



Georgia Board for Physician Workforce

State of Georgia

Georgia Board for Physician Workforce Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 18, 2013
1:35 p.m.

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

Board Members Present:

Joe Sam Robinson, Jr., M.D., Chair; Jimmy Childre; Mark Hanly, M.D.; Antonio Rios, M.D.; Tommy Hatchett, M.D.; George McCluskey, M.D.; David Kay, M.D.; Carol Burrell; William Waters, IV, M.D.

Board Members Absent:

Frank Carter, M.D.; Jacinto del Mazo, M.D.; James Lowry; Bill Herringdine

Staff Present:

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

Guests Present:

George Brown, M.D., Atlanta Medical Center; William E. Bina, M.D., Mercer University School of Medicine; Toyosi Morgan, 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; Nakisha Hall, Morehouse School of Medicine; Betsy Bates, Morehouse School of Medicine; Hugh Sosebee, Mercer University School of Medicine; Kallarin Richards, Georgia Department of Community Health; Tary Brown, AAPHC; Tom Ford, Lookout Mountain Community Services; Jason Bearden, Highland Rivers Behavioral Health; Caroline Abercrombie, M.D.; Victor Moldova; Joy Rankin, M.D.; Tim Rankin.

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Robinson called the Board Meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

BOARD ATTENDANCE

Mrs. Tucker noted that Duncan Johnson, who was the consumer member on the Board, has been moved to the Department of Natural Resources Board per the Governor's request. That position is now vacant. Absent Board members included Dr. Carter, Dr. del Mazo, Mr. Lowry, and Mr. Herringdine.

Action

The Board excused the absences of Dr. Carter, Dr. del Mazo, James Lowry, and Bill Herringdine. (Hanly/Hatchett)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from April 25, 2013. (Hanly/Rios)

PUBLIC COMMENT

A. New Program Development Rules

No public comment was received on the New Program Development rules which were posted on the GBPW website. There was also no comment at the Board meeting. The Board will vote on these later.

B. Report from Tary Brown – Albany Area Health Care Center

Mr. Tary Brown, Chief Executive Officer of the Albany Area Primary Health Care, Inc., made a presentation to the Board on Georgia Physician Recruitment and Retention. He stated there are recruitment issues in the Albany area based on changes in the primary care workforce. Many new physicians value the quality of life over career and choose to work a fixed schedule. It is extremely difficult to recruit for inpatient/outpatient hours. Changes in the workforce arena include fewer scholarships offered by the National Health Services Corp, changes in the HPSA scoring process, and ineligibility of hospitalists for NHSC scholarships. Mr. Brown hopes to work with GBPW this Legislative session to increase funding for the PRAA program and stated that he supports GBPW's efforts in this undertaking. He also supports the issue of defaulted funds being returned to GBPW rather than going back to the General Fund. Dr. Hanly stated that the defaulted funds issue has been raised before and that the Board welcomes outside support for this effort.

AGENDA ITEMS**DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS**

C. Mental Health Provider Project – (NoGAP) – Jason Bearden

Mr. Jason Bearden, CEO of Highland Rivers Behavioral Health, then made a presentation on NoGAP, which is the North Georgia Partnership. NoGAP is a coalition between the Emory University School of Medicine and 6 Community Service Boards in north Georgia. This partnership hopes to improve quality of behavioral and mental health care across north Georgia, improve access to care, and prepare for the upcoming changes in health care. NoGAP hopes to partner with GBPW in developing psychiatric residency programs at Community Service Boards. This will in turn increase the pipeline for psychiatrists in Georgia where there is currently a tremendous shortage. Mr. Bearden and his group hope to have further discussions with the Board and to be able to present details at the upcoming Legislative session.

Dr. Robinson thanked both presenters and agreed that the Board would be willing to work with them and their groups. He did not think a Board vote was necessary on this.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. Non-Compliant Outcomes**

At a previous meeting, the Board questioned whether or not they have the authority to waive contractual penalties set forth in capitation contracts when hospitals are non-compliant with their required outcomes. According to Penny Hannah, Senior Assistant Attorney General, the Board does have that authority.

B. Interest Rate Options

Previously, the Board inquired about the options it has regarding the interest rate charged when dealing with recipients in default of their contracts. Penny Hannah states that the interest rate is set by statute and there is no discretion given to the Board to adjust the interest rate downward. This applies to mediation also. The only method for change of the interest rate would be a law change through the General Assembly.

C. Sanctions on Professional License

The Board has questioned whether or not it is authorized to make a complaint to the nursing Board regarding a recipient's contract default. Penny Hannah states that while the Board could make a complaint to the nursing Board, it appears that the complaint could not be acted upon by that Board.

D. Telemedicine

The Board inquired about the physical practice of medicine versus telemedicine as it applies to compliance of scholarship recipients with their contractual service obligations. The statutory obligation of recipients is that they "practice" in an underserved county (as designated by the Board). The word "practice" does not necessarily mean that a physician must reside in the

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

county where they practice. Ms. Hannah urges the Board to craft rules which cover the practice of telemedicine and other practice areas in which a physician's physical presence may not be required. By strengthening the rules, all persons who accept educational funding from the Board will be on notice of the Board's expectations as to their practice and compliance.

Mrs. Tucker stated that the Board can draft rules to define "practice" and "direct patient care". Dr. Hanly believes this will require the formation of a sub-committee. Dr. Robinson appointed Dr. Hanly to chair this sub-committee and requested any interested volunteers to contact Dr. Hanly.

E. Royce Cannington Appeal – Data Review Results

At the January 31, 2013 GBPW meeting, the Board declared Dr. Cannington in default of his contract. He has been providing a combination of both onsite and teleradiology coverage for South Georgia Radiology Associates based out of Alma and Baxley. The Board voted not to accept teleradiology as fulfilling a service obligation. Dr. Cannington appeared before the Board at the April 25, 2013 meeting to appeal the default ruling. The Board at that time tabled a decision pending further information from Dr. Cannington.

Since then, Dr. Cannington has supplied GBPW staff with a file of all his patient transactions that occurred between June 2010 and April 2013.

Mrs. Tucker went over the summary data furnished by Dr. Cannington. Penny Hannah stated in her decision, that upon review of the data and the current practice of radiology, that the Board would not prevail in litigation with Dr. Cannington.

Action

The Board approved the data furnished by Royce Cannington, M.D. as proof of contract compliance. The Board declared that he is not in default of his contract, but that he must provide staff with a quarterly report documenting continued compliance. (Hanly/McCluskey)

F. Requiring Recipients to Live in or near Communities of their Practice Location

The Board had previously inquired as to whether or not they could require recipients to live in or near the communities where they practice. Mrs. Tucker told the Board that they were not authorized to do so. However, she later found a letter to the former Board Executive Director from the Attorney General's office dated 10/15/2008 which stated that the Board at the time (SMEB) would likely have the authority to enforce this provision. Dr. Hanly stated that this issue needs to be clarified in the rules and Dr. Robinson suggested that Mrs. Tucker confirm the legal decision from 2008 with Penny Hannah to determine if it is still valid.

The Board tabled the decision on requiring recipients to live in or near the communities where they practice pending clarification from the Attorney General's office. (No motion)

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

G. OB Services provided in Qualifying Counties

Mrs. Tucker brought an article before the Board titled “Born far from home: Fewer rural hospitals delivering babies”. The article discusses the trend in Georgia of rural hospitals closing their OB/GYN programs due to overhead and lack of physicians available to work them. There are only 21 qualifying counties in Georgia with a newborn or obstetrics program. This creates a hardship for scholarship recipients with OB/GYN specialization. They are contractually obligated to practice in a qualifying rural county, yet there are hardly any opportunities available to them. General surgery is another specialty with the same issue.

Dr. Waters commented that he believes this should be a top priority for the rules sub-committee. What exactly are the primary care specialties that the Board should approve? He feels that the Board is painting itself into a corner with OB/GYN. For example, there may be one hospital with an OB program surrounded by rural counties which use the hospital for deliveries. However, the hospital is not in a qualifying county so a scholarship recipient could not practice in any of these counties. This is setting the scholarship recipients up to fail.

Dr. Hanly stated that the Board has addressed this issue in the past but on a case by case basis. The Board needs a specific set of rules that are used uniformly in all situations. This will make things easier not only for the Board, but also for the award recipients.

Dr. Robinson requested that any rule changes be reviewed by the Attorney General’s office. Also, there should be a “grandfather” clause for previous contracts.

H. PRAA Ranking System

Mrs. Jeffery discussed the current ranking system for PRAA which is based on:

1. Specialty
2. Top 50% or greater need by county in their specialty
3. Practice type
4. Least prior awards from Board’
5. Medical education debt load

Some additional items to consider are:

1. Current salary
2. Loan repayment from hospital or employer
3. Health outcomes ranking
4. Resident in their county of practice

Dr. Hanly stated that the additional variables give a more accurate picture of each applicant and will allow the Board to make better decisions on award recipients.

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

Action

The Board approved the addition of new variables for ranking PRAA applicants. (Hanly/Rios)

Action

The Board approved the same specialty ranking for PRAA that was used in FY2013 (Hanly/Burrell):

1. Pediatrics
2. OB/GYN
3. Family Medicine with OB
4. General Surgery
5. Family Medicine
6. Internal Medicine
7. Other Specialties

I. Law Review/Changes

In past discussions, the Board considered lowering or changing the interest rate charged on defaults. Mrs. Tucker asked the Board if they are interested in presenting a request to the Legislature to change the interest rate or does the Board wish to keep the current rate of 12%?

Dr. Hanly stated that the high interest rate was adopted to act as a deterrent to default. He questions a decision to bring this issue before the Legislature. Dr. Robinson agreed stating that the Board should be prudent with the number of issues brought to the Legislature.

Action

The Board voted to keep the current interest rate of 12% and award amount of \$20,000 for FY2014 scholarship awards. (Rios/Waters)

MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATE SURVEY REPORT 2013

Mrs. Jeffery presented the 2013 Medical School Graduate Survey Report. Some uses for this report include producing fact sheets for the Legislature, informing the public on the medical school pipeline, and providing information to interested parties. Some important findings of this year's report include: 38.5% of graduates declared a primary care specialty and that only 41.5% ranked a Georgia GME program in their top 3 choices for GME. Georgia students are not ranking Georgia programs.

Dr. Robinson asked how this year's report compares to previous ones. Mrs. Jeffery stated that there was a small increase in graduates planning to stay in Georgia for GME training. He then

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

questioned the ratio of GME slots to medical students. Are there enough slots in Georgia? Mrs. Jeffery replied that the number of slots is sufficient because Georgia students aren't ranking the slots that are already in place. Dr. Robinson stated that perhaps the quality of the residency programs in Georgia needs to be improved and asked for comments from the audience.

Dr. Hobbs with the Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Regents University believes that Georgia residency programs are not successfully marketing themselves. In order to be competitive with surrounding states, the programs need to address this issue.

Mr. Childre questioned the number of medical school graduates versus the number of available GME slots in Georgia. Mrs. Jeffery replied that there are 550 graduates and 474 PGY1 slots currently. The Board then discussed various aspects of the issue of Georgia students not ranking to Georgia GME programs.

BUDGET**A. Year End Expenditure Report**

Ms. Smith presented the FY2013 year end expenditure report. She noted that most program funds were expended with small amounts left in GME and New Program Development. Amounts left in the budget will revert to the state's General Fund. Overall, 99.66% of the budget was expended.

B. AFY14 and FY2015 Budget Instructions

Mrs. Tucker stated that instructions from OPB had recently been received. This year there is no reduction plan required. The Board will still need a budget meeting to discuss moving funds between programs. The Board can also present an off-line request to OPB. This request can be used to ask for additional funding for the loan repayment program or other additional funding deemed important by the Board. This off-line request is due by September 1st, so a conference call meeting will be necessary. Mrs. Tucker solicited letters from the teaching hospitals and medical schools regarding upcoming needs from them which may also be included in the off-line request.

RULES**Action**

The Board approved the promulgation of New Program Development Rules. (Hanly/Burrell)

DETERMINATION OF AWARD AMOUNT AND INTEREST RATE

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

Action

The Board voted to keep the current interest rate of 12% and award amount of \$20,000 for FY2014 scholarship awards. (Rios/Waters)

SCHOLARSHIP RENEWALS

Before discussions began on individual students, Mrs. Tucker noted that the National Health Service Corps does not fund remedial course work for their scholarship recipients.

A. Willie Kitchen

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 due to health issues. He has received 2 scholarship awards (\$40,000) with Mercer refunding \$10,000 of the second award due to the leave of absence. At the January meeting, the Board approved the deferment of the service obligation for Mr. Kitchen contingent on his return to medical school in August 2013. He plans to return to Mercer on August 12, 2013 and will resume his studies as a second year medical student. Mr. Kitchen requests his GBPW scholarship be renewed for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Action

The Board approved the scholarship renewal of Willie Kitchen. (Waters/Hanly)

B. Lynda Greene

Mrs. Greene is a student at PCOM who is required to repeat two courses that she did not pass in her first year of medical school.

Action

The Board approved the scholarship renewal of Lynda Greene. (Rios/Waters)

C. Katie Morgan

Staff has received a partial transcript on Katie Morgan, but has not been able to contact her via mail, phone, or e-mail regarding an updated transcript. Morehouse will not issue a letter of good standing until staff is able to contact her. Mrs. Tucker asked the Board if they want to award her scholarship without any contact from her regarding her current circumstances. Dr. Hanly recommended renewing pending receipt of her transcript within 30 days.

AGENDA ITEMS**DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS**

Action

The Board approved the scholarship renewal of Katie Morgan pending receipt of transcript within 30 days. (Hanly/Hatchett)

D. All other recipients

All other renewal recipients are in good academic standing.

Action

The Board approved scholarship renewals for the following recipients: (Hanly/Waters)

Scholarship Recipient	Medical School	2013-2014 Class	Academic Standing
Shenique M. Anderson	Mercer	MS-2	Good
Leila T. Borders	Mercer	MS-4	Good
Evan H. Fountain	MCG at GRU	MS-3	Good
Samuel G. Franklin	Mercer	MS-4	Good
Elizabeth Garcia-Cadenes	MCG at GRU	MS-2	Good
Daniel H. Gordon	Mercer	MS-3	Good
Mary W. Keith	Mercer	MS-3	Good
Holly B. Mahoney	MCG at GRU	MS-4	Good
Brittany M. Martin	MCG at GRU	MS-4	Good
Matthew A. Pearce	Mercer	MS-2	Good
Justin W. Peterson	Mercer	MS-4	Good
Ryan R. Shingler	WVSOM	MS-4	Good
Thomas C. Smith	MCG at GRU	MS-2	Good
Rebecca A. Staub	Morehouse	MS-4	Good
Kaitlyn N. Vann	Lincoln-DeBusk	MS-2	Good
Amethyst C. Walker	Mercer	MS-3	Good

APPROVAL OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2013-2014

Dr. Hanly thanked the members of the Interview Committee for their service in interviewing the scholarship applicants. The applicants were ranked as follows:

1. Justin Law
2. Joseph Johnson
3. Jontu Solomon
4. Brittany Chandler
5. Rachel Anderson
6. Christopher Kiker
7. Thomas Molitor

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

8. De'smond Henry
9. Gabrielle Joseph
10. Matthew Kahrman
11. Ruma Ram
12. Corey Fussell
13. Jason Bowman
14. Lindsey Cochran

Action

The Board approved six new scholarship awards for the 2013-2014 academic year which will be offered to number 1-6 in the rank order. If additional funds become available, scholarship awards will be offered by following the rank order 7-14. (Hanly/Rios)

SCHOLARSHIP PRACTICE APPROVAL REQUESTS**A. Matthew Jenkins, M.D.**

Dr. Jenkins has submitted a practice approval form for Elberton, GA which is in Elbert County. His specialty is Family Medicine and his practice start date is August 1, 2014. Elbert County is a qualifying county.

Action

The Board approved the practice approval request of Matthew Jenkins, MD. (Hanly/Kay)

B. Jonathan Wade, D.O.

Dr. Wade is having difficulty growing his Family Medicine practice in Bacon County. There are nine other adult primary care physicians in Bacon County which has created a stagnant patient volume of less than thirty patients per week. Dr. Wade is proposing to work additionally in Berrien, Clinch, and Lanier counties with Southland MD. He is also considering a hospitalist position in Dodge County with EMCare. Direct patient care of at least 8 hours per day would be involved in both of these proposed positions. All of these counties are qualifying counties.

Action

The Board approved the request of Jonathan Wade, D.O. to expand his service area to include Berrien, Clinch, Lanier, and Dodge counties in order to meet his financial needs until his practice is established. (Waters/Kay)

AGENDA ITEMS**DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS**

C. Trina Webb, M.D.

Dr. Webb is requesting a change of work hours from 40 per week to 29 per week. She understands that this will extend her service obligation period, but wishes to do so due to her long commute, health concerns, and childcare issues for her young children. Her service obligation will be extended to January 10, 2015.

Action

The Board approved the request of Trina Webb, MD. to reduce her hours to 29 per week which will extend her service obligation. (Hanly/Rios)

D. Tiffany Stanfill Thomas, M.D.

Dr. Thomas is an OB/GYN physician who will finish her residency in July 2014. She has requested practice approval for West Georgia Healthcare for women in Carroll County. Carroll County does not qualify, but the clinic serves patients from the surrounding rural counties of Heard and Haralson which do qualify. She has not been able to locate a position in any rural county and would be willing to document hours/percentages spent with rural patients.

Dr. Hanly stated that this is exactly the situation Dr. Waters had discussed earlier. There are no rural hospitals where Dr. Thomas can deliver babies. He favors granting her request. Dr. Kay believes the Board should table this decision until the Rules Committee meets and makes a uniform rule covering this situation. Dr. Robinson feels that the Board should also seek legal advice from Penny Hannah at the Attorney General's office.

Action

The Board deferred a decision on the practice approval request of Tiffany S. Thomas, MD until the October meeting pending legal advice from the Attorney General's office. (Hanly/Rios)

SCHOLARSHIP DEFAULT**A. Arthur Brice Update**

Mr. Brice received \$20,000 in scholarship funds from SMEB in 2003, but withdrew from medical school after 6 months. Mercer University School of Medicine returned \$10,000 leaving Mr. Brice owing \$10,000 in principal. Due to Mr. Brice's failure to complete medical school, GBPW considers him in default of his contract. At the July 19, 2012 GBPW meeting, the Board voted to turn Mr. Brice's file over to the Attorney General's office to begin collection procedures. As of May 1, 2013, he owes a total of \$32,304.61. On April 10, 2013, Mr. Brice's attorney sent a letter to the Attorney General's office with a settlement offer. He proposes to pay a total of \$30,000 to settle his debt. He will make an immediate payment of \$5000 upon acceptance of the offer. The remaining balance will be paid by execution of a promissory note in

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

the amount of \$25,000 payable, without interest, in sixty (60) monthly installments of \$416.67 each. At the April 25, 2013 meeting of the Board, the Board voted they had no objection to the repayment offer however, the legalities of interest accrual and the amount of debt owed per Georgia Law would need to be worked out in mediation. Prior to the mediation hearing scheduled for May 8, Mr. Brice signed a promissory note stating he would pay \$5,000 down and \$416.67 in monthly payments, with accruing interest, until the debt is paid in full. To date, we have received the down payment and 1 payment.

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

Dr. Evans was found in default of his obligation due to practicing in Orlando Florida, where his spouse could be near her family, and not meeting his contract obligation. He was notified of the default on April 24, 2009 and that he owed the Board \$144,000 (including \$48,000 in principal and \$96,000 in penalties) no later than June 22, 2009. Dr. Evans failed to repay the Board and his file was turned over to the Attorney General’s Office for collection. Dr. Evans negotiated a payment plan to pay an initial payment of \$9,600.00 and then monthly payments of \$720.00 for 15.5 years. The repayment began in November 2009 and Dr. Evans has made the majority of the payments on-time, with two or three late payments. He has paid a total of \$40,560 as of July 1, 2013.

In May 2013, Dr. Evans notified the Board that in April of 2010, his family moved from Orlando Florida to St. Petersburg Florida to pursue a better career opportunity as a private practice anesthesiologist. After 1-1/2 years, the practice disintegrated and he was forced to move back to Orlando where he was able to return to work at his previous job. They had purchased a home in St. Petersburg and struggled with selling it. The lender would not approve a short sale and stated they do not waive deficiency balances and offered no assistance. On January 15, 2013, a Uniform Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure was issued against him in the amount of \$788,494.55. He has not been able to get the judgment vacated. He has an attorney negotiating with the bank at a rate of \$300/hr and he says Dr. Evans will have to get a loan in order to pay off the balance.

Dr. Evans states his family is currently renting a modest home, with minimal savings and few assets. He has approximately \$65,000 in student loans remaining and has \$50,000.00 in unsecured credit debt most of which is in default. He has been advised to file bankruptcy but chooses not to.

Dr. Evans is requesting the Board reduce the total amount he owes to the \$48,000 principal and reduce the monthly amount from \$720.00 to \$300.00 in order to ensure consistent and timely payments.

Mrs. Tucker reminded the Board of Penny Hannah’s statement that the Board may consent to lessen the measure of damages based on compelling reasons such as life-threatening illness or loss of ability to practice medicine due to illness or accident.

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

Action

The Board deferred a decision on Dr. Raymond Evans' contract default pending an opinion from the Attorney General's office. (Hanly/Rios)

C. Caroline Abercrombie, M.D. – Repayment Request

Dr. Abercrombie graduated from Mercer University School of Medicine in 2008 and served as an Instructor in the Department of Anatomy at Mercer until June 2009. She entered a general surgery residency in Macon in July 2009 and in July 2010, she requested the Board approve a change of residency from general surgery to anesthesia. The Board granted an initial deferment of her scholarship obligation in July 2010 pending her acceptance into an anesthesia residency program by July 2011. She began teaching at East Tennessee State University's Quillen College of Medicine in January 2011. In August 2012, Dr. Abercrombie wrote to the Board stating she had applied for a Georgia Medical License in order to work as a general practitioner, but the Georgia Composite Medical Board denied her application because she had not completed 1 full year of graduate medical education training and she was continuing her search for a residency position. Dr. Abercrombie was notified the Board would review the request at its next meeting. In November 2012, the Board granted another deferment until June 30, 2013 to obtain a residency position and stated she must also obtain a Georgia medical license by July 1, 2014 or her contract would be declared in default and she would owe \$240,000 (\$80,000 in principal and \$160,000 in penalties).

Dr. Abercrombie's attorney contacted the Mrs. Tucker on April 30, 2013 stating that East Tennessee State University was willing to work out an arrangement with Dr. Abercrombie which will allow her to repay the principal amount in a lump sum (\$80,000) if the Board will accept it as full payment in lieu of her working in a Georgia Community as defined in her contract. The attorney (and Dr. Abercrombie) were notified that she would need to make a formal request of the Board for this proposal and also note in the proposal how the remaining amount of \$160,000 in penalties would be paid to the State.

On June 17, 2013, Dr. Abercrombie's attorney again contacted Mrs. Tucker with a proposal from Dr. Abercrombie and included a letter from ETSU. Dr. Abercrombie is proposing her obligation be satisfied by the lump sum payment of \$80,000. If this proposal is declined, Dr. Abercrombie request that her obligation be deferred for an additional 3 years in order for her to complete and cultivate the curriculum she has developed at ETSU. At the completion of her teaching assignment at ETSU (in 2017), she will then enter and complete an Emergency Medicine Residency (additional 3 years), obtain a Georgia Medical License and practice medicine in a Board approved community or facility for four years.

Dr. Abercrombie is here today to discuss her proposal with the Board.

Dr. Abercrombie stated that she has become very involved at Quillen College of Medicine. She is an associate professor and has found her passion there. Quillen educates physicians to provide

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

services in rural Appalachian areas as well as other rural southern areas. She explained that teaching is not a profitable career, but that she is willing to work with the Board in a repayment plan if they so agree.

Dr. Hanly said the Board's ability to make a decision on this proposal is based on Legislative mandates and that Dr. Abercrombie may have to work out an arrangement with the Attorney General's office. Mrs. Tucker reminded the Board that according to Penny Hannah, they do have the authority to make this decision.

Dr. Robinson stated that he would prefer to get guidance from the Attorney General's office before making a decision on Dr. Abercrombie's proposal. If the Board does have the authority to make this type of decision, a methodology needs to be developed to ensure fairness to all future potential defaults.

Action

The Board deferred a decision on Dr. Caroline Abercrombie's contract default pending clarification from the Attorney General's office. (Hanly/Rios)

D. Joy Rankin, M.D. - Appeal

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. She has not been able to return to her residency program and continues to have health issues for which she has received no diagnosis.

Dr. Rankin was declared in default at the April 25, 2013 Board meeting. The Board stated that she must repay her obligation by August 1, 2013. Dr. Rankin is present and would like to appeal the Board's decision.

Dr. Rankin stated that her body gave out with 6 months left in her surgical residency program. She has been seeing numerous doctors since then hoping to get a definite diagnosis. Since August 2012, she has had several surgeries and numerous procedures. She is present to appeal the Board's decision that she is in default of her contract.

Dr. Rios asked Dr. Rankin what her plans are and if she has a medical license. She does not have a license, but hopes to get one and get back into medicine. If not surgery, perhaps she could practice Family Medicine or Internal Medicine.

Dr. Hanly said he still is not comfortable making decisions about defaults until we get further clarification from the Attorney General's office.

AGENDA ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ ACTIONS/ NEXT STEPS

Action

The Board deferred a decision on Dr. Joy Rankin's contract default pending additional information from the Attorney General's office. (Childre/Waters)

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Board approved the nominating committee recommendations for the following officers for FY2014: **Chairman:** Dr. Mark Hanly, **Vice-Chairman:** Dr. Jacinto del Mazo, and **Secretary/Treasurer:** Dr. Antonio Rios.

NEXT MEETING DATE

A conference call meeting will be scheduled in August to discuss the AFY2014 and FY2015 Budget. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2013 in Athens at the GRU/UGA medical partnership campus.

PASSING OF THE GAVEL

Mrs. Tucker presented Dr. Robinson with a plaque of appreciation from the Board for his years of service as Chairman and Dr. Robinsons passed the gavel to Dr. Hanly, the new Board Chairman.

The Board meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherri Tucker
Executive Director