



The Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce Advisory Board Meeting Minutes May 7, 2020

Date and Location: May 7, 2020; Meeting held via Webex.

Attendees: Hugh Gamble, MD; Ashley Hood, DO; Thomas Joiner, MD; Ed Ivancic, MD; Loretta Jackson-Williams, MD; Aurelia Jones-Taylor, MD; Luke Lampton, MD; Tim Moore, MHA; Andrew Ouzts, MD; Katherine Patterson, MD; Shannon Pittman, MD; Melissa Stephens, MD; Shirley Schlessinger, MD; Jason Word

Absent: Tim Alford, MD; Thomas Dobbs, MD; Jennifer Hicks, MD; Jamie Miller; Ann Rea, MD; Janice Sherman, MPA; Wayne Slocum, MD

Guests: Italo Subbarao, DO, Dean, William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine; Evelyn R. Walker, MD, DIO/Program Director; Mississippi Delta Family Medicine Residency Program

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

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

II. **Recognition of Visitors**

The Board welcomed Dr. Evelyn R. Walker, DIO/Program Director, Mississippi Delta Family Medicine Residency Program and Dr. Italo Subbarao, Dean, William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

III. **Review of Minutes**

The Board reviewed and approved minutes from the October 17, 2019 Advisory Board Meeting (**Attachment #1**) and March 24, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting (**Attachment #2**).

IV. **New Business**

A. **Election of the Vice-Chair Position and Executive Board Members**

The Advisory Board nominated and unanimously approved Dr. Luke Lampton as the next Executive Board vice-chair. According to OMPW Advisory Board Articles of Governance, a new vice-chair shall be elected or nominated during the spring meeting preceding the vice chairperson's completion of his or her two-year term. Current vice-chair, Dr. Thomas Joiner, will replace outgoing Chair, Dr. Katherine Patterson, on July 1, 2020.

Newly elected OMPW Executive Board members include: Thomas Joiner, MD, Chair; Luke Lampton, MD, Vice Chair; Thomas Dobbs, MD; Loretta Jackson-Williams, MD; Andrew Ouzts, MD; Katie Patterson, MD; Shannon Pittman, MD; Melissa Stephens, MD; Shirley Schlessinger, MD.

V. Project Updates

A. COVID-19 Impact on GME Activity and ACGME Review Process

Dr. Mitchell has incorporated funding that has been awarded, or is in the process of being awarded by OMPW, to Mississippi residency programs. He informed the board that a significant amount of GME activity is still occurring despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Mitchell also expressed gratitude to the Legislature for their continuing support of GME development.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has suspended, rescheduled, or postponed program site visits in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This may result in delays for GME program projected start-up dates.

B. Baptist Memorial Hospital - North Mississippi (Oxford)

Seeger Morris, DO, has been hired as Program Director of the hospital's Internal Medicine Residency Program and is beginning early developmental work. Based on their financial request and funding application, OMPW is in the process of awarding \$195,663 in funds.

C. Baptist Memorial Hospital - DeSoto (Southaven)

Daniel Hogue, MD, has been hired as Program Director to lead and develop a new Family Medicine Residency Program in collaboration with Northeast Mississippi Community Health Center. Based on their financial request and funding application, OMPW is in the process of awarding \$120,148 in funds.

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

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded Meharry Medical College a three-year Residency Planning and Development Grant to develop a Rural Training Tract in Nashville, TN, Batesville, and Clarksdale, MS. The grant is a collaborative partnership with the A.E. Community Health Center. Dr. Mitchell is serving as a member of the collaborative work development group.

Dr. Jones-Taylor, A.E. Henry Community Health Services CEO, informed the board that the community health center is seeking instructors and finalizing affiliation agreements with Northwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center. The Women's

Clinic in Clarksdale recently agreed to serve as collaborators for OB-GYN rotations. Dr. Taylor hopes that the training program plans will finalize by the end of this month.

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 their residency rotations in Batesville and Clarksdale.

Dr. Mitchell has requested that the Mississippi State Board of Mississippi of Medical Licensure (MSBML) revise its current policy that limits residents to two (four-week) out-of-state-training periods. Dr. Mitchell will continue to work with MSBML on revising the 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 sites borders.

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

The Mississippi Delta Family Medicine Residency Program filled seven of its eight ACGME-approved slots and will begin training residents on July 1, 2020.

Lee Ann Bowlin is the new Program Coordinator. Dr. Walker is in the process of recruiting an Associate Program Director and finalizing rotations and faculty contracts. Dr. Lessa Philipps, Professor Emeritus and former chair of UMMC's Department of Family Medicine, is leading faculty development sessions

The residency will begin operations and establish its continuity clinic at King's Daughter's Hospital in Greenville. Construction bids have been sent to contractors. If construction costs are within reason, renovations will begin in mid to late June.

Establishing an affiliation site for inpatient pediatric rotations remains a challenge. Dr. Mitchell is consulting with UMMC leadership to find a possible solution and investigating other possible collaborations.

F. Magnolia Regional Health Center (MRHC) (Corinth)

MRHC received ACGME initial program accreditation in April, 2020 to establish a 6-6- Emergency Medicine residency program. The program filled all residency slots outside of the NRMP match with PGY-1 applicants. Residents will begin training on July 1, 2020. Rick Carlton, MD, has been hired as Program Director.

G. North Mississippi Medical Center (NMMC) (Tupelo)

NMMC received ACGME initial program accreditation in December 2019 to establish

a 12/12/12 Internal Medicine residency program. The program delayed opening the program in December in order to participate in the National Residency Match Program (NRMP) recruitment cycle. Residency training will begin July 1, 2021.

Based on NMMC's Internal Medicine Residency financial request and funding application, OMPW has awarded \$243,350 in funds. David Pizzimenti, DO, serves as Program Director.

H. Baptist Memorial Hospital - Golden Triangle (Columbus)

The program will graduate their first class of Internal Medicine residents in June, 2020.

I. Mississippi State Hospital (Whitfield)

The hospital received ACGME initial sponsoring institution accreditation and is currently working with a consultant from Partners in Medical Education to develop a psychiatric program application.

J. Baptist Memorial Hospital - Gulfport

Gulfport Memorial Hospital received ACGME initial sponsoring institution accreditation. Hospital leadership plans to develop Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, and Emergency Medicine residency programs throughout the next three years. Family Medicine will be the first residency program to be developed with a planned start-up date of July 1, 2021. OMPW has awarded the hospital \$243,400 based on their application and funding proposal. A Family Medicine Program Director has not yet been identified.

K. Southwest Regional Medical Center (SMRMC) (McComb)

SMRMC is not currently pursuing residency development.

L. Singing River Hospital

Singing River Hospital has expressed some interest in GME training which Dr. Mitchell will investigate.

VI. Legislative Funding Request

Dr. Mitchell presented the Board with a summary of OMPW legislative financial requests for the fiscal year, July 1-2020-June 30, 2021) (**Attachment #4**).

OMPW will request \$1,500,000 in funding which includes the office's operating budget, education, research, and consulting services.

The office will request \$6,000,000 in funding to assist with six developing programs - North Mississippi Medical Center (Internal Medicine); Baptist Memorial Hospital North Mississippi (Internal Medicine); MSMERC/DRMC (Family Medicine); Mississippi State Hospital (Psychiatry), Baptist Memorial Hospital-Gulfport (Family Medicine); and Baptist Memorial Hospital DeSoto (Family Medicine).

OMPW will request \$1,000,000 in funding from the Department of Mental Health for development of the Mississippi State Hospital's Psychiatry Department or \$7,500,000, total, if OMPW assists the program, directly.

OMPW Funding Criteria: Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the amount of legislative funding remains uncertain. All GME programs, listed, above, are at the same state in development and remain interested in pursuing expansion. Program leaders have been informed that funding will be distributed according to a structured priority system developed by Dr. Mitchell several years ago in consultation with the Attorney General's Office.

OMPW's highest grant priority is to establish adequate Family Medicine residency programs with geographic distribution. The next level of priority is focused on primary care, in general, along with other specialties of need, i.e., psychiatry, general medicine, surgery, and internal medicine. Other specialties will be considered based on availability of funds, location, and need. Under-served and low primary care physician to population areas/regions also receive a higher priority. Readiness to proceed with development is also considered. Each program has been asked to develop a budget detailing ways in which requested funding will be implemented and submit a copy to OMPW for review.

Allocation of funds will be decided by the Advisory Board.

VII. Miscellaneous Updates for Information Purposes, Only

- A. GIS Program:** Prior to COVID-19, OMPW had planned to implement the GIS program this summer. Plans are postponed until the COVID-19 situation stabilizes.
- B. Resident Retention – Preliminary Numbers (Attachment #3)**

OMPW has created a longitudinal database program that identifies physicians who have completed residency training in a Mississippi ACGME-accredited programs, are not currently active in a GME program, and are practicing physicians or fellowship students in or out of the state. Physicians who have completed residency training are tracked through data provided by GME Program Coordinators, National Physician Identifier (NPI) number, and internet searches.

Dr. Mitchell presented the Board with the number and percentage of individuals who completed residency training in an ACGME-accredited program from 2009-

2019. Resident data includes graduates of Baptist Memorial Hospital - Gulfport, EC-HealthNet, Forrest General, Magnolia Regional Health Center, North Mississippi Medical Center, Merit Health Wesley, and UMMC-Family Medicine.

Sixty percent (142) of the 236 residents who completed a residency program in Mississippi from 2009 through 2019 are currently practicing in Mississippi. This corresponds with national data provided by the National Residency Match Program reports. Practice location (rural vs. urban) are included in the database sets, but, will need further analysis.

Dr. Mitchell indicated that this was in ideal time to begin tracking post-residency physician practice location since many of the GME programs are only now producing their first group of graduates and GME coordinators are becoming familiar with OMPW recruitment and retention requests. OMPW will also collaborate with the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship program to confirm rural practice retention data.

VIII. Old Business

The Board had no old business items to discuss.

IX. Questions, Comments, Additional Business

There was no additional questions, comments or additional business items to discuss.

X. OMPW Recognizes Dr. Katherine Patterson for Board Leadership

OMPW recognized Dr. Patterson for her outstanding service as both Chair of the Executive Committee and Advisory Board.

XI. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.