



The Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce Advisory Board Meeting Minutes October 22, 2020

Date and Location: October 22, 2020. Meeting held via Webex and Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce Boardroom.

Attendees: Tim Alford, MD; Thomas Dobbs, MD; Hugh Gamble, MD; Ed Ivancic, MD; Loretta Jackson-Williams, MD; Thomas Joiner, MD; Aurelia Jones-Taylor, MD; Luke Lampton, MD; Tim Moore, MD; Katherine Patterson, MD; Shannon Pittman, MD; Ann Rea, MD; Shirley Schlessinger, MD; Janice Sherman, MPA; Wayne Slocum, MD; Mellissa Stephens, MD; Jason Word

Absent: Jennifer Hicks, MD; Ashley Hood, DO; Jamie Miller, Andrew Ouzts, MD

OMPW Staff: John R. Mitchell, MD; Zonzie McLaurin, DHA; Julie Paul

I. **Call to Order:** Dr. Joiner called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. A quorum was met.

II. **Review of Minutes**

The Board reviewed and approved minutes, without amendment, from the following meetings: May 7, 2020 OMPW Advisory Board Meeting (**Attachment #1**), June 30, 2020 OMPW Executive Board meeting, (**Attachment #2**) and August 25, 2020 OMPW Executive Board meeting (**Attachment #3**).

III. **Project Updates**

OMPW has awarded funding for each of the following projects:

a. **Baptist Memorial Hospital - North Mississippi (Oxford, MS):**

OMPW awarded \$195,663 in financial assistance to Baptist Memorial Hospital - North Mississippi. Seger Morris, MD, has been hired as Internal Medicine Program Director.

The program submitted an internal medicine initial program application to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), participated in a site visit, and is awaiting approval by the ACGME Review Committee (RC). If accredited in January, the program will enter the 2021 National Residency Match Program (NRMP) and begin residency training July 1, 2021.

b. **Baptist Memorial Hospital – Desoto (Southaven, MS):**

OMPW awarded \$120,148 in financial assistance to Baptist Memorial Hospital - Desoto. Daniel Hogue, MD, has been hired to lead and develop a new Family medicine Residency Program in collaboration with Northeast Mississippi Community Health Center. The program continues to work on infrastructure development and plans to submit its ACGME application before the end of 2020. If accredited, the program will begin residency training July 1, 2022.

c. Mississippi Medical Education and Research Consortium, MS MERC /DRMC Family Medicine Residency Program (Greenville):

OMPW awarded \$455,770 in financial assistance to the Delta Family Medicine Program. The program filled 7 of its 8 ACGME approved slots, began operation on July 1, 2020, and is progressing well. Board members are encouraged to view the program's residency information video at www.msmerc.org.

OMPW approved an additional \$1.6 million earmarked for continuity clinic renovation and equipment, but due to multiple factors, funds have not yet been awarded. Early renovation work, completed prior to the program's opening, established an academic training room and temporary continuity clinic.

OMPW presented the \$1.6 million funding request to the Institutes for Higher Learning (IHL) for approval, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, construction bids were not finalized. Dr. Mitchell will present the request to IHL again after the CARES Act funding is resolved.

The more extensive renovation process was modified and is being accomplished in phases. Phase 1 of the continuity clinic renovation will be completed by July 2021 or sooner to accommodate the second class of residents.

Note: The Delta Regional Medical Center recently adopted a resolution officially renaming Delta Regional Medical Center and its affiliated clinics and medical specialty services to Delta Health System.

d. Magnolia Regional Health Center (Corinth):

The Emergency Medicine Residency program received ACGME initial accreditation and began July 1, 2020 with an inaugural class of six trainees. Rick Carlton, MD, has been hired as Emergency Medicine Program Director. The program received initial ACGME accreditation in April but did not participate in the NRMP match. The Emergency Medicine Program filled all six residency slots and is operational.

e. North Mississippi Medical Center – Internal Medicine Residency Program (Tupelo):

OMPW awarded the North Mississippi Medical Center's Internal Medicine Residency Program \$243,350 in financial assistance. David Pizzimenti, DO, has been hired as Internal Medicine Program Director. The program is ACGME accredited and is actively recruiting for its inaugural class of 12 residents. The program will begin residency training July 1, 2021.

f. Baptist Memorial Hospital - Golden Triangle (Columbus):

Baptist Memorial Hospital - Golden Triangle graduated its inaugural class of six Internal Medicine residents in June 2020 despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. The program received ACGME initial continued accreditation. New staff members are addressing recommendations included in their ACGME review.

g. Mississippi State Hospital (Whitfield):

The ACGME granted Mississippi State Hospital Sponsoring Institution initial accreditation and conducted an RC site visit. Jon C. Jackson, MD, has been hired as Psychiatry Program Director. OMPW supported a consultant from Partners in Medical Education to assist in the development of their program application. If ACGME accredited, the program will participate in either the NRMP or Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP) and begin residency training July 1, 2021.

h. Memorial Hospital at Gulfport (Gulfport):

OMPW awarded \$243,400 in OMPW in financial assistance to Memorial Hospital at Gulfport. Dimitrios Dimitriades, MD, has been hired as Family Medicine Program Director. The ACGME granted Gulfport Memorial Sponsoring Institution initial accreditation and conducted an RC site visit. Gulfport Memorial plans to develop Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine residency programs over the next three years. The family medicine residency will be the first to begin operations. If ACGME accredited, the program will begin residency training July 1, 2021.

i. Meharry Medical College, Department of Family Medicine (Nashville, TN) and A.E. Henry Community Health Center, Inc. (Clarksdale) Collaborative

Meharry Medical College, Department of Family Medicine (Nashville) and A.E. Henry Community Health Center (Clarksdale) are collaborating to develop a Rural Training Tract Family Medicine training program in the Mississippi Delta. The collaboration is based on a 3-year planning and development grant from HRSA.

The collaborative plans to submit their initial program application to ACGME in November. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, program leadership plans to postpone their site date visit to 2023 instead of 2022.

Residents who participate in the rural training tract program will complete their first year of training in Nashville. Second and third year residents will complete residency rotations in Batesville and Clarksdale. The collaborative is working with Delta Regional Health Center to establish collaborative rotation opportunities.

Dr. Mitchell serves as a member of the collaborative work development group. He has requested that the Mississippi Board of Medical Licensure (MSBML) revise its current policy that limits residents to two (four-week) out-of-state training periods. This limitation is not adequate for the purposes of a three-year residency program. MSBML has not yet decided to permanently revise its policy.

MSBML has agreed to grant a one-year out-of-state training license for first year RTT residents. This will permit Mississippi trainees to move back and forth freely between training site borders.

If accredited, the program will begin residency training July 1, 2021. Residents will train in Nashville during their PGY-1 year and complete their second and third years of training in the Delta.

IV. Misc. Updates: (information only)

a. GIS Program:

OMPW's GIS Mapping tool is close to completion and will soon be available to the public via OMPW's website: www.OMPW.org. Dr. Mitchell encouraged Board members to access the new link at <https://healthworkforcems.com> and provide feedback. Due to programming changes, Board members will need to request access from OMPW to test the site.

OMPW is working closely with the MSBML to add 2020 and 2021 physician licensure information to the program and will obtain MSBML's approval before a public platform is launched.

b. Director's Report:

Board members received a draft of the OMPW Director's Report preceding the Advisory Board meeting. Dr. Mitchell requested that the Board submit feedback and/or questions over the next few weeks.

Resident Retention Data

The report includes several charts that focus upon resident and physician retention data collected from GME programs across the state. Of the 197 residents trained to date, 102 were retained (approximately 52%). Based on a Meritt Hawkins financial study on the economic impact of physicians, 52% continued retention will result in an economic contribution of \$460 million.

OMPW-collected retention data indicates that residents who leave the state tend to practice outside of the Southeast. This may be a reflection of a larger applicant pool.

V. Old Business

a. Medicaid Funding Update:

Subject: Title 23 Medicaid, Part 202: Hospital Services, Chapter 1: Inpatient Hospitals, Rule 1.14: Inpatient Hospital Payments

The Division of Medicaid has filed the following Rule with the Secretary of State's office:

Agency: DIVISION OF MEDICAID

Compilation: No

Proposed Date: 09/25/2020 **Final Date:** 10/21/2020

Effective Date: 12/01/2020 **Withdrawal Date:**

Rule: *Title 23 Medicaid, Part 202: Hospital Services, Chapter 1: Inpatient Hospitals, Rule 1.14: Inpatient Hospital Payments*

Summary: *This Administrative Code filing corresponds with the following two (2) SPAs: 1) SPA 19-0019 Graduate Medical Education (GME) that revised the calculation of direct graduate medical education (GME) costs for Mississippi hospitals with an accredited and Medicare approved teaching program, as determined by the Division of Medicaid, effective October 1, 2019. 2) SPA 20-0018 that allows the Division of Medicaid to address calculations for GME payments for a hospital during a cap*

building period effective June 1, 2020.

System Number: 25201

OMPW has worked closely with Medicaid leadership to amend the State Plan Amendment (SPA) to change the adjusted discharge add-on fee to a per resident amount. Wording of a second amendment has been approved and Medicaid will now address calculations for GME hospital payments during the hospital's full cap building period. The new ruling will go into effect in December.

b. CARES (HB 1782) Covid-19 Award Update.

OMPW continues to seek and distribute funding to designated hospitals through Legislative House Bill 1782 which addresses needs and expenses related to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The legislature awarded \$4,425,000 in available funding effective July 1, 2020. Hospitals identified to receive funds include: Baptist Memorial Hospital - DeSoto, Baptist Memorial Hospital - North Mississippi, Gulfport Memorial Hospital, Mississippi Delta Family Medicine Residency Program, and the Mississippi State Hospital.

As written, the bill "would provide \$5 million in funds to the Office of Physician Workforce for five hospitals to start or expand their physician residency programs to address the dire shortage of physicians in the state, especially primary care physicians, which limits the ability of the state to properly address patient needs and the disproportionate effects on the minority communities during the continuation of the current Covid-19 public health emergency, in order for the state to be better prepared to take care of existing Covid-19 patients and the expected additional patients during the continuation of the current Covid-19 public health emergency later this year."

Dr. Mitchell presented the Board with a brief timeline outlining meeting dates and discussion topics.

As of today's meeting, the IHL has not sent instructions to OMPW or hospitals regarding disbursement of funds. OMPW has executed and distributed new program agreements to hospital CEOs, however, without clear guidelines, permissible expenditures remain unclear. Dr. Mitchell remains hopeful that IHL will provide definitive instructions to hospitals by next week regarding submission of claims and reimbursements.

The awards timeline, based on the legislation, is March 1st - December 30th. However, due to this year's rescheduled legislative session, legislators are requesting that all hospitals return unspent monies by December 15th.

The Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) must approve each OMPW/hospital program agreement. Legislation specifies that disbursed funds must meet all CARES criteria and adhere to OMPW's legislative mission to start or expand physician residency programs.

The IHL has engaged the CPA firm of Harper, Rains, Knight and Company, P.A. to

assist in determining funding submission and application approval processes.

Dr. Mitchell is scheduled to meet with the IHL again on November 19th. It is not known at this time whether additional meetings will be necessary. Senator Mims is working closely with OMPW as it seeks to resolve delays.

c. Plans for the Future of OMPW

Dr. Mitchell suggested that the Board begin the evaluation of OMPW's goals and mission (**Attachment #4**) by creating a Strategic Planning Session in the spring or early summer of 2021.

The Board voted and approved the following motion without dissent:

MOTION

Dr. Mitchell moves that Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce (OMPW) proceed with the development of a Strategic Planning Session for the purpose of reviewing OMPW's goals and objectives, workforce scope, and leadership structure. Recommendations from the meeting, and additional Board suggestions and evaluations, will be presented before the full Advisory Board at the October 2021 Biennial Board Meeting.

Since OMPW was created through House Bills 317 and 422, certain substantial changes would need to be approved by the state legislators during the 2022 legislative session.

VI.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

REMINDERS:

Next Executive Board meeting: November 24, 2020

Next Biannual Full OMPW Board meeting: May 6, 2021