

**Oklahoma Health Workforce Training Commission
Commission Meeting
February 9, 2023**

MINUTES

The Board of Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Training Commission met for a commission meeting at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at OSU–OKC, 900 N. Portland Avenue, Student Center, North and South Conference Rooms Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Dr. Young and OSU College of Medicine hosted the meeting. Notice of the meeting had been properly filed with the Secretary of State, and a copy of the notice and agenda was posted on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 9:00 a.m., in prominent public view at HWTC, and on the Commission website, <https://Oklahoma.gov/hwtc.html>, in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

Commission Members Present

Joe Leverett, M.D., Chair
Jonathan Bushman, D.O.
Kevin Khoury
Layne Subera, D.O.
Douglas Williams, RN
Abdul Khan, M.D.

HWTC Staff Present

Janie Thompson, Executive Director
Kami Fullingim, Deputy Director
Michelle Cecil
Dana Morpew
Karen Epps
Gina Wekke
Sara Librandi

Guests Present

Maria Maule
Allison LeBoeuf
Michael Conrad
Richard Bryant
Terry Rousey
Mousumi Som
LeRoy Young
Dennis Blankenship
Jennifer Colburn

1. Dr. Leverett opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. by welcoming everyone to the Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Training Commission.
2. Ms. Epps gave proof of meeting notice, took roll call, and declared a quorum.
3. **Mission Statement** – Dr. Leverett

Dr. Leverett read the Mission Statement of Oklahoma Health Care Training Commission.
4. **Welcome: Introduction of New HWTC Board Member, Current Members, Staff, and Guest** – Dr. Leverett
5. **Possible Discussion, Revision, and Vote to Approve Minutes of the**

- **December 8, 2022, Commission Meeting**

Dr. Bushman made the motion to approve the December 8, 2022, minutes as presented. Dr. Khoury seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Bushman, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Leverett, and Dr. Subera, None were opposed.

- **January 12, 2023, Commission Meeting**

Dr. Bushman made the motion to approve the January 12, 2023, minutes as presented. Dr. Khoury seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Bushman, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Leverett, and Dr. Subera, None were opposed.

6. Director's Report – Ms. Thompson

- Permanent rules have been filed with the Secretary of State. These rules include Agency name change. Chapter 55 rules which have been signed as Emergency Rules by the Governor and pertains to the administration of nursing and the optometry ARPA Programs. Final approval and adoption of the Permanent Rules need to be filed no later than April 1, 2023
- Ms. Thompson presented the proposed budget to the Senate and House Education Appropriations Subcommittee, which included additional funding for loan repayment to support more physicians, administrative costs, OU Tulsa's expansion request, McAlester Regional Resident Salary increase and for staff salary increases to keep up with the cost of living.
- HWTC met with Secretary Laws and the OMES Grants Management team and have received approval to begin making advancements to the 27 sub-recipients. The first reimbursement to the agency for costs incurred from the HWTC regular budget for expenses related to the ARPA program has been made.
- Ms. Thompson participated in the OOA Winter Conference and gave a panel presentation at the Rural Health Conference. By participating in these Conferences, HWTC can reach out to medical students, hospitals, residents, and recruiters to let them know about the HWTC Programs work to support students interested in practicing in rural Oklahoma.
- Our nursing department presented at the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Nursing conference in efforts to expand our nursing scholarship program.
- The HWTC board currently has 7 members, and quorum requires the presence of 4 members. The bill that increased the commission board to 9 members has been passed and both nurse vacancies have been filled, but will not go into effect until June 3, 2023.

7. Vote to Approve/Disapprove Director's Report – Dr. Leverett

Dr. Bushman made the motion to approve the Director's Report. Dr. Khoury seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Bushman, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Leverett, Dr. Subera, and Dr. Khan. None were opposed.

8. ARPA Update – Sara Librandi

A status report on the ARPA funds was given by Ms. Librandi, the HWTC APRA Grants Manager. All 27 sub-recipients have received Grant awards notification letters and Grant agreements. Once the Grant agreements have been completed by all parties, schools may start submitting requests for reimbursements. Ms. Librandi has received the first ARPA reimbursement request in the amount of 1.1 million dollars, the board will vote to approve this request as well as any others that might be made before the March 23, 2023, Commission Meeting.

9. Consideration and Possible Action to Increase Executive Director Thompson's Authority to Approve Select Construction-related Reimbursements under OAC 540:55-3-6.

The Commission voted to increase the Executive Director's authority to approve reimbursements up to \$500,000, but only as it applies to: 1) construction-related expenses; 2) where the reimbursement request was received by HWTC on a date for which the Commission will not meet again for at least fourteen (14) calendar days; and 3) where the Commission is informed of any approvals over \$50,000 that the Executive Director has made since the last Commission meeting.

Dr. Bushman made the motion to Increase the Executive Director's Authority to Approve Select Construction-related Reimbursements under OAC 540:55-3-6. Dr. Khoury seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Bushman, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Leverett, Dr. Subera, and Dr. Khan. None were opposed.

10. Discussion and Possible Action to Revise the Distribution of Supplement Funds from the Agency Carryover Budget Distributed to the Residency Program.

Item tabled pending additional review of:

- The number of applicants
- The availability of funds to supplement the two medical schools
- The distribution of funds among TSET members and other communities
- How Oklahoma's loan repayment amounts compare to those of other states
- The usage of supplemental funds by the schools

Dr. Bushman made the motion to table the Revise Distribution of Supplement Funds from the Agency Carryover Budget. Dr. Subera seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Bushman, Dr. Subera, Dr. Leverett, Dr. Khoury, and Dr. Khan. None were opposed.

11. Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Physician Assistant Scholarship Loan Program – Ms. Wekke

Ms. Wekke present Gwendolyn Lyles to the board for the Physician Assistant Scholarship Loan Program. Ms. Lyles is currently in PA training at Northeastern State University, Tahlequah Oklahoma and has listed the communities of Ada, Seminole, Shawnee, Chandler, and McCloud as areas of interest for obligated service.

Dr. Subera made the motion to approve Dr. Gwendolyn Lyles for the Physician Assistant Scholarship Loan Program. Dr. Khan seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Subera, Dr. Khan, Dr. Leverett, Dr. Bushman, and Dr. Khoury. None were opposed.

12. Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Family Practice Resident Rural Scholarship Loan Program – Ms. Wekke

Ms. Wekke present Taylor Calli Rogers to the board for the Resident Rural Scholarship Loan Program. Dr. Rogers attended medical school at OSU-Center for Health Sciences\College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She is currently in residency at Alliance Health

Durant. Dr. Rogers has listed Kingston, Durant, and Madill as areas of practice location interest.

Dr. Khoury made the motion to approve Dr. Taylor Calli Rogers for the Resident Rural Scholarship Loan Program. Dr. Khan seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Khoury, Dr. Khan, Dr. Leverett, Dr. Bushman, and Dr. Subera. None were opposed.

13. Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Physician Loan Repayment Program – Ms. Fullingim

Ms. Fullingim presented Taylor Calli Rogers, D.O. to the board for the Physician Loan Repayment Program. Dr. Rogers is scheduled to begin on the program July 1, 2024. She currently participates in the Residency Rural Scholarship program. She attended OSU/CHS College of Osteopathic Medicine Medical School and Alliance Health Durant for Residency. This is a TSET and Alliance Health sponsorship.

Mason Howe, MD was presented to the board for the Physician Loan Repayment Program. Dr. Howe will begin participation on August 1, 2023. He completed Medical School at OUHSC College of Medicine and Residency at Great Plains Family Medicine Residency in Oklahoma City and is sponsored by SSM Health & TSET.

Dr. Bushman made the motion Dr. Taylor Rogers and Dr. Mason Howe for the Physician Loan Repayment Program. Dr. Khoury seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Bushman, Khoury, Dr. Leverett, Dr. Subera, and Dr. Khan. None were opposed.

14. Physician Placement Report – Ms. Wekke/Ms. Fullingim

Ms. Wekke present on the following:

Rural Medical Education Scholarship Placement report: There are currently 3 participants in postgraduate training, 11 are in obligated practice through this program, and 0 participants will complete their obligation in fiscal year 2023.

Reporting on the Resident Rural Scholarship: We have 7 family medicine residents on scholarship. There are currently 7 physicians in obligated practice through this program. 1 participant will complete their obligation in fiscal year, 2023.

Reporting on the Physician Assistant Scholarship Program: There are currently 4 PAs on scholarship. There are 8 PAs currently serving in rural communities of Oklahoma. 4 participants will complete their obligation in fiscal year 2023.

Reporting on the Physician Assistant Loan Repayment Program: 4 physician assistants are on this program. They are in the communities of Altus, Chandler, Miami, and Ponca City.

Ms. Fullingim presented on the following:

Physician Loan Repayment Program: there are 71 total physicians approved to participate on loan repayment. Of this total, 11 will complete or have completed their obligation in FY23. 14 will begin in FY24 (after July 2023).

15. New Business

Limited to “any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of the posting” of the agenda, per 25 O.S., § 311(A)(10)

No New Business

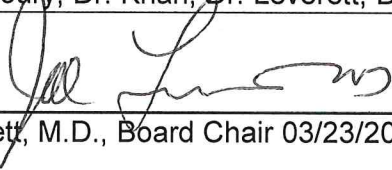
16. Public Comment

The Health Care Workforce Training Commission allows members of the public to comment on items of business before the Commission that have been properly noticed in the posted agenda. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. Cumulatively, public comments shall not exceed thirty (30) minutes. Anyone wishing to speak may sign-up in advance of the meeting.

No Public Comments

17. Discussion and Vote to Adjourn

Dr. Khoury made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Khan seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Dr. Khoury, Dr. Khan, Dr. Leverett, Dr. Bushman, and Dr. Subera. None were opposed.



Joe Leverett, M.D., Board Chair 03/23/2023

