

Advisory Graduate Medical Education Council (AGMEC)
Wednesday, December 10, 2008
10:00 am
Room 4101, Child Health Institute
New Brunswick, NJ

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Bojko, MD, MS, Chairperson
Emmanuel Ashong, MD, Public Member (via telephone)
Richard Goldstein, MD, NJ Council of Teaching Hospitals (via telephone)
Robert Johnson, Interim Dean, NJMS
Ronald Lockman, Public Member (via telephone)
Betsy Ryan, President & CEO, New Jersey Hospital Association (via telephone)
Susan Volpicella-Levy, DO, President of the NJ Assoc. of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (via telephone)
Dr. Sensakovic, authorized representative of Dr. Brian Shulman, Seton Hall Univ. School of Graduate Medical Education (via telephone)

Non-Voting Members Present:

Cynthia Kirchner, NJ Dept. of Health & Senior Services
Stanley Schiff, Medical Director, Commissioner of Human Services designee (via telephone)

Non-Voting Member Absent/Excused:

Sindy Paul, MD, President, of the State Board of Medical Examiners

Voting Members Absent/Excused:

Brian Little, MD, President, Assoc. of Hospital Directors of Medical Education of NJ
Rick Scott, MD, Immediate Past President of the Medical Society of NJ

Staff Members Present:

Peter Falk, UMDNJ
Carol Socha, UMDNJ
John Franzini, Esq. Deputy Attorney General
Marguerite Beardsley, Commission on Higher Education

Guests:

Anthony F. LaBue, representing St. George's University School of Medicine
Kyla Scarponi, DO (waiting for official appointment for voting rights)

Dr. Bojko, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He announced that the meeting was called in accordance with the regulations of the State of New Jersey with regard to public meetings. Introductions were made around the table and of those joining via telephone. There was a quorum of voting members present, either in-person or via teleconferencing.

The minutes of the July 24, 2008 meeting were approved.

Dr. Bojko opened discussion regarding the two requests from St. George's University School of Medicine (SGUSOM). The first request is to increase the number of internal medicine trainees at Trinitas Hospital from 6 to 12; the second request is for the committee to authorize a clerkship program in Psychiatry for SGUSOM students at Trinitas that would replace the previously authorized program in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

With regard to the request to increase the number of internal medicine trainees, Dr. Johnson asked about the ratio of the number of students to residents, and expressed some concern over the accuracy of the information in the application filed by St. George's. Dr. Ashong questioned if Trinitas is discouraging students from other universities from participating in clerkship programs and asked if there would be adequate room for other students in the future; Dr. Bojko said that other alternatively accredited medical schools interested in placements at Trinitas would need to seek approval from AGMEC. Dr. Schiff expressed his concern that there would be adequate access for New Jersey students given the increase in students from SGUSOM. Mr. LaBue (representing SGUSOM) noted that, by NJ law, students from UMDNJ have priority over students from alternatively accredited medical schools for clerkship placements in NJ hospital training programs.

Dr. Goldstein made a motion to approve the SGUSOM request to increase the number of internal medicine clerkships at Trinitas Hospital from 6 to 12. Ms. Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

With regard to the request of SGUSOM to establish a clerkship program in Psychiatry for SGUSOM students at Trinitas, Dr. Ashong asked whether AGMEC should make a site visit to Trinitas before voting on the request. Dr. Johnson said that he felt a site visit would be beneficial, and again stated his concern over the ratio of students to residents.

Dr. Ashong made a motion that a subcommittee of AGMEC conduct a site visit at Trinitas before voting on the request to establish a clerkship program in Psychiatry for SGUSOM students. Dr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Dr. Sensakovic and Ms. Betsy Ryan opposed the motion; 5 committee members approved the site visit.

The Council unanimously passed a resolution to move to a closed session to obtain legal advice from counsel concerning SGUSOM's application. The resolution provided that the minutes of the closed session will be available to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Following the closed session, a site visit subcommittee of Drs. Ashong, Bojko, Scarponi and Schiff was announced; the subcommittee will schedule a visit at Trinitas during the week of December 15; the committee will reconvene on December 22 or 23 to discuss the outcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.