

Physician Manpower Training Commission  
Commission Meeting  
April 18, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

**MINUTES**

The Board of Physician Manpower Training Commission met for a regular meeting at 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, April 18, 2019, in the main dining area at The Faculty House, 601 NE 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with Dr. Steven Crawford hosting. Notice of the meeting date had been properly filed with the Secretary of State, and a copy of the notice and agenda was posted by Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> by 10:00 a.m., in prominent public view at PMTC and on the Commission website, <http://pmtc.publishpath.com/default.aspx>, in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

**Commission Members Present**

Zane DeLaughter, DO, Chair  
Jack Beller, MD  
Bruce Storms, MD  
Kevin Khoury

Pam Spanbauer, RN BSN, Med  
Jason Hill, DO  
Joe L. Leverett, MD

**Guests**

Steven Crawford, MD  
Lesley VanVolkinburg  
LeRoy E. Young, DO  
Matt Robison

Richard Bryant  
Gary Slick, DO  
Marisa New  
Dr. Eliza Crouse

**PMTC Staff Present**

Janie S. Thompson  
Aneesa Sharp  
Shealene Hicks

Michelle Cecil  
Diane Mickelson  
Deborah Butler

**PMTC Staff Absent**

Richard D. Evans

**I. Roll Call**

Dr. DeLaughter called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and Roll Call was taken. The following were present: Dr. DeLaughter, Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Beller, Dr. Hill, Dr. Storms, Dr. Leverett and Kevin Khoury.

The newly appointed PMTC Commission Member, Kevin Khoury, was introduced by Dr. DeLaughter.

**Dr. Storms made the motion to Approve the December 13, 2018, minutes as presented. Dr. Beller seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Beller, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Hill, Kevin Khoury, Dr. Leverett, Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Storms. None were opposed.**

**Dr. Storms made the motion to Approve the March 12, 2019, minutes as presented. Ms. Spanbauer seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Beller, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Hill, Kevin Khoury, Dr. Leverett, Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Storms. None were opposed.**

Dr. DeLaughter passed the floor to Ms. Thompson for the Director's Report as Mr. Evans was absent due to a family conflict. The report was given on his behalf.

## **II. Director's Report:**

### **Welcome to new Commission Member – Kevin Khoury**

#### **Commission Meeting dates for the next year**

Two options were given. The general consensus was to accept Option 2 with the understanding that if there is no need for a meeting, it could be cancelled. Ms. Thompson will confirm the location and time for the next meeting. Ms. Thompson explained that sometimes scholarship considerations are given to the board after they are awarded and are already receiving money because it is not something that can wait. She mentioned with loan repayment, sometimes a hospital will call and will be in a conversation with a physician and they want to be able to give confirmation that they can use loan repayment in the conversation. The purpose of having more frequent meetings is to discuss applicants as the quantity of scholarships and loan repayments increases.

Matt Robison, OSMA, offered to host one of the meetings for PMTC.

#### **Office lease**

The Ag Building is offering first floor space for a workable price. We would pay for the buildout and it would come off of the rent in the future. Mr. Evans has been in discussion with our new Cabinet Secretary who has given us approval. Our new Cabinet Secretary is Jerome Loughridge. We now fall under *Health and Mental Health*. Ms. Thompson explained that there are shared conference rooms at the Ag Building and the conference room would be a perfect place for us to meet. Dr. Leverett suggested writing into the Ag Building lease the use and availability of the conference room since the commission will be meeting more frequently. OMES frowns upon individual agencies having their own conference rooms, instead they have shared. TSET will have a larger shared conference room on the second floor and because of our affiliation with them it may be a possibility for us to use it. Since it is state-owned space it would be recycling state money. It will be \$10 a square foot and the current lease price is \$14 a square foot. It is an eight minute walk to the Capitol. The possible move in date would be the end of September.

#### **Legislation Update**

The House Bill that McIntyre and Rowe tried to run for us on nurse practitioners did not make it out of the chute. We will look at again next year.

Matt Robison gave an update on House Bill 2511--the tax exemption bill for physicians going to a rural area. He explained that it, unfortunately, got caught up in a political conflict between the House and the Senate, over railroad crossings--which had absolutely nothing to do with the bill itself. The bill would have allowed incentives for physicians to practice in rural Oklahoma counties of 25,000 or less, within a certain number of miles within a community. There were a lot of provisions that would have restricted the access to funds. Mr. Robinson said that it

accomplished what they wanted--which was to get something on the books that would be workable later. The language may need to be worked on. He felt it had a strong chance to be a Speaker's Bill but it is done for this year.

### **Senate Bill 773**

Senator Stanley and Representative Wright: loan repayment for mental health. Matt Robison stated it was on the House floor calendar. He stated the house floor calendar continued to get larger and larger. He was not sure it would be heard. He noted that the key phrase was added to the bill "if funds are available". Ms. Thompson stated she believed they were hoping to get a HRSA grant to receive matching funds and that it is not restricted to physicians but any mental health provider. She mentioned the summary looks similar to our bill on the loan repayment program. The money is paid out after the year of service, and it is a five year program opposed to a four year program. Ms. Thompson said she did not see any amounts laid out specifically and that that might be addressed in rules when the bill is complete.

### **Senate bills for 434 and 437**

There were two versions of this bill we have been watching. Senator Pugh was running this it was related to Alzheimer's and Project Echo. It is now dead.

### **Nursing Program Redesign and Review**

The committee, including Ms. Spanbauer, has met several times. Ms. Thompson stated the rules restrict what can be done this year. For academic year 2019/2020, the only real change we can make is how we pay. Currently, nurses are paid up-front, once they are accepted for scholarship. We are finding nursing students often are overwhelmed that first semester and change their mind, leaving a debt they have to pay to us. We have smaller amounts than our physician repayments, however we have a larger amount of nursing defaults that we're having to collect on. The rules allow us to pay at the end of the academic period or semester with documentation of completion with a 3.0 GPA or better with proof of enrollment in the following semester. She stated we feel like that will cut down on many of the nursing defaults. Hopefully it will be ready for commission approval at the next commission meeting.

Ms. Thompson mentioned items that are being looked at include:

- Currently the highest level we have on scholarship is a Masters. Making the program a Masters and above will take in a larger scope of those advanced practice nurses on scholarship.
- Raising the scholarship amounts for the RN, and MSM, and above.
- Looking at only Oklahoma based schools. Students must be attending a school in Oklahoma, as opposed to an online program out-of-state, etc.
- Opening up the restrictions to a certain degree. Currently, nurses cannot fulfill their obligation at a tribal facility or an IHS facility, a rural health clinic, or an FQHC. We would like to begin to open up the restrictions as some of those are in the greatest need. Once we have full recommendation from the committee, those are going to come to the commission for approval before the rules are changed.

Janie passed the floor to Ms. Spanbauer who added:

- The program will continue to only use funds that are designated for nursing.
- Monies would not be taken away.
- When it was discussed about increasing the amounts, it is not by a lot.
- There will be less scholarships, but giving a little bit more money, which will make it more meaningful.

Ms. Spanbauer agreed there is a significant drop-out rate after the first or second semester. She stated nursing on TV and other areas is glamorized--once they get into working, it is not what they think it is. She said that committee members, who are faculty throughout the state, agree that it is appropriate and in-line with what other programs are awarding and that many pay after they have completed the semester, and maintaining the grade point average. Ms. Spanbauer noted the committee is seeing more of this "buy a degree" online programs. She stated there are enough schools in Oklahoma, and the schools cover all levels. There is no longer an issue with getting higher degrees in Oklahoma. Now there are plenty of resources to obtain any degree they want in nursing and do it in-state. Ms. Thompson concluded it will have more of a rural focus.

Dr. Leverett asked what percentage of the time PMTC spends collecting scholarship defaults? He wondered if it was significant.

Ms. Cecil answered: applications are accepted from April until the end of June. June through September is spent setting up recipients. The rest of the time she spends on collections. She stated that sometimes the amount collected per month does not seem worth it, but there isn't a choice but to go after them. She stated she loves the direction the nursing program is moving with medical scholarships and understands it will not cut out all of the collections but feels it will significantly reduce what time is spent on them. Michelle stated she would rather spend her time helping the ones that are working towards getting out there as a nurse than trying to find these people that she needs to collect from. She stated the advantages in collections now include electronic funds transfer (EFT) and tax warrant intercept. Ms. Cecil stated just this year, \$8,000 in tax refunds were intercepted. Dr. Leverett concluded if a recipient receives a scholarship with state money, we are obligated to collect, we can't forgive them of the interest or penalties for nurses or physicians and that we use the AG (attorney general) to go after them. Ms. Thompson added that in the business world that is how they reward--after you provide successful completion.

#### **Meetings PMTC has been Involved In:**

**Governor's Transition Team** looked at our strategic plan, our goals and our budget. Dr. Beller was there for that meeting, which we appreciate. They looked at our peak performance measures. They gave us some recommendations which we will be making those adjustments to the key performance measures.

#### **Emergency Commission Meeting**

We met for you to approve our new rules, those have moved forward. Mr. Evans and I had a good meeting with Representative Denise Crosswhite-Hader to look at the rules. She really wanted to acquaint herself with who we are, what we do and how these rules apply. The rules are now sitting in the House Rules Committee waiting to be approved.

#### **Staff Changes and Increasing Awards**

- Ms. Thompson conveyed one of the things that Mr. Evans wanted to reiterate is the fact that we are bringing to you 14 scholarships and loan repayment to be considered today, since December--a three month timeframe. There is great movement. Janie stated that she has six in her pending file, because, with recruitment, it takes a while before we can solidify a contract with a physician. She said sometimes the physician may be interviewing in two or three different places. Deborah Butler's position continues to keep her on the phone and emailing the various communities across the state making sure that they're aware of what

we're doing. Sometimes she's the first one they will contact now, then she comes immediately to me. She has been a great addition.

- Aneesa and Debbie are working together to place completing PAs in rural Oklahoma. They are distributing CVs and finding locations for them to fulfill their scholarship.
- Shealene Hicks is going to be leaving us at the end of April following her husband to Texas. Shea has been a great asset to the front office, as well as support for Michelle with nursing. We are looking to fill the position as quickly as we can.
- **Increasing awards.** Mr. Evans and Ms. Thompson will be meeting with TSET. Janie believes they will be receptive to discussing expanding the number of loan repayments that they may be giving and might look at PA loan repayment. She stated that "Bridge" are those who are currently on family practice resident rural scholarship, and in the midst of their negotiations, they are also wanting to participate in loan repayment. The Commission approved for them to extend their obligation and be able to participate in both programs, knowing the scholarship money would come off of their total of \$160,000 at the end. At this point, TSET has not wanted to participate. Mr. Evans is going to open the discussion because it does extend their timeframe in that community like Dr. Hill did, staying for his entire career in the same location. Mr. Evans wants to talk with The PA Association about participating in the PA Loan Repayment Program. Janie stated she will explain further when she discusses the two Bridge applications to the board later.

### **Budget**

The FY20 appropriations request was a flat budget of \$3,300,781. At this time, FY20 state supplemental, the money that was given last year to OHCA then distributed to OU and OSU then they gave that money back to us to assist us with loan repayment. We don't have any word on that. So at this point, he shows that as \$0. No one present from OU or OUS had any information regarding supplemental GME funding from legislature this year.

### **Committees**

Ms. Thompson drew attention to the Draft copy of *Committees for FY20* and stated a year ago, now retired commission member, Mr. Ted Haynes, was set to take over as the chair. The commission asked Dr. DeLaughter to serve an additional year and serve as the chair also appointing Ms. Spanbauer as vice chair and placing her back on the budget committee as is traditional. Dr. Beller graciously gave up his position on the budget committee allowing Ms. Spanbauer to be placed back on the committee. With Mr. Haynes retiring, Dr. Beller was placed back on that committee and filled other openings. This morning Mr. Khoury attended his first Scholarship and Loan Repayment Committee meeting. He is also on the Strategic Planning Committee filling in that position that was left open. Ms. Thompson asked if anyone would prefer to change. Ms. Spanbauer requested to stay on the nursing committee. Ms. Thompson explained there can be up to three commission numbers on a committee, more than three would not produce a quorum. Dr. Storms offered to be on the Strategic Planning Committee if someone wanted to step down.

### **III. Consideration and Possible Action regarding appointment of new chair beginning July 1, 2019**

Dr. DeLaughter expressed he thought extending the number of years being on the board has been positive. He stated that he personally felt like he was much more effective the second year. He opened the floor for discussions and nominations.

Ms. Thompson read minutes from the April 2018 meeting stating the Commission had voted at that time for Dr. DeLaughter to continue as the chair for one year. They had voted to appoint Ms. Spanbauer as the vice chair, as rotations state a layperson follows a doctor in rotation. The minutes state Ms. Spanbauer would become chair starting July 1, 2019.

Dr. Leverett asked if it was in the rules but Ms. Thompson had looked previously and it was not, it is more a tradition. He also stated he leans toward a minimum two year commitment vs one year.

**Dr. Storms made the motion to elect Ms. Pam Spanbauer as the Chair per the previous vote in April 2018 for two years. Dr. Leverett seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Beller, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Hill, Kevin Khoury, Dr. Leverett, Dr. Storms.  
Ms. Spanbauer abstained.  
None were opposed.**

#### **IV. Consideration and Possible Action regarding appointment of new vice chair beginning July 1, 2019**

Ms. Thompson reminded members that the next vice chair becomes the next chair and according to tradition it would be an MD next in the rotation. This would allow Dr. Beller, Dr. Storms or Dr. Leverett to be nominated.

**Ms. Spanbauer nominated Dr. Storms as the next Vice Chair with Dr. Beller seconding. Voting in favor were: Dr. Beller, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Hill, Kevin Khoury, Dr. Leverett, Ms. Spanbauer.  
Dr. Storms abstained.  
None were opposed.**

#### **V. Consideration and Possible Action regarding rotation of Committee Assignments**

There was much discussion over who should be on the different committees.

**Dr. Leverett made the motion to Approve Dr. Storms replacing Dr. DeLaughter on the Budget Committee. Ms. Spanbauer is to remain on the Nursing Scholarship Advisory Committee, Dr. Storms will be the Chair. Dr. Storms seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Beller, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Hill, Kevin Khoury, Dr. Leverett, Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Storms.  
None were opposed.**

#### **VI. Consideration and Possible Action regarding Scholarship/Loan Repayment Committee**

- Julie S. Mahaney, MD
- Nadjeschda Goertz Nordquist, DO

Dr. Hill presented two scholarship concerns that were discussed earlier in the morning at the Scholarship/Loan Repayment Committee meeting. Both doctors are not meeting the qualifications of the scholarship. It was recommended that Dr. Julie Mahaney, who received

\$24,000 in scholarships should pay liquid damages on the principle, plus 50% principle penalty, which totals \$36,000 plus interest.

Ms. Thompson stated that when there is a communication breakdown and anytime there is a non-voluntary payment plan, oftentimes we send it directly to the assistant attorney general to handle it.

Dr. Nadia Nordquist received \$60,000 in med school but did not complete residency. It was recommended to charge interest on the full principle amount of \$60,000 plus interest but not liquidated damages.

**Dr. Storms made the motion to assess Dr. Julie Mahaney liquidated damages on \$24,000, plus 50% penalty totaling \$36,000 plus interest, and Dr. Nadjeschda Goertz Nordquist \$60,000 plus interest but not liquidated damages. Dr. Leverett seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Beller, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Hill, Kevin Khoury, Dr. Leverett, Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Storms. None were opposed.**

#### **VII. Consideration and Possible Action regarding Physician Loan Repayment Program**

- Larry S. Elliott, DO
- Chelsey R. McVey, DO
- Rebekah J. Martin Kriegsman, DO
- Joshua A. Redmond, DO
- Amanda N. Hale, DO
- Stormy R. Walkup, DO
- Michael N. Hitsman, DO

Ms. Thompson brought the seven, above-mentioned loan repayments before the commission.

**The motion to approve the seven Physician Loan Repayment Participants was made by Dr. Storms, Ms. Spanbauer seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Beller, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Hill, Kevin Khoury, Dr. Leverett, Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Storms. None were opposed.**

#### **VIII. Consideration and Possible Action on Physician Assistant Scholarship Program**

- Ragan Magee
- Kelsey Hartman
- Lauren Ukleya
- Abigail Brown
- Dallas Clark

Ms. Sharp brought the five, above-mentioned scholarships before the commission.

**The motion to approve the five Physician Assistant Scholarships was made by Dr. Storms, Dr. Beller seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Beller, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Hill, Kevin Khoury, Dr. Leverett, Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Storms. None were opposed.**

#### **IX. Consideration and Possible Action on Resident Rural Program**

- Dustin Thompson, D.O.
- Kristen Stehling, D.O.

Ms. Sharp brought the two, above-mentioned scholarships before the commission.

Dr. Storms posed the question when we would begin paying out \$1,000/month.

Ms. Sharp stated that both Dr. Thompson and Dr. Stehling just signed their contracts and they would be retroactive to July 2018. We are also waiting on matching funds for Dr. Stehling.

Dr. DeLaughter stated that he knows Dr. Stehling personally and believes her to be an excellent addition to the McAlester team.

**The motion to approve the two Resident Rule Scholarships was made by Dr. Storms, Ms. Spanbauer seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Beller, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Hill, Kevin Khoury, Dr. Leverett, Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Storms. None were opposed.**

#### **X. Physician Placement Report – Ms. Sharp/Ms. Thompson**

Ms. Sharp gave the following report:

**RURAL MEDICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP:** There are currently 4 students on scholarship. They will all graduate this June, completing the last cycle of the Rural Medical Educational Scholarship. She reminded that the Commission voted to suspend this scholarship during the May 2016 Commission Meeting. This represents the last class of recipients. They will complete medical school in June, 2019. Additionally there are currently 12 in postgraduate training and 22 in obligated practice through this program.

**RESIDENT RURAL FAMILY MEDICINE SCHOLARSHIP:** With the 2 new residents approved today, we have 10 family medicine residents on scholarship. (7 receiving funds currently.) There are currently 19 physicians in obligated practice through this program. Five participants will complete their practice obligation in July and plan to remain in their communities.

**PHYSICIAN/COMMUNITY MATCH PROGRAM:** There are no new participants at this time. There are 2 physicians in obligated service through the Physician/Community Match Program, serving in the practice communities of Weatherford and Broken Bow.

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM:** There are currently 23 on scholarship including the 5 approved today. Three will complete this May. There are 7 currently serving in the communities of Konawa, Idabel, Shawnee, Prague, Alva, Enid and Guthrie.

Ms. Thompson, on behalf of Mr. Evans, reported that we do not have anyone to approve for PA Loan Repayment, but to remember it takes a while when a new program is put into place for it to come to fruition. It should begin soon.

Ms. Thompson gave the following report:

The old OMLRP/TSET, match rate of 41.43% is paid by TSET and PMTC provides the federal portion of 58.57%.

- 28 participants received or will receive payments for FY19
- 5 received their final payment
- 19 participants are scheduled to receive payments in FY20
- 7 of those will receive their last payment on that program
- 11 participants are scheduled for FY20
- 5 of those will receive their final payment

- FY22 will mark the end of the original OMLRP with 6 receiving their final payment

Reporting on the New Matrix: 40:40:20

- With the 7 positions approved today we have 19 participants serving rural Oklahoma through this program.
- 14 include TSET sponsorship, one includes OSMA and TSET sponsorship, and one includes OSMA/Blue Cross Blue Shield/community contribution sponsorship
- 1 receiving payment in FY19
- 7 that will receive payment in 2020, 14 in 2021, 16 in 2022, 15 in 2023, 9 in 2024, and 2 in 2025
- This shows really long commitments and these are the ones that are still coming on. So the only ones that wouldn't be added to at this point would be FY20. Those that are finishing residency now and starting practice in July, won't receive their check until FY21.

Reporting on the Community Sponsored Loan Repayment Program

- This is an old one with 41.43% match from the community and PMTC picking up the 58.57% that was originally federal funds
- 11 participants receiving their payment in FY19, 16 scheduled for FY20, 16 for FY21, 8 are scheduled to receive payment in FY22, 8 drop off
- FY23 will mark the end of this program with 6 receiving their final payment
- Some will not finish their final payments until 2025.
- There are 2 on the bridge program that will go until FY26.

Ms. Thompson expressed her thanks to the board for their patience, as she filled in for Mr. Evans.

Ms. Spanbauer along with Dr. Storms and Dr. Hill asked if the statistics could be included with the packet in a chart or graph format. Ms. Thompson agreed to forward the information in an easy to read chart or spreadsheet format.

Dr. Leverett asked of the 32 TSET, how many are they funding?

Ms. Thompson answered they have 32 obligations, with some dropping off. She expressed that it is difficult to report during a particular fiscal year because with loan repayment, they are accepted and approved up to 18 months prior to them actually starting to practice. Additionally, we don't pay them until they have practiced for a year. Janie said she can also easily share what is being expended each fiscal year.

Dr. Storms suggested doing a chart with the date they are approved, a TSET column with dates noting when a payment is made.

Ms. Spanbauer added that it would be great to have something to show what kind of impact we are making.

Dr. Leverett mentioned this is the most we have ever had on programs noting he knows it has required a lot of work. He said with the six being worked on, there are four more spots available out of 10 with money still available.

Ms. Thompson said since pulling back after losing federal funding and the word spreading, once again we are receiving phone calls and emails.

Dr. Beller explained how difficult it may be for members to grasp the program numbers it was extremely difficult trying to justify our budget to the state capital people who have absolutely no idea what we are doing.

Ms. Thompson tried to convey how we pay what we pay. They were having a very difficult time understanding how that all works.

Dr. Beller explained how they were even having a difficult time of grasping the concept that a single physician generates \$1.9 million and \$67,000 per year in state and local taxes is an economic development when the legislators not giving us that much money. He stated the state is getting a huge return on their investment but it was difficult to get that idea across to them.

Ms. Spanbauer stated that five physicians are staying in their communities. She would like us to try to get the word out there as it speaks volumes and is tangible. She expressed that we do lose some occasionally, for reasons that are beyond their control, but so far those that have taken the full four years are still there. It leads us to believe the longer we can keep them there, the better the possibility of them staying far beyond that timeframe.

Dr. DeLaughter stated that large employers can do some things financially to bring physicians in. He expressed with smaller communities, thousands of dollars goes a long way.

Dr. Leverett expressed how being in the same building as TSET may present some opportunities for press releases with physicians receiving their last checks.

Ms. Thompson stated that, besides going to the family medicine residency programs to present, this year, she will be going to visit ob, internal medicine and pediatric residency programs since loan repayment is available for them as well. She may be asking for the board member's help and to make connections with some of those programs.

Dr. Storms confirmed with Ms. Thompson that emergency medicine was on Janie's list of programs to talk to.

### **New Business**

Dr. Storms brought up the \$160,000 amount in loan repayment. He suggested that with strategic planning, we need to look at expanding the amount. He mentioned some students leave medical school with up to \$600,000 to \$700,000 in educational debt. He stated some of these students will never get out of debt without some help. He suggested, moving forward, to consider whether we could extend the program to five years. He said it is one of the bills before the legislature right now, the five year bill and make it up to \$250,000. They would get \$50,000 a year for five years. He just wants to put the idea of revision out there. Dr. Storms stated that the \$160,000 originally was set because that was the average debt that someone was coming

out school with. He feels while \$160,000 is great but with more debt maybe we need more of a lure.

Dr. Beller believes the number is now approaching \$300,000.

Dr. Hill prefers to use what the military is paying as a pretty good gauge as to what they are willing to pay as a better estimate. He forwarded an email to Richard earlier that showed that the Army is offering \$250,000. He could not recall if it was a five or six year commitment. He stated he feels we have lagged a little bit.

Dr. Storms stated that he agrees that the number (amount of debt) is growing every day and we need be aware and start planning to adjust the programs, look at the statutes to give us the flexibility to grow.

Ms. Spanbauer suggested that might be a good item to work on in the December meeting. She suggested starting to gather data now with the different benchmarks we can find.

Ms. Thompson stated the amount was passed in 2012 as \$160,000. The amount was the same as what Texas was giving. The last time Ms. Thompson checked Texas was still giving \$160,000 but they were giving more scholarships. They passed a "Soft Tobacco Tax" to give to loan repayment. It created \$14m a year to loan repayment. They were having a cadre to 100 physicians.

Dr. DeLaughter stated that the government is no longer subsidizing the loans and when he was graduating residency his loans were at 2% subsidized when he was in residency and training then the interest started kicking in. Today's physician's interest rate are 6,8,10 to 12%, unsubsidized and they are accumulating interest on top of interest. When they are graduating residency they have this huge burden.

Dr. Beller stated that he had Google'd "average debt of medical student when they graduate" and the current amount is \$175,000 and then there is 3 to 5 years of residency training.

Dr. Hill suggests looking into interest accumulating and look at other areas, instead of straight student loan payment, to help subsidize interest. If we could encourage a program to help subsidize interest to those that go there and reduce the interest it would end up costing PMTC less in the long run. He believes there are other ways to manage the money.

Dr. Leverett asked if it would require a statute change or it would be a policy change.

Ms. Thompson said she thought the maximum amount was in the statute but quite possibly in the rules. She mentioned when she met with Ms. Crosswhite-Hader was mentioning that the date for Filing Intent may be moved up from April to February. So these things would need to be done quickly as it is quite a long process.

### **Other New Business**

Matt Robison mentioned the placing of a physician in Guymon, Oklahoma, by partners OSMA and Blue Cross Blue Shield Oklahoma. Blue Cross Blue Shield created a 3 ½ minute video made at the placement event in Guymon. He stressed what a fantastic video it was. He sent it to every legislator in an attempt to educate them on what PMTC does and how important it is to get physicians in rural Oklahoma. He asked for everyone to look at the video and forward it to as many people as they possibly can because it is just that fantastic and well done.

Ms. Thompson stated TSET is trying to reach out to some of the physicians who are in their fourth year or just completed and make another video. Ms. Thompson stated there is an excellent video on the PMTC website of Dr. Kyle Kitchens. Dr. Kitchen is in Grove. He talks about being from out-of-state and was just here for residency. He has been off the program now for two years and is still there. This is another good testimony of how well we are doing.

#### **VI. Vote to Adjourn**

**Dr. Storms made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Spanbauer seconded.  
Voting in favor were: Dr. DeLaughter, Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Beller, Dr. Storms, Kevin Khoury, Dr. Leverett, Dr. Hill.  
None were opposed.**