

Indiana Graduate Medical Education Board

Friday, April 30, 2021

11a Eastern

Virtual Meeting Conducted via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Tricia Hern, Michelle Howenstine, Tim Putnam, Rachel Shockley, Tom Sonderman, Beth Wrobel, Steven Becker, Paul Haut

Advisory Members Present: Kaitlyn Brown

Commission Staff Present: Eugene Johnson, Josh Garrison

Board Administrative Service Staff Present: Linda Bratcher

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 A.M. Eastern time.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Six (6) Board members were counted as present. A quorum necessary to conduct business was confirmed.

REVIEW OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the January 29, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Tim Putnam called for a motion to approve the January 29, 2021 meeting minutes. Tom Sonderman moved to approve the minutes; Michelle Howenstine seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Eugene Johnson reviewed the outcome of the 2021 Indiana General Assembly, stating the GME Fund received \$4M for fiscal year (FY) 22 and \$5M for FY23. Josh Garrison thanked Grant Achenbach and Luke McNamee with the Indiana State Medical Association for working with legislators to help the GME Fund receive an additional \$1M in funding. He thanked all partners that worked to help continue the General Assembly's support of GME funding.

Tim Putnam commented that the additional \$1M gives the expansion positive trajectory; he asked how the expansion plan was viewed in the statehouse and if the Board needed to be doing anything to justify the Board's existence. Josh Garrison stated that it needed to be more well-known at the statehouse and a renewed conversation highlighting the successes of individuals leaving residency and working in Indiana would be beneficial. He recommended doing a media campaign and conversations with stakeholders so it isn't discussed once every two years. Tim Putnam asked Josh Garrison and Eugene Johnson to put together a formal plan to present at the next Board meeting. Beth Wrobel asked if they should put faces to supported slots and highlight those individuals who stayed. Michelle Howenstine noted that the Arnett Family residency could be one to highlight as they graduate their first class in spring 2021 and three out of four residency are staying in Indiana.

Josh Garrison stated that new Board appointments are close to being completed.

FISCAL UPDATE

Eugene Johnson reviewed the GME Fund balance; he noted that although the fund balance is \$7.3M, with pending obligations and other costs, the balance is \$746,754. He noted that \$500,000 was returned to the balance as Southwest Indiana GME Consortium had decided not to move forward with utilization of a Program Development Grant they'd previously been awarded. He stated that at the Board's last meeting, they had \$4.4M of Expansion Grant requests, of which they approved \$3.3M (75% of the total request) and the \$746,000 fund balance minus the remaining \$1.1M in funding requested, would leave a deficit of \$355,000. He stated that the \$4M for FY2022 approved in the 2021 legislative session would not become available until 7/1/21 and currently, there was not enough to fund the remaining 25% in Expansion Grant requests outstanding.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Tim Putnam discussed the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services notification that the Consolidated Appropriations Act provided an allocation for additional residency positions. Michelle Howenstine provided feedback that soon applications will be sent out; she stated it's 1000 spots over five years; 200 per year throughout the United States. She stated as of her understanding of the rules, there are four categories that must get 10% of the grant each: rural, programs over the cap, states with new medical schools and those serving a health profession shortage area. She stated the remaining funds can go to anyone who applies. Curt Ward concurred with Michelle Howenstine's feedback. Michelle Howenstine asked for clarification on what a health shortage area encapsulates; Beth Wrobel stated it was based on the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) score. Rachel Shockley asked if it was for any hospital or system that was previously capped; Michelle Howenstine stated that, as she understood, yes. Curt Ward noted that it's really open to everyone as he and Michelle Howenstine understood it.

The Southwestern Indiana Graduate Medical Education Consortium (SIGMEC) Emergency Medicine Program Development Grant was discussed; Eugene Johnson informed the Board that, as previously stated, these funds had been unencumbered and returned to the GME Fund, and that SIGMEC planned to reapply for them later. Steven Becker stated to the Board that, as SIGMEC began working on their application to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), they began working through everything needing to be done, and the leadership group at Deaconess decided they wanted to put the application on hold for a least a year. He stated that the leadership group at Deaconess says they are committed to this residency and it is in their long-range plan and he'd expect that they may be back to apply for funding next summer, however, this is not certain. Michelle Howenstine stated that, in a year, they will have a better idea of the workforce need, and that the Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM) is still very much behind the Emergency Medicine (EM) residency program should it be supported by Deaconess. Steven Becker noted that there is one EM residency program in the state of Indiana; when looking at national statistics, that data doesn't directly apply to Indiana and certainly not to areas outside of major metropolitan areas.

He continued noting that there is a critical need in his area, and that there is a debate nationally amongst EM leadership on whether they should expand residencies or not. Tim Putnam asked Steven Becker for clarification on the logic of fewer residencies. Steven Becker stated he's lived thru cycles of shortage and oversupply in his field of Radiology and he suspects it will be the same in EM, times of high volume and low volume in the emergency room.

FUNDING PRIORITY COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

Kaitlyn Brown went over the five points the Committee felt were most important, including how to prioritize funding in the full amounts for each funding bucket. She stated that the Committee had three primary takeaways; fewer feasibility grants with an eventual sunset, capping Expansion grants at \$45,000 and funding more rural residencies and keeping the \$500,000 Program Development Grant which is foundational to adding slots.

She commented there were two secondary takeaways, preserving primary care specialties and making sure they look at what students and specialties have they funded in the past and what where the outcomes before any decision was made on added or removing specialties. The final takeaway was capping Expansion Grant eligibility at five years from the date of a program's first expansion grant award.

Steven Becker stated that as it relates to the five-year rule on Expansion grants, the idea was that if funds get too tight, they'd look at prioritizing newer vs older programs, and this was built into the updated scoring matrix. He stated that he felt that needing to have a formal decision to add this rule will depend on what the funding looks like and how many new programs come forward, but it's not something they need to tackle at this time. Tim Putnam noted this is a topic they can discuss at their next meeting. Beth Wrobel noted she'd like to see what happens with the CMS funding in the next few months, Tim Putnam agreed.

Tim Putnam thanked Kaitlyn Brown for all her work leading the committee. Steven Becker asked Kaitlyn Brown to stay in touch during her residency.

NEW BUSINESS

Eugene Johnson discussed the IUSM administrative services and stated that IUSM was looking to extend the current agreement to a new end date of 6/30/22 and they would expend their current balance of \$13,560. Tim Putnam noted that the discussion involved an agreement with IUSM and that if anyone wished to recuse themselves, they could do so. Michelle Howenstine and Steven Becker recused themselves. Linda Bratcher also recused herself. All left the Teams call. Tim Putnam asked for a motion to extend the agreement. Beth Wrobel moved to approved, Tom Sonderman seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Sarah Swiezy, a 3rd year student at IUSM was nominated by Michelle Howenstine to serve as the Board's IUSM student advisory member. Michelle Howenstine noted that Ms. Swiezy was accepted to medical school and deferred for a year so she could go to Rural America/Teach America. She noted she's focused on primary care for her time in medical school and that she's invested in advocacy, having worked with several in the meeting on projects. Eugene Johnson noted he'd spoken with Clif Knight and that MU-COM would be identifying and proposing a candidate soon.

Tim Putnam called for a motion to approval Sarah Swiezy as a student advisory member. Rachel Shockley moved to approve; Beth Wrobel seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Tim Putnam discussed awarding the remaining 25% of the Expansion Grant funding that the Board approved in January for SIGMEC and Franciscan Health. Eugene Johnson discussed creating one agreement for each of the residencies if the Board approved the remaining funding; he noted that

creating one award agreement for each program would not occur until after July 1 when FY22 GME funds were available.

Michelle Howenstine and Steven Becker recused themselves from discussion and left the MS Teams meeting. Tim Putnam asked for a motion to approve the remaining 25% in Expansion Grant funding. Tom Sonderman moved to approve; Paul Haut seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Gary Zwierzynski with Parkview Health (“Parkview”) discussed the status of Parkview’s Family Medicine Rural Training Track program; he noted that Parkview is reevaluating that program. He invited the Board to Fort Wayne for future meetings and stated that Parkview had received initial accreditation for General Surgery (GS) and Internal Medicine (IM) programs. He gave updates on acquisitions of capital equipment for the GS and other planned program expansions. He stated that the IM continuity clinic will be built and finished later in 2021. He noted that Parkview would be applying for a Transition year program later in 2021 that would be one-year based and will serve as the precursor for several programs. He commented that only one Physical Medical and Rehabilitation (PM&R) program is in Indiana and Parkview feels they have the resources to build the program in Fort Wayne. He hoped the Board might consider being part of the anticipated success of this program and that he knew it was not part of the RFP. He commented that the ACGME requires an average daily census of eight to start this program, and they have 50 inpatient beds at their Randallia location with an average daily census exceeding 45.

Tim Putnam noted that, prior to the pandemic, the Board had plans for regional visits and meetings. He thanked Gary Zwierzynski and Parkview for the offer to visit and hold a meeting in Fort Wayne.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Tabitha Arnett with the Indiana Osteopathic Association (IOA) announced that the IOA had their spring Continuing Medical Education (CME) for DOs coming up, she noted they have gotten American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) credits; they applied for AAFP for those MD and allopathically-boarded DOs who would like AAFP and AOA credits; she listed the dates as May 21 thru May 23. She stated that they had over 110 registered and they expected very good attendance. She concluded by announcing the IOA annual meeting would be in December.

THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES TO KAITLYN BROWN

The Board thanked Kaitlyn Brown for her service as the MU-COM student advisor to the Board.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was announced as scheduled for Friday, July 30, 2021 in Indianapolis. The Board discussed whether the meeting would be virtual or in-person. Both Josh Garrison and Eugene Johnson discussed the emergency order that allowed for virtual meetings and how its expiration could mandate public meetings return to being in-person. The Board stated they preferred to meet virtually in July and asked for CHE to provide updates on how the meeting would be conducted.

ADJOURNMENT

Tim Putnam asked for a motion to adjourn. Beth Wrobel moved to approve; Michelle Howenstine seconded. Motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 12:17p Eastern.