

Indiana Graduate Medical Education Board

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

2p Eastern

Virtual Meeting Conducted via Microsoft Teams

**Meeting Minutes**

Board Members Present: Steven Becker, Paul Haut, Michelle Howenstine, Tom Sonderman, Beth Wrobel, Tricia Hern, Jeff Rothenberg

Advisory Members Present: Kaitlyn Brown

Commission Staff Present: Eugene Johnson

Board Administrative Service Staff Present: Linda Bratcher

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:03p.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A roll of seven (7) Board members were counted as in attendance and a quorum was confirmed.

**DISCUSSION ABOUT GMEB STATEMENT CONCERNING NATIONAL AND STATE ISSUES**

Jeff Rothenberg asked the Board to address current events happening both nationally and statewide; he noted that in their roles in healthcare they take care of everyone regardless of who they are; he noted that racism is a ugly scar on our country; he commented that a group like the Board should make a statement announcing their support for change and treating everyone equally like they do in medicine. Tricia Hern noted that this was valid and that medicine is committed to doing its part in treating everyone with equity, treating all patients and training physicians to do the same. Jeff Rothenberg noted that most of the physicians they are training are helping change current doctors. Michelle Howenstine agreed that a statement was warranted. Kaitlyn Brown thanked Jeff Rothenberg for bringing the topic up; she noted that it was an interesting time to be in medicine and the conversations happening were a part of her and her follow residents' training. Tricia Hern stated that it made her think about what they need to look at in future programs to put a focus on these issues and train future residents on inequalities and how they can deliver the best care possible.

Additional discussion took place concerning the topic; it was noted as an apolitical topic from a medical point of view. Paul Haut asked how as appointees of the Governor, the process of making a statement would work; Eugene Johnson commented that he'd touch base with his executive leadership and provide a response. Steven Becker noted that the Hippocratic Oath that they do at the Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM) a few times a year really addresses these issues; he noted that it could possibly be included in a future Board meeting. He noted that it's an oath, not a pledge. Board

members agreed with this. Tricia Hern stated she appreciated the discussion about this topic and how they as a Board can help influence future programs and trainees.

### **REVIEW OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes from the January 29, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Beth Wrobel noted that she was listed as in attendance but was not there. Eugene Johnson stated he'd make this correction in the final minutes. Tricia Hern asked for a motion to approve the minutes; Tom Sonderman moved to approve; Paul Haut seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

### **FISCAL AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Eugene Johnson provided an update on the state budget situation; he noted that he'd informed the Board about the state's 15% budget cut requirement and that CHE was working to see if the GME Fund would be exempted. He noted that some accounting changes moved \$2.52M that was previously listed as being pre-encumbered back to the GME Fund balance; he stated this put the current budget amount at \$6,275,272.67. He commented that on July 1, 2020; outstanding grant awards of \$4.415M will hit the fund and will leave a fund balance of \$1.8M; he stated that the \$4M scheduled to hit the GME Fund could be reduced to \$3.4M if the Fund does not get an exemption from the 15% reversion requirement which would put the FY2021 fund balance at \$3.759M, assuming the Board approves all funding applications on the current agenda. He shared the estimated budget developed that showed how the expected spending would be for FY2021, FY2022 and FY2023; he noted that funding requests would be greater than available funds starting in FY 2022.

Beth Wrobel noted that they were nearing a fiscal cliff and economic challenges might impact the ability for more funds. Michelle Howenstine asked about last meeting if they discussed prioritizing funding; Eugene Johnson noted they'd discussed potentially ending feasibility study grants and the updated metrics were done to help prioritize funding; he noted the upcoming programs in Northwest Indiana and Parkview Health in Fort Wayne were included in the future budget projections. Beth Wrobel asked if 2020 was the year that, in the fiscal analysis for the GME bill and fund, the fund was supposed to double. Eugene Johnson reviewed the fiscal impact statement from the initial bill and discussed those numbers which showed that they was a projected funding increase between \$9M and \$13.5M at this point.

Tricia Hern asked for feedback about how funding will be handled for future programs. Beth Wrobel noted their charge was to fund primarily rural and underserved areas. She noted that scoring has been used but that at what point do they use that number to determine who does and does not get awarded? Eugene Johnson reviewed the grantees the Board that had received funding and their locations. Steven Becker commented that they will need to continue working on this and that getting more funding would likely be challenging. He noted the initial number for new doctors needed was 500; the Tripp Umbach work showed the need was 350-400 at maturity. He noted that Peter Nalin previously stated that a goal of the initial bill was to expand new programs outside of the Indianapolis market to help with the physician maldistribution issue around Indiana, hence they decided to allowed established programs to grow; he stated he thinks they are at a different point with the Board and funding now and he'd like a small group to be developed to discuss and bring recommendation back to the next Board meeting.

Eugene Johnson asked if anyone had questions about the estimated budget that CHE put together; Paul Haut noted that the stability of healthcare systems in the current economic climate made it hard to

know how solid the projections might be; he stated they might be more dependent on funding like GME Fund dollars in the future; Michelle Howenstine agreed and wondered if a small group would need to do a needs assessment. Beth Wrobel asked if they should be looking at spending down all current funds; Josh Garrison responded that if the Board has requests that can be filled; they should spend the money. Michelle Howenstine asked if funding could be encumbered for future projects that will be coming; Eugene Johnson stated that he felt that this was not a possibility. Steven Becker noted that they have a lot of new programs coming; he commented that Parkview Health likely knows what the pandemic has done and they are still moving forward; the same with Northwest Indiana Graduate Medical Education Consortium (NWIGMEC); he said they should move forward with the knowledge that in a few years things may slow down. Jeff Rothenberg stated they could ask their partners about the current situations impact on future plans; Eugene Johnson noted that current and potential partners had been asked if they still planned to move forward with their expansions; he noted that Parkview Health indicated they planned to; he stated that Parkview had representation on the meeting call and provided them an opportunity to speak if they'd like too. Gary Zwierzynski with Parkview Health commented they are moving forward; he noted they budgeted for the \$500K grants and had physicians and staff starting for their residencies; he noted they are well-positioned with the issues of the pandemic.

Eugene Johnson discussed the request for marketing the stories of the Board and GME expansion as CHE would like to discuss stories about how GME expansion has kept residents in Indiana. The Board agreed to work to get these stories together.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES REPORT**

Linda Bratcher discussed the Outcomes Report and thanked the Report Committee for helping put it together. Tricia Hern asked if the report is identifying the specific resident going thru or the net number of residents; Linda Bratcher stated she had the number in mind but was happy to adjust; Tricia Hern stated she thought they wanted to know if the specific resident finished. Beth Wrobel stated she agreed and that they will be asked about specific names on who completed what residency and they'd like to have that information. Linda Bratcher stated adjustments could be made to account for the resident. Paul Haut noted that for the shared learning alone; getting info on who stays, who leaves early; the information would be beneficial across programs; Linda Bratcher asked for clarification on the additional questions being requested; Tricia Hern stated they wanted to know who the residents in the program area with and without grant support; outcomes each year and if they graduated, and if they exited the residency, the reason why. The Board moved to approve the Outcomes Report with the requested updates. Tricia Hern asked for a motion to approve with the requested modifications. Jeff Rothenberg moved to approve; Michelle Howenstine seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Tricia Hern requested that Eugene Johnson move forward with announcing scoring for the applications being reviewed; Franciscan Health, Indianapolis' Expansion Grant application for a Family Medicine resident; Parkview Health's applications for Program Development Grant funding for General Surgery and Internal Medicine residencies, and Indiana University Health's (IUH) Feasibility Study Grant application. Eugene Johnson noted these applications were evaluated using the updated scoring metrics, with some categories already pre-filled based on the new metrics.

Eugene Johnson reported the Franciscan Health Foundation, Indianapolis' total average score was 62 out of 105. He noted that the 105 total points possible was based on a 5 point bonus the Board assigned

to the new metrics for newer programs. Michelle Howenstine noted she found the incomplete parts difficult, noting she couldn't find information on their application about activities with FQHCs. Eugene Johnson commented that the application was for PGY1s starting in 2020, 2021 and 2022 and that some Board members asked if they could fund the 2021 and 2022 positions within 12 months or soon of the residency's start date; Tricia Hern noted that this precedent had been set with prior grants; this was confirmed. Tricia Hern asked if all were ok with voting on one year of funding and asking Franciscan to apply again in future years; all Board members agreed with this. Tricia Hern asked for a motion to approve the application; Beth Wrobel moved to approve; Jeff Rothenberg seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

The Parkview Health applications were discussed; Eugene Johnson stated the total average score for Parkview General Surgery was 75 out of 105. Michelle Howenstine stated she would have liked to see more about faculty commitment; both she and Tricia Hern noted there were lots of letters of support from community members but fewer from medical staff. Steven Becker acknowledged Parkview for moving forward with a General Surgery residency. He moved to approve the Parkview application. Michelle Howenstine seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

The Internal Medicine application was discussed; the total average score was announced as 73 out of 105. Beth Wrobel moved to approve the application; Tim Putnam seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

The IUH application was discussed. Tricia Hern invoked the rule of necessity. Michelle Howenstine and Steven Becker stayed in the meeting once the rule was invoked. It was noted that the application was from IUH, not IUSM. The rule of necessity remained invoked as Michelle Howenstine wrote a letter of support for the application. The total average score for the application was announced as 73 out of 100. Michelle Howenstine noted that this application was looking at two to three potential programs to truly see what is best for the Bloomington area and they'd be looking at all details. Tricia Hern asked about a prior Bloomington grant that the Board funded; Eugene Johnson stated that IUSM Bloomington was a prior Feasibility Study Grant recipient but did not continue their study and they returned funds to the GME Fund. Tim Putnam moved to approve the application; Paul Haut seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

The Board discussed the request for funding that was previously awarded being transferred to an incoming PGY2. Jeff Rothenberg noted that in his experience transfer residents don't stay in Indiana; he noted he was stating that just on his experience. Michelle Howenstine commented that the resident's spouse is a pediatric resident. Discussion took place about a similar situation with SIGMEC where the Board did not approve funding for a transferring resident; Steven Becker noted that he wants to ensure the Board is consistent; he noted the possible difference is that the funding for this request is that IUSM has already secured the funding. Tricia Hern stated that the SIGMEC request was to add PGY2s to a new program as opposed to replacing slots that had already been funded. Michelle Howenstine noted that transfers are rare and maybe they should add something in the application that stated if awarded funding was not used by a certain time it was reverted back.

The Board discussed the necessity of a vote, as several members needed to leave at 3:30p. Jeff Rothenberg spoke against the transfer request noted funding is limited and he'd rather save money for new physicians and programs rather than filling a slot. He noted he wants to keep physicians in Indiana and not to fill a slot for someone to come in and then leave. Beth Wrobel asked if they can legally allow the funding to be used for another resident. Tim Putnam stated that it would be worthwhile to have legal review, and they could call a meeting to vote once they have a legal opinion. Board members

agreed with this. Tricia Hern stated they will hold off on a vote and asked Eugene Johnson to get a legal opinion.

Eugene Johnson noted that the economic impact study RFP was tabled due to the budget situation.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

No public testimony was offered.

**NEXT MEETING**

Tricia Hern requested that a short meeting be scheduled to address outstanding items that weren't covered in the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Tricia Hern asked for a motion to adjourn. Tim Putnam moved to adjourn; Steven Becker second. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting ended at 3:33p.