

**Oklahoma Physician Manpower Training Commission
Commission Meeting
June 3, 2021**

MINUTES

The Board of Oklahoma Physician Manpower Training Commission met for a regular commission meeting at 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, June 3, 2021, at the OSU – OKC Campus, 900 North Portland Avenue, Student Center, north and south Conference Rooms, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Dr. LeRoy Johnson and Oklahoma State University hosted the meeting. Members of the public joined virtually via OSU TV. Notice of the meeting had been properly filed with the Secretary of State, and a copy of the notice and agenda was posted on Friday, May 28, 10:00 a.m., in prominent public view at PMTC, and on the Commission website, www.pmtc.ok.gov, in compliance with the Open Meeting Act.

Commission Members Present

Pam Spanbauer, RN, Chair
Joe Leverett, MD, Vice-Chair
Zane DeLaughter, DO
Dr. Kevin Khoury
Jeff Lester, MD
Tim Newton, DO
Shane Stidham, MD

PMTC Staff Present

Janie Thompson, Executive Director
Michelle Cecil
Aneesa Sharp
Diane Mickelson
Dana Morphew
Benita Jose-Mathew
LeaAnn Williams

Guests Present

Joe Ashbaker, Assistant Attorney General – legal
Richard M. Bryant, Jr, PhD, OU College of Medicine-Tulsa

Ms. Spanbauer opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m. by welcoming everyone to the Oklahoma State University - OKC campus. Social distancing was observed. Guests were invited to join via OSU - TV.

Ms. Mickelson gave proof of meeting notice, took roll call, and declared a quorum.

Ms. Spanbauer read the Mission Statement of Oklahoma Physician Manpower Training Commission and attendees introduced themselves.

1. Consideration and Vote to Approve/Disapprove Minutes of the April 8, 2021, Commission Meeting

Ms. Spanbauer asked for any revisions or discussion of the April meeting minutes then called for a vote.

Dr. Leverett made the motion to approve the April 8, 2021, minutes as presented. Dr. DeLaughter seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Leverett, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Lester, Dr. Newton, and Dr. Stidham. None were opposed.

2. Director's Report

- **Recognition of Outgoing Commission Members**

Ms. Thompson recognized outgoing Commissioners:

Ms. Pamela Spanbauer, RN, BSN, M.Ed 2012-2021

Harold Zane DeLaughter, D.O. 2013-2021

Ms. Spanbauer expressed her gratitude on a friendship level and as commissioners. She thanked them for weathering tremendous changes as well as initiated progress. Both commissioners were presented with a personalized acrylic paperweight and a Certificate of Appreciation.

- **Welcome New Commission Members beginning June 6**

Ms. Thompson welcomed two new commissions who also serve on the OOA Board. Dr. Subera had served on the PMTC commission once before and she expressed excitement to have him join us once again.

Jonathan K. Bushman, D.O.

Layne E. Subera, D.O.

- **HB2121**

Ms. Thompson stated the commission had hoped to add General Surgery by itself to the loan repayment program on HB2121. The bill would have also expanded the mission to add nurse practitioners as a layperson on the commission. The bill made it through both committees and it was due on the Senate floor, but it was held back in exchange for a different bill. The bill is not dead. She said she believes the PA Association will help bring it back. It may also expand our commission to nine members to include a PA.

- **Audit**

PMTC received a letter that an audit will begin. We have filled out the preliminary questionnaire. The database is available and open to them to see all of our documents and contracts that are uploaded.

Dr. Leverett asked what the cost of the audit would be. Ms. Thompson stated we have budgeted \$6,000 to \$10,000.

- **August 12th meeting**

The August 12th meeting is scheduled to be held at OHA, although Ms. Thompson is unaware of the covid status at the time of the meeting. The two new commissioners will be at the meeting as will the new chair and vice chair. We will review and approve the 2022 calendar as well as committee member selection. She stated if anyone is interested in serving on a different committee, they should let her know.

- **FY22 Budget**

- **Discussion and Possible Vote on FY22 Budget**

The Budget Committee met before the budget request was submitted. Ms. Thompson asked for the 4% be reinstated. PMTC did not take a budget cut but also did not receive the whole 4% reinstated.

Ms. Thompson provided two documents:

1. FY22 Residency Funding Breakout with information and totals from the schools
2. FY21 Requested Funding by Department and Source

Dr. Leverett made the motion to approve the budget as presented. Dr. DeLaughter seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Leverett, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Lester, Dr. Newton, and Dr. Stidham. None were opposed.

- **Family Medicine program updates**

Ms. Thompson explained part of the residency report is not in yet. The legislators have asked how we measure what we are doing with the five million dollars. What impact is it having to keep physicians we have trained to stay here. She stated she has asked the schools in their incoming reports, how close are they to their hometown, and what medical school they attend. The information gives us an idea if the residents are coming back because they have Oklahoma roots but had to leave the state to go to medical school or just did their residency program here and went back home. We know that we have a better chance of retaining them after they have completed four years of medical school in Oklahoma. Once we get a full report, we will have it all laid out for you in August.

- **Revised Physician Loan Repayment Contract**

Ms. Thompson included a copy of the revised Physician Loan Repayment Contract for the commissioners referring to Item 3, f, which states: "Establish their primary residence within the rural service area of their approved practice site."

Dr. Leverett stated he likes the way the line was worded. He asked if there is a service area map available that is well defined.

Dr. Leverett expressed he does not want to have every person who is outside of the city brought before the commission. He wants staff to have the confidence to make decisions. He stated there can be a discussion how strict the commission wants to be. It was originally set up because we did not want someone living in OKC but working in

ERs in Altus or Texas. It was set up more to exclude than to include. If they are living in rural Oklahoma, but are community sponsored, and are close, and we will support staff on those. He continued that there will be some ambiguity that can make it difficult.

Ms. Thompson stressed two key words in the Contract: "primary residence" and "rural service". Some rural areas are only 35 or 40 miles outside of the metro area.

Dr. Leverett asked Ms. Thompson if she thinks PMTC can work with the definition. She confirmed, the agency could work with the wording.

Dr. DeLaughter made the motion to approve the Director's Report as presented. Dr. Stidham seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Leverett, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Lester, Dr. Newton, and Dr. Stidham. None were opposed.

3. Discussion on nomination and vote on new Chair and Vice Chair

Dr. Khoury presented nominations for Chair: Dr. Joe Leverett and Vice Chair: Dr. Tim Newton. There was no discussion.

Dr. Khoury made the motion to approve Dr. Leverett as Commission Chair, Dr. Stidham seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Lester, Dr. Newton, and Dr. Stidham. Dr. Leverett Abstained. None were opposed.

Dr. Khoury made the motion to approve Dr. Newton as the Vice Chair, Dr. Lester seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Lester, Dr. Leverett, and Dr. Stidham. Dr. Newton Abstained. None were opposed.

Ms. Thompson stated there is no statute or law that says that the Chair/Vice Chair rotation has to go in a certain order. In an effort to spread leadership equally among representative groups on the commission, it has traditionally gone from a lay member to an MD, to a DO, and cycles again. Typically, the vice chair of the commission or board of regents, or other board sits in that position preparing to be the next chair. About four years ago it was decided the PMTC Commission Chair will serve two years in a row. It does say in the statutes the Chair must be voted on each year. It was implemented that our chair would be able to serve a two-year term. Before, about the time they become really acclimated and comfortable in that chair, it was time for them to move on.

Dr. Leverett has been the Vice Chair for the past two years and he moves into the Chair position. Dr. Newton, our DO, was the obvious choice if he was willing to serve in that position as Vice Chair. He will move into the Chair position in two years. She continued, that is how the rotation is for those who are watching and may not be familiar, and, also for newer members to know why it happens in this order.

4. Discussion and Possible Action on next step toward building additional capacity

Dr. Leverett stated alternative revenue options were brought up at the winter retreat in February. He stated that while TSET should be able to keep their trust fund and it will continue to grow, it is a good idea to look at other revenue sources to add to what we can do with loan repayment or take the place if something catastrophic happens. He continued: Kevin Khoury has two really good ideas worth exploring: a gala partnering with OSMA and organize a meeting to talk to some foundations about sponsoring/ providing a doctor in rural Oklahoma. Dr. Leverett said he thought Mr. Ashbaker could make it happen legally. First, we need to talk to OSMA and make some appointments with foundations.

Kevin Khoury stated the English Speaking Union meets every third Sunday. Eighty percent of the attendees are wealthy widows who like giving. Dr. Khoury will reach out and spend some time with a few of them to see if they are interested in sponsoring a physician. This is just one organization. Others are: Inasmuch Foundation, Kaiser Foundation, Butterfield, etc. There are some large foundations in Oklahoma that love giving to healthcare. He said he feels it would be good to have these as a backup. He posed the question: if the S.A.M. gala can raise \$700,000. Why can't PMTC?

Dr. Leverett asked Dr. Khoury if he knew if OSMA presently does galas? Dr. Khoury did not believe that they did. His question is "How do we partner with them?" He suggests thinking outside of the box to determine how much would go to PMTC and how much to OSMA. Dr. Leverett stated he is willing to explore both ideas with Kevin and visit with the English Speaking Union. Dr. Leverett continued: there needs to be a vehicle for the funds to flow through, like OSMA then on to us. He stated he thinks OSMA has probably done galas before and has the "recipe" to do one and we could utilize their expertise to do it. He hopes a gala would flow through OSMA and then to PMTC like other funds do so we do not have to create a new vehicle for it.

Assistant Attorney General Joe Ashbaker stated a trust can be set up, but the upmost concern is 100% transparency. The question is how to get the funds to the agency as the statute is vague.

Ms. Thompson stated that the money from Blue Cross Blue Shield comes from the Tulsa Community Foundation who sends the funds to PMTC.

Mr. Ashbaker stated it has been done before, and there is no reason why it cannot be done again.

Dr. DeLaughter asked if there is a tax advantage to doing it one way vs another.

Dr. Leverett stated he thought it would be "clean" going through OSMA. He asked for Chair Spanbauer to approve of him and Dr. Khoury moving forward looking into a gala event and foundations.

Ms. Spanbauer asked for clear direction by the next meeting if someone wants to donate money: where the money would go, and how that would work so we can have transparency.

Mr. Ashbaker suggested forming a subcommittee to look into exploring the legal side of receiving donations.

Dr. DeLaughter made the motion for the commission to explore alternative funding sources. Dr. Newton seconded the motion. Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Leverett, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Lester, Dr. Newton, and Dr. Stidham. None were opposed.

5. Consideration and Possible Action from Scholarship Loan Repayment Committee

- Kristen Shay Stehling, D.O.

Dr. Khoury stated The Committee recommends paying Dr. Stehling her first year payment of \$50,000 minus the first year on the Resident Rural Scholarship for a total of \$38,000. The committee further recommends not renewing her loan repayment contract beyond the first year.

Ms. Spanbauer reminded the commissioners at the last meeting more information was requested before a decision could be made.

Dr. DeLaughter and Ms. Thompson confirmed that the company has a few other physicians on loan repayment and they have no problem getting the information we request from them.

The Committee made the motion to not renew Dr. Stehling's loan repayment contract beyond the first year. The payment would be \$50,000 less the first year on the Resident Rural Scholarship for a total of \$38,000. Dr. Leverett seconded the motion. Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Leverett, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Lester, Dr. Newton, and Dr. Stidham. None were opposed.

6. Nursing Program Updates

Ms. Michelle Cecil gave the following information:

❖ NEW PAYMENT METHOD

- We are now paying nursing students by direct deposit at the end of each semester. They must provide verification of good standing, official transcript and enrollment for the next semester or registration for the NCLEX exam before payments are released.
- We are also now invoicing sponsors at the end of each individual semester in order to reduce holding or refunding funds for students that don't progress in the program.

❖ **SPRING SEMESTER APPLICANTS**

- This year we accepted new applicants for the spring semester and you approved 7 students at our February meeting. We will continue to do this as long as funds are available to award new scholarships for the fiscal year.
- **BREAK DOWN OF SCHOLARSHIPS**
 - 11 LPNs
 - 11 ADNs
 - 35 BSNs
 - 8 MSNs
 - 6 DNPs
 - 4 PhDs

❖ **WARRANT INTERCEPT COLLECTIONS**

- This time of year I always like to report on the funds that we are able to collect through the warrant intercept program with the Oklahoma Tax Commission.
 - Physicians - \$1,524.96
 - Nursing students - \$9,901.68
 - Total of \$11,426.64 in tax refund collections

❖ **NEW DEADLINE DATE**

- Since we have changed the format in which we pay the nursing students, we have changed our deadline date from June 30th to July 31st. I believe that this will accommodate those students that receive acceptance letters in July to be able to submit complete applications.

Dr. Leverett asked if we have explored state Cares Act money or grants from Commerce and Workforce Development that universities and colleges were given. Each student received \$1,000 post covid. He asked if it is possible for the commission to apply for a grant to support nursing students. He stated some entities have so much money they do not know how to spend it.

Ms. Thompson stated PMTC will definitely look into it.

7. Consideration and Possible Action regarding the Physician Assistant Scholarship Program

Ms. Sharp presented to the commission: Rachel Birchfield, Nicole Brinker, and Tomorrow Longest, however Ms. Longest withdrew her application and is pursuing the PA Loan Repayment program.

As there were no questions, Ms. Spanbauer called for a vote.

Dr. Newton made the motion to approve the Physician Assistant applicants Rachel Birchfield and Nicole Brinker. Dr. DeLaughter seconded the motion. Voting in favor were: Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Leverett, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Lester, Dr. Newton and Dr. Stidham. None were opposed.

8. Consideration and Possible Action regarding Physician Assistant Loan Repayment Program

Ms. Sharp presented information for one Physician Assistant Loan Repayment Program applicant: Angela L. Gibbons.

As there were no questions, Ms. Spanbauer called for a vote.

Dr. Stidham made the motion to approve the applicant for Physician Assistant Loan Repayment with Dr. DeLaughter seconding the motion. Voting in favor were: Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Leverett, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Lester, Dr. Newton and Dr. Stidham. None were opposed.

9. Consideration and Possible Action on Resident Rural Scholarship Program

Ms. Sharp presented information for three Resident Rural Scholarship applicants:

- Ruben Barroso, D.O.
- Andrew Dodd, D.O.
- Joseph Wells, D.O.

As there were no questions, Ms. Spanbauer called for a vote.

Dr. Newton made the motion to approve the applicants for Resident Rural Scholarship Program with Dr. DeLaughter seconding the motion. Voting in favor were: Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Leverett, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Lester, Dr. Newton and Dr. Stidham. None were opposed.

10. Consideration and Possible Action regarding Physician Loan Repayment Program

Ms. Williams presented information on two Physician Loan Repayment Program applicants

- Lindsey LaTrelle French, D.O.
- James Cody Brigance, M.D.

As there were no questions, Ms. Spanbauer called for a vote.

Dr. Leverett made the motion to approve the applicants for the Physician Loan Repayment Program with Dr. Newton seconding the motion. Voting in favor were: Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Leverett, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Lester, Dr. Newton and Dr. Stidham. None were opposed.

11. Physician Placement Report

Ms. Sharp and Ms. Williams presented the Physician Placement Report and distributed charts and graphs detailing placed physicians and physician assistants in rural Oklahoma.

12. New Business

Website:

Ms. Thompson discussed PMTC's new website. It will have a more modern look and will have new abilities.

Dr. Khoury asked if we have considered a digital marketing or a digital campaign to get the word out to physicians of what PMTC is?

Ms. Thompson stated OMES IT is creating the website. All state websites will have a standardized look. Ms. Williams is consulting with Julie Bisbee at TSET regarding using the ".gov" extension so website visitors can subscribe to newsletters. She stated we have not been happy with how our job listings are shown on the website. This is one of the areas they are expanding to make it better. When a new position becomes available, with ".gov", an email can go out to them. Ms. Thompson stated she is open to suggestions that we can take to our weekly IT website meeting.

Fundraising:

Dr. Lester stated Jim Moore in Tulsa is the largest fundraiser in the world. He raises funds for Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, Shriners, and American Legion. He recommended looking up Jim Moore from Tulsa. He stated Mr. Moore is building a 186,000 square foot log cabin in Colorado to entertain and raise funds. Dr. Lester said he thought it would be great to look at those who are successful fundraising.

Outgoing Commissioners:

Ms. Spanbauer tearfully expressed her thanks for the opportunity to serve on the commission for the past ten years. She stated she will miss it.

13. Discussion and vote to Adjourn

Dr. Stidham made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Dr. Newton seconding the motion. Voting in favor were: Ms. Spanbauer, Dr. Leverett, Dr. DeLaughter, Dr. Khoury, Dr. Lester, Dr. Newton, and Dr. Stidham. None were opposed.



Tim Newton, D.O., Board Vice-Chair 8/12/2021

