which travel has been authorized by the chairman or by action of the Board”.

Dr. Waters asked about the term limits in 195-1-.02. Mrs. Tucker stated that the one year term limit is listed in the law and that the rules are being corrected to adhere to the law. Mr. Lowry asked about Board input regarding selection of Board Member replacements. Mrs. Tucker stated that anyone can make recommendations to the Governor's office. Mr. Lowry stated that the

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Board needs to be involved in the selection process and should be thinking of suggestions to discuss at the next meeting.

Action

On **Motion (Carter/Hanly)**, the Board approved the release for public comment of the notice of intent to amend Administration rules (195-1-.01 and 195-1-.02).

RULES-PROMULGATE RULES

There was no public comment received on the rule changes that were released for public comment after the last Board Meeting in April.

Action

On **Motion (Childre/Hanly)**, the Board voted to promulgate the repeal of SMEB rules, the adoption of Scholarship (195-11) and PRAA (195-12) rules from SMEB, and the amendments of Medical School Operating Grants (195-6-.01) and Medical School Capitation Program (195-9-.01) rules.

OTHER BUSINESS**Legislative Request-Prescriptive Language**

Mrs. Tucker brought before the Board the idea of changing the interest rate charged for scholarship defaults. Perhaps, the interest rate could be changed from the minimum of 12% to the prime rate in effect at the time plus 2%. This may be a fairer rate for students who end up in default.

Dr. Hanly stated that the scholarship program is not a cheap educational loan program and that the penalties should be harsh in order to deter default. The scholarship program currently has a very low default rate and he doesn't believe anything should be changed. Mr. Childre, Mr. Johnson, and Dr. Carter all voiced agreement not to change the interest rate.

Action

On **Motion (Hanly/Johnson)**, the Board voted not to pursue any prescriptive language changes in rules and programs at this time.

Mrs. Tucker brought up the idea of changing some of the GBPW programs. For example, waiting to disburse scholarship funds after students have finished a certain time frame such as after 1st year is completed. Or hold payments until 3rd or 4th year of medical school has been completed and then pay retroactively. The loan repayment program could possibly be based on a tiered population parameter such as less than 35,000 population, 35,001-50,000, etc. More funds

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could be offered for the areas with the lowest population. This may provide a means of bringing in more physicians to Georgia.

Dr. Hanly and Dr. Carter stated that if we change the programs, it may give the appearance that they aren't working. It may be best to concentrate on creating new programs. A group of Board members could bring the ideas and suggestions to Legislators in January. This issue will be further discussed at the next Board meeting.

2011 Medical School Graduate and 2011 GME Exit Surveys

Mrs. Jeffery touched on the highlights of the latest reports issued by GBPW. She mentioned that one area of note was the fact that prestige of the GME program factored significantly in choice of residency program. Dr. del Mazo mentioned that medical students are looking for high quality residency programs. Some of the smaller programs in Georgia may not appeal to these students. He feels that the larger hospitals in Atlanta such as Piedmont and Wellstar should be approached for new development of GME.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Committee appointments are listed in the Board meeting notebooks distributed to Board members. Dr. Robinson told Board members to review and let him know if any changes are requested.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mrs. Tucker notified Board members that a conference call meeting will be scheduled after the Governor's office releases Budget instructions for FY2013 Amended and FY2014 Budgets.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2012. Location details to follow.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherri Tucker
Executive Director