

Advisory Graduate Medical Education Council (AGMEC)

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 31, 2007 – 10:00 a.m.

UMDNJ-RWJMS Child Health Institute, Room 3101

New Brunswick, NJ

Voting Members Present:

Thomas Bojko, MD, MS, Chairperson, UMDNJ-Child Health Institute

Elliott L. Ames, DO (via telephone), President of the NJ Assoc. of Osteopathic Physicians

Emmanuel Ashong, MD, Public Member

Robert Johnson, MD, Interim Dean, UMDNJ-NJMS

Brian Little, MD (via telephone), President, Assoc. of Hospital Directors of Medical Education of NJ

Ronald Lockman, Public Member

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

Stanley Schiff, DO (via telephone, Commissioner of Human Services designee

Rick Scott, MD (via telephone), President of the Medical Society of NJ

Brian Shulman, PhD, Seton Hall University School of Graduate Medical Education

Non-voting Members Present:

Voting Members Absent/Excused:

Gary Carter, New Jersey Hospital Association

Cynthia Kirchner, NJ Dept. of Health & Senior Services

Non-Voting Members Absent/Excused:

Staff Members Present:

Carol Socha, UMDNJ

Peter Falk, UMDNJ

Suzanna M. Polhamus, Esq., Deputy Attorney General

Marguerite Beardsley, Commission on Higher Education

Guests Approved for Comment:

Michael Eliastam, MD, Saba University

Lawrence A. Feldman, PhD, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

Marisa Freschi, DO, Student enrolled in graduate medical training program

Amrita Kaur, DO, Infectious Disease Fellow, UMDNJ/Kennedy

Paul Krueger, DO, UMDNJ-School of Osteopathic Medicine

Arthur Maron, MD, Saba University

Michelle Robinson, Commission on Higher Education

John W. Sensakovic, MD, PhD, Seton Hall University

David Swee, MD, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Dr. Bojko, AGMEC 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 of AGMEC members, staff and of those attending as guests. As

there was a quorum of voting members present, either in person or via teleconferencing, Dr. Bojko proceeded with the meeting.

Michelle Robinson, Ethics Liaison Officer for the State of New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, gave a presentation on the state ethics guidelines and conflict of interest law as they pertain to AGMEC. Prior to the meeting, each AGMEC voting and non-voting member received the ethics plain language guide and the uniform ethics code; at the meeting they were given a hand out for ethics training.

Drs. Bojko and Paul provided a brief overview of the work of the Advisory Committee on Alternatively Accredited Medical School Clinical Clerkships (“the Committee”).

Dr. Paul reported that the Committee had researched the issues and prepared a report and recommendations concerning medical clerkships in New Jersey which had been forwarded to AGMEC voting members.

Dr. Paul discussed the concerns of the Committee, in preparing the report and recommendations, including the ability to accurately ascertain the quality of education students receive at alternatively accredited medical schools, the educational background of these students to work with NJ patients, the number of patients available to students for clinical clerkships in NJ hospitals, and the clinical placement needs of students in NJ medical schools. She indicated that the full report contains detailed information and recommendations of the Committee to AGMEC.

Dr. Johnson questioned whether AGMEC makes recommendations or actual regulations.

Ms. Beardsley said AGMEC could develop recommendations for an alternatively accredited medical school clerkship approval process, and the NJ Commission on Higher Education will help AGMEC put their recommendations through the regulatory process.

Dr. Johnson suggested that AGMEC build upon the process previously established by the NJ Board of Medical Examiners (BME) in developing the approval process.

Dr. Little asked whether or not the approval process would require a hospital to accept students.

Dr. Bojko explained that his understanding is that the requesting school and the hospital apply together with a previous understanding that that hospital has an interest in providing clerkship positions for the school’s students, but that the approval to do so would not bind the hospital.

Several members noted that AGMEC needs to consider the needs of NJ medical schools for clinical placements, especially given increases in enrollments in NJ's existing medical schools, and the approval by the BME to allow Touro Medical College to seek LCME accreditation and establish a medical school in NJ, as well as increased competition from medical schools in New York and Pennsylvania.

Dr. Ashong suggested that AGMEC needs more data with regard to the number of clerkship positions available in NJ versus the number needed.

Dr. Shulman questioned what the Committee's position would be on NJ residents attending alternatively accredited medical schools seeking clerkship positions. It was suggested that AGMEC could include preference to NJ residents as part of the approval process.

Dr. Bojko opened the meeting for public comment.

Dr. Maron spoke on behalf of Saba University and the desire of his school to offer clinical clerkships in NJ hospitals; he stated his concern that his school has not been recognized by the council as an alternatively accredited medical school, and his feeling that his school has not been able to participate on a level playing field.

Dr. Krueger of UMDNJ-School of Osteopathic Medicine expressed his concern regarding the number of available clerkship positions given the increased enrollments in NJ medical schools, first and second year medical students now involved in clinical course work, and increased competition from Pennsylvania medical schools; he said that the training of NJ medical students should be the number one priority of the council; further, he stated his concern that alternatively accredited medical schools pay the hospitals in which their students complete clerkships, and that the state medical colleges in NJ are not in a position to compete on that level.

Dr. Feldman stated his concern regarding the accuracy of the data presented in the Committee's report given that much of the report relied on self-reporting mechanisms through an on-line survey tool; he also said that the council needs to consider the changes in medical school education that are increasing the need for clinical training sites.

Dr. Bojko asked the AGMEC members for suggestions on the next steps to be taken by AGMEC.

Dr. Paul suggested that the council consider the approval process previously developed by the BME.

It was decided that AGMEC would next meet after members had an opportunity to review the legislation that created AGMEC, the aforementioned BME process for approving clinical clerkships for alternatively accredited medical schools,

LCME accreditation guidelines, NJ rule-making process, and any other materials deemed appropriate by the council.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.