

Notice of Meeting/Workshop Hearing

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Board of Medicine

The **Board of Medicine - Finance & Process Accountability Committee** announces a public meeting by telephone conference call to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: Friday, September 25, 2020, beginning at 4:00 PM EST or as soon thereafter.

PLACE: Conference Call In #: 1 (888) 585-9008, Conference Room: 432-162-565

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: General business of the Committee. The Board of Medicine announces that certain Committee meetings will be held on the Thursday, before each Full Board meeting. Committee meetings may be cancelled prior to the meeting date. Please check the Board Web Site at <https://flboardofmedicine.gov/meeting-information/> for cancellations or changes to meeting dates or call the Board of Medicine at (850) 245-4131 for information.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Board of Medicine at <https://flboardofmedicine.gov/meeting-information/>.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 7 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Board of Medicine (BOM) Meeting Materials at BOM.MeetingMaterials@flhealth.gov or call at (850) 245-4131.

If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.

For more information, you may contact: Board of Medicine (BOM) Meeting Materials at BOM.MeetingMaterials@flhealth.gov or call at (850) 245-4131.



**Florida Board of Medicine
Finance and Process Accountability
Committee Meeting**

**Meet-Me-Number: 888-585-9008
Conference Room Number: 432-162-565
(Please login and mute your phone)**

Friday, September 25, 2020

AGENDA

Participants in this public meeting should be aware that these proceedings are being recorded and that an audio file of the meeting will be posted to the board's website.

Roll call 4:00 PM EST

Discussion:

- Florida Medical Association, Inc., Request for Reduction for Licensure/Renewal Fees due to COVID-19 1
- Approval of August 2018 Meeting Minutes.....2

Old Business:

New Business:



July 10, 2020

Zachariah Zachariah, MD
Chair
Florida Board of Medicine
4052 Bald Cypress Way Bin C-03
Tallahassee FL, 32399-3253

Re: Request for Reduction of Licensure/Renewal Fees due to COVID-19

Dear Dr. Zachariah,

Over the past several months, Florida physicians have served on the frontlines during a global pandemic that has not been seen previously in our lifetime. From solo primary care practices to major hospital systems, COVID-19 has permeated every corner of medicine. While physicians have spearheaded the fight against this virus without hesitation, it has not come without cost.

Across the nation, medical practices have experienced a significant decrease in patient volume. According to a Harvard Medical School study, “[p]rimary care practices are projected to lose more than \$65,000 in revenue per full-time physician in 2020, following drastic declines in office visits and fees for services from March to May during the COVID-19 pandemic.”¹ This amounts to a staggering \$15 billion loss. As of June 14, visits to pediatric practices are at a concerning 34% below normal rate and pulmonology practices are still seeing a 29% decline in patient volume.²

In Florida, the impact is just as grave. The Medical Group Management Association reported a decrease in patient visits of about 50% across all medical fields, with general and vascular surgeon practice volume decreasing between 70% and 99% following the Governor’s issue of Executive Order 20-72, which placed a moratorium on elective procedures.³ Health care workers are being furloughed and laid off at an alarming rate. One Florida hospital announced a loss of \$16 million in March alone.⁴ Unfortunately, stability is still far from the horizon. With the recent spike in COVID-19 cases, Jackson Health System, Memorial Healthcare and Baptist Health are once again

¹ Jett, Lauren. “COVID-19 Costs Primary Care Billions.” *Harvard Medical School*, 23 June 2020, hms.harvard.edu/news/covid-19-costs-primary-care-billions.

² Landi, Heather. “Here’s How Much Outpatient Visits Have Rebounded in May and June, According to a Harvard Analysis.” *FierceHealthcare*, 25 June 2020, www.fiercehealthcare.com/practices/here-s-how-much-outpatient-visits-have-rebounded-may-and-june-according-to-a-harvard.

³ Drs. Trolice, Mark P., et al. “Doctors Are Victims of a Health-Care Recession, and They Need Relief, Too: Commentary.” *Orlandosentinel.com*, 21 June 2020, www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/guest-commentary/os-op-doctors-need-federal-relief-recession-20200621-oskjlnpm3vfhhlghjebpcalnyu-story.html.

⁴ Id.



limiting elective surgeries to brace for the next wave of hospitalizations.⁵ It is now a very real possibility that other hospitals and medical offices located in COVID-19 hotspots will have to make the same difficult decision.

It will come as no surprise that Florida will also see an increase in both intensity and occurrences of physician burnout. More than ever, physicians are under extreme stress: faced with practicing medicine during a pandemic, worrying about patients, worrying about contracting and spreading COVID-19, worrying about the bottom line, worrying about having to lay-off loyal employees and worrying about being laid off themselves, compounded by feelings of isolation and fatigue with no end in sight. This incomplete list of stressors will have a long-lasting ripple effect within the practice of medicine.

The Florida Board of Medicine is in a unique position to help alleviate the financial burden Florida physicians are facing. Based on the foregoing, the Florida Medical Association respectfully requests that the Board of Medicine reduce licensure and renewal fees to \$0 for the 2021-2022 biennium at its upcoming August meeting. Temporarily waiving fees for Florida's heroic physicians will send a message that the Board of Medicine understands the hardships physicians face and is acting to aid the struggling medical community.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and your dedication to the citizens of Florida. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us through our counsel, Mary Thomas, via email at MThomas@flmedical.org or by telephone at (850) 224-6496.

Best regards,

Ronald Giffler, MD, JD, MBA
President
Florida Medical Association

Michael Patete, MD
President-Elect
Florida Medical Association

⁵ Fleshler, David, et al. "South Florida Hospitals Cut Elective Surgeries, as Coronavirus Cases Mount." *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, 1 July 2020, www.sun-sentinel.com/coronavirus/fl-ne-coronavirus-florida-hospitals-surgeries-20200701-6vrg6wmykvhkbbs7kkasahvf4-story.html.

**FMA MEDICAL DOCTOR FEE WAIVER REQUEST
(NOT INCLUDING UNLICENSED ACTIVITY)**

SCENARIO	ACTIVE RENEWAL	LICENSURE FEES		APPLICATION	INITIAL	ENDING CASH BAL 6/30/2020	LICENSED	ESTIMATED REVENUES FY 20-21	ESTIMATED EXPEND FY 20-21	ENDING CASH BAL 06/30/21	ESTIMATED REVENUES FY 21-22	ESTIMATED EXPEND FY 21-22	ENDING CASH BAL 06/30/22	ESTIMATED REVENUES FY 22-23	ESTIMATED EXPEND FY 22-23	ENDING CASH BAL 06/30/23	ESTIMATED REVENUES FY 23-24	ESTIMATED EXPEND FY 23-24	ENDING CASH BAL 06/30/24	ESTIMATED REVENUES FY 24-25	ESTIMATED EXPEND FY 24-25	ENDING CASH BAL 06/30/25	ESTIMATED REVENUES FY 25-26	ESTIMATED EXPEND FY 25-26	ENDING CASH BAL 06/30/26
		ALLOCATION OF CASH WITHDRAWAL																							
Current	\$360	\$120	\$350	\$350	\$ 15,468,222	\$ 1,239,104	\$ 20,581,463	\$ 17,423,451	\$ 17,387,131	\$ 20,581,463	\$ 18,054,402	\$ 19,914,191	\$ 20,581,463	\$ 17,903,640	\$ 22,592,014	\$ 20,581,463	\$ 17,428,594	\$ 25,744,883	\$ 20,581,463	\$ 17,794,459	\$ 28,531,887	\$ 20,581,463	\$ 17,700,815	\$ 31,412,535	
1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 15,468,222	\$ 1,239,104	\$ 3,674,613	\$ 17,423,451	\$ 480,281	\$ 3,674,613	\$ 18,054,402	\$ (13,899,509)	\$ 20,581,463	\$ 17,903,640	\$ (11,221,686)	\$ 20,581,463	\$ 17,428,594	\$ (8,068,817)	\$ 20,581,463	\$ 17,794,459	\$ (5,281,813)	\$ 20,581,463	\$ 17,700,815	\$ (2,401,165)	
2	\$350	\$120	\$350	\$350	\$ 15,468,222	\$ 1,239,104	\$ 20,210,288	\$ 17,423,451	\$ 17,015,956	\$ 20,210,288	\$ 18,054,402	\$ 19,171,841	\$ 20,210,288	\$ 17,903,640	\$ 21,478,489	\$ 20,210,288	\$ 17,428,594	\$ 24,260,183	\$ 20,210,288	\$ 17,794,459	\$ 26,676,012	\$ 20,210,288	\$ 17,700,815	\$ 29,185,485	
3	\$360	\$120	\$500	\$424	\$ 15,468,222	\$ 1,239,104	\$ 21,726,373	\$ 17,423,451	\$ 18,532,041	\$ 21,726,373	\$ 18,054,402	\$ 22,204,011	\$ 21,726,373	\$ 17,903,640	\$ 26,026,744	\$ 21,726,373	\$ 17,428,594	\$ 30,324,523	\$ 21,726,373	\$ 17,794,459	\$ 34,256,437	\$ 21,726,373	\$ 17,700,815	\$ 38,281,995	

NOTES:

No changes to expenditures made from annual projections
 No changes to number of active/inactive licensees made from annual projections
 Changes to revenues from annual projections for active renewal fee discrepancy
 Unlicensed Activity revenues and expenditures are not included in the above projections.
 Licensure and renewal fee waiver impacts FY20-21 and FY21-22 only.
 Licensure and renewal fee waiver impacts medical physicians only (LEIDS client 1501)
June 30, 2020 ULA cash balance is negative (\$2,362,620)

Scenarios:	Description
1	FMA request
2	Temporary Reductions Renewed
3	Reversion to rule set fees after expiration



**Florida Board of Medicine
Finance and Process Accountability
Committee Meeting**

**GalleryOne Fort Lauderdale
2670 E. Sunrise Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304**

August 2, 2018

Meeting Report

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Dolin, M.D., Chairman
Seela Ramesh, M.D.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Nicholas Romanello, Esquire

STAFF PRESENT:

Claudia Kemp, Executive Director
Ed Tellechea, Esquire, Board Counsel
Donna McNulty, Esquire, Board Counsel
Nancy Murphy, Paralegal, Board Counsel
Crystal Sanford, Program Operations Administrator

Others Present:

Downtown Reporting, LLC
200 S. Andrews Ave, Suite 604
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
Phone: (954) 467-8204
Fax: (954) 767-8811

Ms. Sanford explained to the Committee members that she receives an allotment plan every year around April or May. She reviews what was spent the prior year, areas where the Board had too much money or not enough money. The allotment plan is submitted the Chief Financial Officer. This year's plan has been approved.

The Committee reviewed the spreadsheet which showed how much money was spent in July.

A motion was made to approve the budget, seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.