

Approved: January 31, 2008  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Morrison at 3:38 P.M. on January 29, 2008, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Johnson, Siegfried, Frownfelter, Holland, Ruiz, and Trimmer, all of whom were excused.

### Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jennifer Thierer, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Renae Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Gary Deeter, Committee Assistant

### Conferees appearing before the committee:

Lana Oleen, Governmental Affairs Director, Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education  
Don Brada, MD, Designated Institutional Official, Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education  
Penny Vogelsang, Chief Operating Officer, Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education  
Rick Moberly, MD, Resident Physician, Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education  
Jennifer Koontz, MD, Resident Physician, Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education  
Chad Austin, Kansas Hospital Association

### Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chair welcomed Lana Oleen, Governmental Affairs Director, Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education (WCGME), who introduced the conferees.

Don Brada, MD, Designated Institutional Official, WCGME, gave a brief history of the WCGME program, saying the consortium was formed in 1989 to coordinate residency medical training in Wichita (13 separate programs) and one program in Salina ([Attachment 1](#)). Noting that the 272 residents receive training in the major hospitals, he said the programs focus on four areas of primary care, which involve 60% of the residents, and seven core specialties. He commented that 55% of the graduates stay in Kansas after completing their residencies, many of them serving in underserved rural areas; he noted that residents recorded 134,000 patient visits in 2005, 82% of the visits being Medicaid/uninsured patients. He stated that a single physician in a community provides an annual economic impact of \$878,642.

Answering a question, Dr. Brada said residents in Wichita are paid by WCGME, not by the state, a total annual expense of \$48 million. Explaining a part of the funding process, Penny Vogelsang, Chief Operating Officer, WCGME, said that Wichita hospitals function under different funding mechanisms from the University of Kansas Medical Center; she cited one example: Wichita hospitals pass through 100% of Medicare dollars to WCGME, a sum which totaled \$27 million in 2006. Mary Ellen Conley, representing Via Christi Hospital, said there are two different funding formulas used by CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). Dr. Brada explained that a supervising physician can only bill for his time; if the resident

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is with him, the resident's time is not billed. Jennifer Koontz, a resident physician, WCGME, explained that, with certain stipulations, a resident can bill for time with a patient without a supervising physician being present. Ms. Vogelsang commented that one physician can supervise four residents.

Dr. Brada continued his presentation, saying that presently the funding shortfall totals \$3.3 million, a deficit currently subsidized by Wesley and Via Christi hospitals. He explained that the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education has raised accreditation standards relating to research, approach to teaching, and administration, all of which impinge on funding resources. He added that federal dollars continue to be reduced, further exacerbating funding assets. He estimated additional funding needs to be \$12.5 million, which, he said, is a prescient investment that will benefit all Kansans.

Members discussed with the conferees the possibility of requiring satellite hospitals that receive services from residents to make some monetary contribution to the resident program and suggested interested parties search for creative new avenues of funding.

Rick Moberly, MD, Resident Physician, WCGME, said there are two types of residencies, one focusing on academics and the other on community service; the latter provides training for primary care physicians (Attachment 2). He commented on the high quality of training at WCGME and noted the center's national reputation for quality.

Jennifer Koontz, MD, Resident Physician, WCGME, also related the significance of her training (Attachment 3). She noted three contributions that the Wichita program makes to the state:

- A resident can readily find a position nearby; to date the program has supplied physicians for over 75 communities.
- Residents provide a significant percentage of indigent care.
- More than 90% of the resident physicians work in rural communities nights and weekends to relieve local physicians.

Chad Austin, Kansas Hospital Association, spoke in support of the WCGE program, stating that the program occupies a key role in providing physicians in medically underserved areas and deserves the financial support of the state (Attachment 4).

The following testimony was submitted as written-only support of WCGME:

- Gene Klingler, MD, Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (Attachment 5);
- Joe Davison, MD, West Wichita Family Physicians (Attachment 6);
- Rita Buurman, CEO, Sabetha Community Hospital (Attachment 7);
- Steen Mortensen, MD, Medical Society of Sedgwick County (Attachment 8);
- Jerry Slaughter, Executive Director, Kansas Medical Society (Attachment 9).

Members and conferees discussed possible new funding streams, commenting that, with all the money

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invested in health care, some new approaches might be explored. Dr. Brada replied to a question that WCGME does not provide the kinds of research that attract grant funds. Ms. Oleen agreed that other funding sources could be explored, but addressing present needs was critical to the future of WCGME.

The minutes for January 28 were approved. (Motion, Representative Swenson; second, Representative McLachlan)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2008.