**OKLAHOMA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

**Resolution 3: A-2023**

**Introduced by:** Woody Jenkins MD and Rural Physicians Section

**Subject:** OSMA Rural Physician Workforce Initiative

**WHEREAS**, Oklahoma is in the midst of a rural health care crisis, ranking near the bottom in nearly every measure of access to care; and

**WHEREAS**, the physician shortage is even more pronounced in rural areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association of American Medical Colleges has projected that the existing shortage will get worse over the coming decades; latest data from their annual report,” The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections From 2019 to 2034” projected shortage of between 37,800 and 124,000 physicians by 2034(1); and

**WHEREAS**, non-physician practitioner groups have been able to use this shortage as leverage to push for greater autonomy and scope of practice expansions; and

**WHEREAS**, Oklahoma policymakers are looking to physicians to offer proactive solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) is uniquely situated to provide the expertise and resources; hence should maintain a plan to lay the groundwork for providing for more physicians in rural Oklahoma; and

**WHEREAS**, our Oklahoma State Medical Association has taken concrete steps to alleviating the rural healthcare crisis in Oklahoma following adoption of Resolution 5 at the 2017 and Resolution 9 at the 2020 Annual Meeting confirming OSMA’s dedication toward this effort (3) (4); and

**WHEREAS**, through the provisions of the Rural Physician Workforce Initiative in Resolution 9 from A-2020, OSMA continues to partner with Health Care Workforce Training Commission (formerly PMTC)(2) as well as the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET), BlueCross BlueShield of OK and local communities in providing loan repayment support for several physicians in rural Oklahoma to date:

• Gloria Cuadrado, MD - Texas Co. Memorial Hospital, Guymon (OSMA; BCBSOK; Texas County, PMTC)

• Stormy Walkup, DO - INTEGRIS Idabel (OSMA; TSET; PMTC)

• Michael Cooper, MD - Choctaw Nation, Talihina (OSMA; Choctaw Nation; PMTC)

• Mina Joseph, MD - Duncan Regional Hospital (OSMA; PMTC; Duncan Regional)

• Colby Eisenbach, MD - Duncan Regional Hospital (OSMA; PMTC; Duncan Regional)

• Vedmia Fonkem, MD - Great Plains Regional Health Center, Elk City (OSMA; PMTC; Great Plains Regional)

• Kaleb Vaughn, DO – Utica Park Clinic, Pryor, OK (OSMA; Utica Park, Pryor, OK)

• Gabriel DeCarvalho MD – AllianceHealth Woodward Clinics, Woodward, OK (OSMA; AllianceHealth; Woodard, OK)

Therefore, be it resolved, our Oklahoma State Medical Association continue promotion to legislative leaders, policymakers, and the governor a public/private partnership between our OSMA and the State of Oklahoma called the Rural Physician Workforce Initiative to incentivize MD/DO Physicians to move to and practice (operate) in rural underserved areas of Oklahoma;

Be it further resolved, our Oklahoma State Medical Association continue to commit an amount not to exceed $500,000 per year for the next three years for the Rural Physician Workforce Initiative  with an aggregate total not to exceed $1.5 million, to be used as matching funds for physician recruitment efforts conducted by the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET), the Health Care Workforce Training Commission, private sector businesses, local communities or entities and/or other sources.

**References**

1. [https://www.aamc.org/media/54681/download](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv2%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttps-3A__www.aamc.org_media_54681_download%26d%3DDwQFaQ%26c%3DeuGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM%26r%3DTCtM9odq_5hxgaZGN4gIRQ%26m%3DpbAk4vO515YL7i0yPQPixTs5IPByYnYJUFFySkAM_do%26s%3DLgP_FbFF507vmU5A6s0kqMGdwdupmA4JAfUddMuqKME%26e%3D&data=05%7C01%7Chod%40okmed.org%7C9a9c2eaa012d4e6b86f208db24d5b03d%7Cb9be9b6d561f45dbb0ad649686b6eb88%7C0%7C0%7C638144272428496401%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FSw0cceZAzgtCXU0R8Zd3%2B3N7S9kdojH1yJTgi%2B%2FEsc%3D&reserved=0)

2. [https://oklahoma.gov/tset/tset-programs/health-systems-initiative/health-care-workforce-training-commission.html](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv2%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttps-3A__oklahoma.gov_tset_tset-2Dprograms_health-2Dsystems-2Dinitiative_health-2Dcare-2Dworkforce-2Dtraining-2Dcommission.html%26d%3DDwQFaQ%26c%3DeuGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM%26r%3DTCtM9odq_5hxgaZGN4gIRQ%26m%3DpbAk4vO515YL7i0yPQPixTs5IPByYnYJUFFySkAM_do%26s%3DRnhPp0HSKulI3H4YGs0b6Am6vHos_OBO8g-uk5VubyQ%26e%3D&data=05%7C01%7Chod%40okmed.org%7C9a9c2eaa012d4e6b86f208db24d5b03d%7Cb9be9b6d561f45dbb0ad649686b6eb88%7C0%7C0%7C638144272428496401%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Hgz9lhytAnQbfL0ZbOedXz9iRxzPoyQ9t1hmZjZVCDE%3D&reserved=0)

3. OSMA Resolution 5-A-2017 Adopted RESOLVED,

1) That the Oklahoma State Medical Association propose to legislative leaders and the governor a public/private partnership between OSMA and the State of Oklahoma to incentivize MD/DO Physicians to move to rural Oklahoma;

2) That OSMA will commit an amount not to exceed $500,000 per year for three years, subject to matching funds being provided by TSET and/or other sources;

3) This combined money would be applied toward any potential federal grants or matching funds available;

4) The total revenue would be used to recruit MD/DO Physicians to rural areas by offering student loan repayment of up to $50,000 for each of the first three years the physician practices in a rural area;

5) The program will be overseen by a Board consisting of the OSMA President, OSMA Executive Director, Chair of the OSMA Board of Trustees, OSMA Rural Caucus Chair and the Rural Caucus Chairs from the Oklahoma Senate and House of Representatives or their designees. The program shall issue an annual report to the OSMA Board of Trustees, the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma Senate and the Governor of the State of Oklahoma;

6) The OSMA lobby team is authorized to work with state policymakers on any legislation or regulation that might be needed to implement this program.

7) The amount of funds approved by the Board specified above shall be approved by the OSMA Board of Trustees. If any expenditure, distribution, disbursement or payment exceeds the balance in the Reserve Account, as administered by the Board of Trustees, it shall require an affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the Board of Trustees at a properly called meeting thereof and an affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the House of Delegates at a properly called meeting thereof.

8) The details of implementation of this resolution shall be defined and approved by the Board of Trustees.

4. OSMA Resolution 9-A-2020 Adopted RESOLVED

our Oklahoma State Medical Association promote to legislative leaders, policymakers, and the  governor a public/private partnership between our OSMA and the State of Oklahoma called the Rural Physician Workforce Initiative to incentivize MD/DO Physicians to move to and practice in rural underserved areas of Oklahoma, and be it further

Resolved, our Oklahoma State Medical Association will commit an amount not to exceed $500,000 per year for three years to be placed in a dedicated Rural Physician Workforce Initiative with an aggregate total not to exceed $1.5 million, subject to matching funds being provided by the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET), the Physician Manpower Training Commission (PMTC), private sector businesses or entities and/or other sources; and be it further

Resolved, Rural Physician Workforce Initiative funds may be applied toward any potential federal grants or matching funds available, and be it further

Resolved, Rural Physician Workforce Initiative funds be used to help recruit and sponsor MD/DO Physicians to rural underserved areas by offering medical student loan repayment of up to $50,000 for each of the first four (4) years the physician practices in a rural underserved area, and be it further

Resolved, funds may also be used for PMTC’s Physician/Community Match Program designed to support community efforts to recruit full-time practicing physicians; and be it further

Resolved, the Physician Manpower Training Commission (PMTC) shall be authorized to administer the Rural Physician Workforce Initiative medical student loan repayment program, and be it further

Resolved, the OSMA Executive Committee is authorized to approve each Rural Physician Workforce Initiative proposal, and be it further

Resolved, a Rural Physician Workforce Initiative Annual Report shall be provided to the OSMA Board of Trustees, Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate, and the Governor of the State of Oklahoma, and be it further

Resolved, The OSMA lobby team is authorized to work with state policymakers on any legislation or regulation that may be needed to implement and sustain the Rural Physician Workforce Initiative, and be it further

Resolved, when additional funds are needed to continue the Rural Physician Workforce Initiative, the OSMA Board of Trustees may place additional funds in the Rural Physician Workforce Initiative. These funds are to come from the OSMA general budget or from the OSMA Reserve Account as determine by an affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the Board of Trustees.

Resolved, the details of implementation of this resolution shall be approved by the Board of Trustees, and be it further

Resolved, the Rural Physician Workforce Initiative shall be continued until such time as the OSMA Board of Trustees, through an affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the Board of Trustees at a properly called meeting thereof, elect to terminate the program. However, any and all financial commitments shall be concluded.