

BOARD OF MEDICAL STUDENT LOANS

Minutes of the meeting of October 30, 2015

The Board of Medical Student Loans held an open public meeting on **October 30, 2015** by videoconference at **three locations**: The University of Arizona Health Sciences Center, Drachman Hall East, Room A276, 1501 N. Campbell Avenue, **Tucson, AZ 85724**; The University of Arizona, College of Medicine, Room C402, Health Sciences Education Building (HSEB), 550 E. Van Buren Street, **Phoenix, AZ 85004**; and Midwestern University, Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine, Room 234, Glendale Hall, 19555 N. 59th Avenue, **Glendale, AZ 85308**.

Board members in attendance at the videoconference included Chairperson Ross Kosinski, Ph.D., Amy Mitchell, M.D. and Amy Waer, M.D. in Tucson, AZ; Shirley Rheinfelder, M.D., and Gordi Khera, M.D. in Glendale; Stanley Brysacz, D.O., Jeff Morgan, D.O. and Patricia Tarango (non-voting member) in Phoenix. All board members were in attendance.

Support staff present included: Sherri McClellan and Victor Navarro, Program Coordinators and Jessica LeDuc, Director of Financial Aid, College of Medicine-Tucson, University of Arizona, in Tucson; Ana Roscetti, Workforce Section Manager, Bureau of Health Systems Development, Arizona Department of Health Services and Deborah Ross-Carter, Assistant Director, Student Financial Services, A.T. Still University in Phoenix; and Lisa Veliz and Filippo Chiarenza of Midwestern University Student Financial Services in Glendale.

The minutes of the meeting of May 1, 2015 have been distributed to the Board for review.

Chairperson Kosinski called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.

The meeting began as each person in attendance introduced him or herself. Chairperson Kosinski welcomed Filippo Chiarenza as the new Student Loan Administrator at Midwestern University-Glendale who will be acting as the school's liaison to the Board.

Chairperson Kosinski called the first agenda item for **approval of the meeting minutes** from May 1, 2015. Dr. Rheinfelder moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 1, 2015. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Dr. Khera, and all voting members were unanimous to approve.

The Board reviewed the updates of **referrals with the Attorney General** as Chairperson Kosinski listed them from the agenda. **O. Dianna Bell** owes approximately \$12,000 and currently pays \$500.00 per month per a Forbearance Agreement executed in July. **Allison Castro, M.D.** owes approximately \$176,347.74 and has signed an agreement to make payments of \$1,000.00 per month, increasing payments to 1,200.00 per month in August 2016, and increasing again to \$2,000.00 per month in August 2017 until the debt is paid in full. **Claudia Chavez** pays \$250 per month toward a settlement agreement. **David Damstra, M.D.** remains in the military, owing \$62,500 including interest and liquidated damages. **Juan Hernandez** owes approximately \$225,200 and currently pays \$500 per month. **Aileen Lo, M.D.** owes approximately \$361,906.51 and has signed an agreement to make payments of \$750.00 per

month, increasing to \$1,500.00 per month in September 2016 until the debt is paid in full. **Juanita Padilla, M.D.** owes approximately \$212,000 and still has no known wages or income; the Attorney General continues to seek enforcement of judgment. **Rey Palop, M.D.** owes approximately \$27,400 and is in repayment of \$3,000 per month.

Chairperson Kosinski noted Dr. Brysacz's concern that Dr. Damstra is accruing interest while he is in the military. Dr. Brysacz stated that he still has that concern, believing it is unnecessary to charge interest on a service member. Chairperson Kosinski stated that he will follow up with the Board's advisor at the Attorney General's Office regarding the concern.

Board member Dr. Mitchell asked about the absence of **Scott Salmon, D.O.** from the list. Chairperson Kosinski answered that Sherri McClellan received mention of Scott Salmon's case being closed. Sherri added that she received an informal email that the case was closed on October 19th, however no official notice had been provided to include in the agenda. She stated that she was told by the Attorney General's Office that the next case update would include documentation of the case closure, and that is expected to be included in the next Board meeting.

The meeting continued with a **participant request** from **Valerie Miranda, M.D.** Dr. Miranda submitted 1,221 hours of service at approved and eligible locations of FastMed Urgent Care in the Phoenix area between October 23, 2014 and August 8, 2015, asking approval of these hours. She also proposes to complete the remaining 590 hours of her obligation at a part-time status of 18-20 hours per week at eligible locations. Dr. Mitchell motioned to approve Dr. Miranda's request. Dr. Brysacz seconded the motion. Dr. Khera asked to confirm that all locations of Dr. Miranda's service were eligible and approved. Sherri McClellan answered that indeed they were. Chairperson Kosinski noted that, while she was promoted to Director of Medical Services in Arizona, the 1,221 hours submitted only pertained to direct patient care. The motion to approve was raised, and all were unanimous to approve.

Chairperson Kosinski continued the agenda with participants who have **completed service**. **Joaquin Bermudez, D.O.** fulfilled his 2-year service obligation in Psychiatry with combined full-time employment, working 32 hours per week with the South Eastern Arizona Behavioral Health Services (SEABHS) in Safford and 8 hours per week with the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (AZDJC) at Adobe Mountain School in Phoenix from July 15, 2013 through July 27, 2015. Dr. Bermudez continues to work with SEABHS and AZDJC. **Benjamin Dangerfield, D.O.** completed 3 years of service in Internal Medicine to the medically-underserved shortage area of South Central Phoenix at Maricopa Medical Center from June 30, 2012 to June 30, 2015. Since completing his obligation, Dr. Dangerfield has returned to the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale where he trained as a resident, working as an academic hospitalist. **Laura Mercer, M.D.** completed 2 years of full-time work in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Maricopa OB/GYN Associates in Phoenix from July 1, 2013 through July 27, 2015, serving the low-income area of Phoenix Central. Dr. Mercer continues working there. **Michael Mortensen, D.O.** completed his 3-year service obligation in Internal Medicine at Flagstaff Medical Center from July 9, 2012 through July 20, 2015. Dr. Mortensen continues to work there. **B. Sean Smithson, M.D.** fulfilled his 3-year service obligation at Pinetop Medical Associates in Pinetop from July 23, 2012 through August 20, 2015 in Family Practice. He plans to continue working there. **Elizabeth Bierer, M.D.** completed 4 years of service in Family Medicine at Lakeside Family Health Center from August 15, 2011 through September 2, 2015. She plans to continue living and working in Pinetop and Lakeside.

Dr. Brysacz observed that five out of six participants who have completed their obligations are staying in the underserved area in which they served. He pointed out that that is very good news for the Board, and suggested that the Sunset Review committee be made aware of this success. Chairperson Kosinski said that the Review is coming up in Summer 2016, and the Board will be providing such statistics

The participants who **continue to serve** were then summarized. **Brandon Abbott, D.O.** started at North Country HealthCare in Flagstaff on July 13, 2015. He is serving his 4-year service obligation in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics and is expected to complete his service in July 2019. **Tomás Acuña, M.D.** is serving his 5-year commitment in Family Practice with Dignity Health at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, having started there on August 22, 2014, expecting to complete his obligation in 2019. **Michelle Aguilar, M.D.** continues her 4-year service commitment at El Rio - Southwest Health Center in Tucson where she has been working as a full-time physician in Pediatrics since November 4, 2013. She will be finished in 2017. **Tam Chu, D.O.** continues as a full-time physician in Internal Medicine with Dignity Health Medicine Group at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix where she began on September 1, 2013. She has a 4-year commitment and is expected to be completed in September 2017. **Jesse Crane, D.O.** started on September 8, 2015 as a full-time physician in Family Medicine at North Country HealthCare, a Federally-Qualified Health Center. Dr. Crane has a 4-year commitment and is expected to complete his service in September 2019. **Comfort Hines, M.D.** began her 4-year service obligation working in Emergency Medicine on July 1, 2013 in Casa Grande until June 30, 2014 when her company lost its contract. She then worked at approved Verde Valley Medical Center (VVMC) in Cottonwood and Sedona beginning July 1, 2014 until June 30, 2015 when her company again lost its contract at VVMC. She began full-time Emergency Medicine at Canyon Vista Medical Center in Sierra Vista on July 25, 2015, serving the Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area of Sierra Vista-Tombstone and the Medically Underserved Area/Population of Sierra Vista/Benson. Dr. Hines is expected to be completed in August 2017. **Jennifer Holmgren, D.O.** continues to work full-time in Pediatrics at MVP Kids in Phoenix and Avondale since February 11, 2013. Her 4-year service obligation is expected to be completed in February 2017. **Michael Kushner, M.D.** has been serving his 4-year commitment in Family Medicine at Board -approved El Rio Community Health Center in Tucson since July 29, 2013 and is expected to complete his obligation in July 2017. **Anne Maiden Young, D.O.** has been working as a pediatrician at Valle del Sol in Phoenix since July 16, 2012. Her 4-year service obligation is expected to be completed in July 2016. **Valerie Matthew, M.D.** began her 5-year obligation at Western Arizona Regional Medical Center (WARMC) in Bullhead City in Family Medicine, serving the Medically-Underserved Area/Population of Low Income - Bullhead City. She is expected to complete her commitment in 2020. **Virginia Savala, D.O.** has been serving her 4-year commitment in Obstetrics at Sun Life Family Health Center in Casa Grande since July 29, 2013 and is expected to be completed in late-July 2017. Linda Shuler, D.O. serves in Family Medicine at Mountain Park Health Center at its locations in the Phoenix area, Tempe and Goodyear. She has a 4-year service commitment and is expected to fulfill her obligation in September 2018. **Mariposa Wolford, M.D.** Continues her service at El Rio Community Health Center in Pediatrics at the Pascua Yaqui Health Clinic in Tucson where she has been working since September 23, 2013. Her 3-year commitment is expected to be completed in September 2016. **Lisa Young, D.O.** works in Family Medicine at Whiteriver Indian Health Service where she began her 3-year commitment on November 1, 2013. Her commitment is expected to be completed in November 2016.

Chairperson Kosinski next reviewed the Reimbursement of Private Schools to the University of Arizona College of Medicine per the statutes, reviewing that the amount is based on \$500.00 for each student with a maximum cost of \$5,000.00. There are three students from A.T. Still University and will pay \$1,500.00 and ten from Midwestern University which will pay \$5,000.00. Chairperson Kosinski asked Sherri McClellan when invoices will be sent. Sherri replied that the invoices are ready to be sent. She then confirmed with Dr. Brysacz that he will once again assist with the payment of the invoice from A.T. Still University. He replied that he would.

For the administrative update, Chairperson Kosinski reminded the Board of the expected Sunset, signed by the Arizona governor in April 2011. The Board has not received any State funds for several years. The Board continues as charged overseeing the fulfillment of contracts. Any payments to the Board are now going to the State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) which was recently given a broader scope of practitioners. Chairperson Kosinski made a correction to the detailed agenda, that the State Loan Repayment Program did not receive additional funding, but they did receive the ability to increase awards. The overall funding of the program was not increased. There are several different disciplines serving in the field through the SLRP. Chairperson Kosinski noted that although the Board is no longer given funds to provide physicians to areas of need, the SLRP is filling those areas of need with physicians and other healthcare professionals. Chairperson Kosinski added that a meeting is expected in the summer with the Auditor General and that all agencies going through Sunset are required to go through such a process.

With the agenda items addressed, Chairperson Kosinski opened the floor to other items or comments. Dr. Brysacz asked if the Board would be meeting in the summertime to discuss statistics to provide to the Auditor General for the Sunset Review. Chairperson Kosinski replied that the notice of the Review was received only recently, and that he would be working with Sherri to submit needed and important items to the review committee. Sherri added that the Sunset Review may indeed warrant an additional meeting of the Board to prepare responses and submission.

There were **no other items** for discussion from Board members or audience. Dr. Brysacz wished all a “Happy Halloween.”

With all agenda items and other discussions addressed, Dr. Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Waer seconded. All were in favor of adjournment. **The meeting was adjourned at 1:29pm.**

Minutes are available for review on this day, November 4, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri McClellan
Program Coordinator
Board of Medical Student Loans

Approved:



Ross Kosinski, Ph.D.
Chairperson
Board of Medical Student Loans