

**NEVADA GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION**

MINUTES

Date and Time of Meeting: Friday, June 6, 2014
1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Place of Meeting: Grant Sawyer Building
Governor's Conference Room
555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 5100
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Videoconference Location: Nevada State Capitol
The Guinn Room
101 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Call In Number:

**1. Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call, Announcements
Senator Joe Hardy, MD – Chairman**

In Las Vegas

Senator Joe Hardy
Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante
Adams
Mr. Vance Farrow
Mr. Sam Kaufman
Dr. David Park
Dr. Mark Penn
Col. Guillermo Tellez

In Carson City

Ms. Shendry Thom
Mr. Bill Welch
Provost John White
Director Mike Willden
Dr. Tom Schwenk (entered late
coming from Regents Meeting)

A quorum was counted.

2. Public Comment

Senator Hardy opened the floor to public comment.

Senator Hardy read comments from a letter from Congressman Joe Heck. Congressman Heck noted the importance of increasing the number of physicians by increasing the number of residency programs in Nevada. He noted his work under Governor Guinn through MERT. He encouraged the development of public and private, allopathic and osteopathic, hospital and community based partnerships to create a consistent and high quality training base that will ultimately produce the best possible healthcare for Nevadans. He offered his assistance to the Task Force.

No public comments were offered in Carson City.

In Las Vegas, Ms. Shelly Berkley, CEO and Senior Provost of Touro University, gave a description of Touro University programs and discussed the importance of GME programs in Nevada. She noted the MOU between the allopathic and osteopathic accreditation programs. She expressed that Touro is anxious and ready to work collaboratively. She noted the ACA created a critical need to develop GME due to the estimate of 600,000 more Nevadans obtaining healthcare insurance. She expressed the importance of collaboration.

3. Approval of the minutes of the April 30, 2014, May 14, 2014, and May 30, 2014 Task Force meetings

Only the minutes of April 20, 2014 were prepared for approval (Exhibit A).

Dr. Penn noted a revision on page 5 “great appreciation for what the schools have done..” which needed to include Touro and along with UNSOM.

Motion: To approve the minutes of April 30, 2014 with the corrections as mentioned:

Motion by: Dr. Forman

Seconded by: Vance Farrow

Passed unanimously

4. Make recommendations for the report to the Governor from the reports and discussion from Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers (FQHCs) and outpatient clinics on what role they see themselves playing in the development GME

Chuck Duarte, COO for Community Health Alliance (CHA) thanked the Governor, Legislators, and Department for the expansion of the Medicaid program creating better health and financial security for Nevadans.

He gave his presentation on the role of community health centers and their part in GME (See Exhibit B). He explained to Assemblywoman Adams that Nevada Health Centers and First Med are located in Southern Nevada but could not say how many locations there were. At Mr. Farrow’s request, Mr. Duarte will provide a map showing the locations. He noted for Col. Tellez the number of clients served at CHA and with the St. Mary’s merge, but will get the numbers requested for the other locations. He answered Dr. Park saying there are 2 clinical psych externs at CHA and on July 1st there will be 5 in total, working 20 – 30 hours a week.

Mr. Duarte answered Mr. Welch saying there is no promise that after 5 years, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services will continue the funding, so programs are seeking both state and federal funding. Mr. Forman discussed the end to the HRSA grant in 2015 and that Congressman Heck is working to try to continue the grant. Mr. Forman questioned whether there is a significant amount of money going to the hospital being used to fund a medical school. Mr. Duarte explained he was not aware of this during his tenure as the Medicaid Administrator. He didn’t see any specific public health outcomes with respect to workforce tying Medicaid funds through the hospitals to the Medical School.

Senator Hardy questioned if anyone had ever had a clear way of tracking and having accountability to the Medicaid funds. Mr. Duarte answered that during his tenure as Administrator they were sure of the amount of dollars and appropriate use of the federal funds. No outcomes were required or evaluated.

Mr. Duarte answered Dr. Penn explaining all residents at the community health center are licensed physicians; the issue is credentialing by PARS. Dr. Park clarified the difference between indirect and direct supervision, and independent licenses and special licenses. He asked if in regard to the FTCA covering employees of the CHC, will the FTCA cover the

resident in a consortium model with a hospital or medical school acting as a sponsoring institution and the residents rotating at the CHC. Mr. Duarte explained they would not.

In response to Assemblywoman Adams' question to the members, Mr. Kaufman noted he interacts with the CHCs in Southern Nevada. Mr. Duarte noted CHA's interaction with Renown and St. Mary's health systems in respect to patient care.

In response to Assemblywoman Adams, Mr. Duarte responded that the residents in the CHCs can come in with a mind set to help the low income population, or they might develop a commitment to working with this population.

Senator Hardy asked if the special reimbursement rates given to federally qualified health centers for training resident physicians, loss of productivity, and cost of care would take away from the Federal funds currently provided. Mr. Duarte said the special funds would require 63% state match.

Mr. Forman asked if there is a greater move towards the CHC training model as opposed to current traditional training under hospital based primary care, since there may be some hospital training costs that don't exist with the community health center model. Mr. Duarte stated the teaching health centers have no data on the comparable cost of training. He noted CHCs will need to be strongly affiliated with not only schools of medicine but also with hospitals in order to get the complete training they need in their residency.

In response to Mr. Welch's question regarding the CMS funding stream between hospitals and CHCs, Mr. Duarte replied in his opinion, if the hospital is still receiving Medicare GME then that ought to be used for the output portion of the training piece. He has seen the health center paid for their output share of training associated with costs in the health center and loss of productivity. He acknowledged he is not an expert and suggested that representatives from the 11 inaugural training health centers be invited to speak to the Task Force.

Dr. Penn expressed concern for long term perspective of a pilot, and its sustainability. Mr. Duarte discussed what he learned from focus group studies, the ending of the 2015 federal grant, and the need to sustain programs with state funds. Mr. Welch, Dr. Park, and Mr. Duarte discussed that the Medicare DME funds outside the grant for non-hospital teaching sites will continue after 2015, but the special program funding providing both DME and IME will discontinue. Medicaid will be an important source of funding for training for the CHCs.

Dr. Penn asked if there is a cap on the number of teaching health centers. The HRSA grant had requirements that the residents have specific focus on primary medical and dental care. He discussed the accountability of the distribution of monies that may come into the state and measuring physician satisfaction and retention in the training program.

Mr. Duarte responded to Senator Hardy that when the grant ends the CHC's affiliation with the accredited school makes the CHC an accredited training site, and the reapplication, recertification and reaccreditation apply to the training piece but not the CHC.

In response to Dr. Park, Mr. Duarte noted the four CHCs that state of Nevada approved are Community Health Alliance and Northern Nevada Hopes in Washoe County, Nevada Health Centers in Las Vegas, Carson City and some rural counties, and First Med in Las Vegas.

Mr. Willden followed up on Assemblywoman Adams' earlier question noting the locations of the Nevada Health Centers and the Nevada Health Centers' website.

In response to Assemblywoman Adams, Mr. Duarte said the Primary Care Association is working diligently to become equal in the comparison with other states to have an adequate number of CHCs in relation to the size of Nevada.

5. Make recommendations for the report to the Governor from the discussion on the report supported by the American College of Surgeons and The North Carolina Area Health Education Centers Program, "GME in the United States: A Review of State Initiatives"

Copies of the report were made available to the members at a previous meeting. Senator Hardy summarized the report, the introductory remarks, and recommendations noted in the North Carolina report: the GME status of Nevada in comparison to other states; the unlikely return in UME investment without an increase in GME; and the high cost of GME.

Mr. Forman noted leaving the decision up to hospitals to generate GME programs would lead to an increase in subspecialties and income generating specialties. He stressed the importance of having a state run body make the decisions.

Assemblywoman Adams asked if the report discussed the use of an existing board or commission which governs the decisions regarding GME. Mr. Forman noted the report covered 13 states and it should be looked at in regard to other states of the same size of Nevada.

Mr. Forman and Dr. Schwenk discussed their experiences with evidence of hospital support for primary care residencies in Nevada.

Senator Hardy expressed appreciation to Dr. Schwenk, UNSOM, Mountain View and Renown for looking at collaboration and creating new GME slots for 3rd and 4th medical students.

6. Make recommendations for the report to the Governor based on the discussion and report on how to increase the number of Nurse Practitioners in Nevada.

Ms. Thom presented her handout on her recommendations to the Governor (Exhibit C) and her recommendations to increase the number of nurse practitioner (Exhibit D).

Ms. Thom will find out for Mr. Forman if there was data on the number of unsupervised APRNs that have moved in the rural areas of Nevada. In response to Mr. Forman, Ms. Thom noted the ability to practice more in a family practice setting would be incentive for APRNs to move into the rural areas. Ms. Thom, Senator Hardy and Dr. Schwenk discussed the similarities between the difficulties of APRNs and physician residents to acquire the necessary training to become independent. Ms. Thom hopes to see more collaboration with the medical groups to accept APRNs. Mr. Welch noted the 2000 hours preceptor to being an independent nurse practitioner. Mr. Forman discussed the growth of

student interest is dependent on the ability to place students in GME slots. Dr. Schwenk discussed current opportunities to fill UME slots, LCME accreditation, and the ability to replace IMG with U.S. graduates.

Senator Hardy and Ms. Thom discussed the use of tax to support GME. Dr. Park, Mr. Welch and Ms. Thom clarified the process to become an independent nurse practitioner. Ms. Thom explained to Mr. Forman that the nurse practitioner is likely paying a decreased salary. Senator Hardy allowed Mr. Duarte to continue his comments from his previous discussion on CHCs. Mr. Duarte noted CHCs utilize APRNs and PAs extensively with a collaboration agreement with the precept physicians. He discussed not all practices pay a lower wage under a collaboration agreement, but pay may be based on experience. Mr. Welch shared his experience with salary paid APRNs and PAs.

Dr. Bacchusus and Dr. Coates were not available to present so Senator Hardy noted GME relationships as written on the handouts provided by D. Backus and Dr. Coates. Senator Hardy proceeded to Agenda Item #8

8. Make and finalize recommendations for the report to the Governor based on the discussion and concise reports from Task Force Members outlining their concept of a clear and acceptable plan for GME development and meeting the healthcare needs of Nevada based on previous discussions and reports provided during Task Force meetings.

Senator Hardy provided a background on HEALS and the decisions and recommendations that came about from discussions of the group. He referred back to the Governor's Executive Order. He thanked the Governor and his staff, Jackie Bryant for being so involved in the process and thanked everyone for their collaboration in this effort.

Using the matrix (See Exhibit E) representing a consolidation of concepts discussed in the individual reports submitted by some of the members (See Exhibits F - N), Senator Hardy requested the group reach consensus as to which items merited further consideration and discussion. He read through each section, and discussion and motions occurred as follows:

Motions

#1 -4 Management/ Accountability

Motion: Create a diversified governing group whether a committee or task force housed in DHHS as the administrative unit, to oversee the allocations, awarding, outcome measures for GME funds. The make-up of this group would be similar to that described in the Executive Order and decided on by the Governor.

Motioned by: Senator Hardy

Seconded by: unknown

Passed with one opposed (Provost White)

#5-9 Funding acquired

Motion: Give recommendation on acquiring funding through review of the concepts discussed by the Task Force such as, state funds, Federal Funds, Money leveraging, Unused GME slots, etc. and as listed in the spreadsheet #5-9

Motion by: Dr. Forman

Seconded by: Dr. Penn

Passed unanimously

#10 – 23 Funds to be used by

Motion: To accept that concepts as numbered 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 23 to be considered when determining how to use funds.

Motion by:

Seconded by: Dr. Penn

Passed unanimously

Mr. Welch wanted to state for the record that he does not support the exclusive focus on hospitals in regard to #22.

Motion: To not accept the concept #22 be considered when determining how to use funds.

Motion by: Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams

Seconded by: Dr. Penn

Passed unanimously

#24- 36 Criteria upon which to determine if/how funding should be awarded

Motion: Transmit to the Governor a summary of the box noting the wide range of criteria by which funding decisions could be made, that we made clear that these criteria have been discussed that it is likely there is not consensus around every single one of these but there is a general consensus of the types of issues to be considered.

Motion by: Dr. Schwenk

Seconded by: Dr. Penn

Passed unanimously

#37-40 Application Process

Motion: that this should be determined by the group as noted in Motion #1

Motion by: Dean Park

Seconded by: Dr. Penn

Passed unanimously

Outcomes measures/Quality indicators #41-44

Motion: Transmit to the Governor a summary of the box noting the wide range of criteria by which funding decisions could be made, that we made clear that these criteria have been discussed that it is likely there is not consensus around every single one of these but there is a general consensus of the types of issues to be considered.

Motion by: Dr. Schwenk

Seconded by: Dr. Penn

Passed unanimously

Other considerations #45-59

Motion: summary of the number of issues that merit consideration for which there was not a vote or a likely consensus by the Task Force, twill be taken under advisement by the group created by motion #1 and come up with at response.

Motion by: Dr. Schwenk

Seconded by: Dean Park

Passed unanimously

Clarification of whether to include #13 as a recommendation

Discussion and clarification occurred in regard to whether #13 should be included in the recommendation.

Motion: to include #13 as a viability of funds to be used by the group created by motion #1.

Motion by: Assemblywoman Adams

Seconded by: Col. Tellez

Passed unanimously

7. Make recommendations for the report to the Governor based on discussion and report on the HCO model of GME extension

Dr. Coates gave his presentation his handout (Exhibit O). No questions or comments were offered.

Senator Hardy will work to prepare a report to the Governor.

Mr. Willden for the record recognized Ms. Friedman's work to support the Task Force.

9. Public Comment

No public comment was offered from Carson City or Las Vegas.

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM