

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Scott A. Rivkees, MD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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**Florida Physician Workforce Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday September 1, 2020**  
**2PM – 4PM Eastern**

Dr. Scott Rivkees opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Physician Workforce Advisory Council. Dr. Rivkees provided a brief update regarding COVID-19. The positive test rate is around 5% recently. It was at 18% when it was at its highest in July. He reviewed the current best practices to avoid spreading COVID-19.

The council members were introduced. Each council member gave a brief self-introduction which included their current professional role and their experience with physician workforce and Graduate Medical Education issues. Four council members were not on the call.

There was a motion and a second to approve the meeting minutes from the August 28, 2019 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Christine Lamia, Deputy General Counsel, gave an update regarding Public Records and explained that any information about the council and associated documents are considered public records. There must be a notice published for each meeting at least seven days before the meeting. Council issues cannot be discussed by two or more of the council members without a notice. A handout regarding the Sunshine Law was included with the materials for this meeting. Ms. Lamia reminded the council members that they may not use someone to intercede between council members. The council members must also be aware when they sit on another board with another member of this council. To discuss council work, the other board would need to be noticed by this council. Members should also be cognizant of privacy rules for patients.

Dr. Saver requested clarification on how to get information to other members. The council member may speak to Nathan Dunn, the staff liaison, who will then speak to the full council. It is always best to put items on the agenda for a meeting. It is also important to post material as well. There was a discussion about whether the council members may talk to non-council members about council business. It is permitted to speak with a non-council member and that conversation does not have to be noticed.

A copy of the section 381.4018 Florida Statutes was emailed to the council. Mr. Dunn reviewed the statute and highlighted the areas where the council has responsibilities.

The council then discussed the Physician Workforce Annual Report. Mr. Dunn reviewed portions of the 2019 report. The council received several pages of data analysis for the draft 2020 Physician Workforce Annual Report. In addition, the council received a list of the 2019

recommendations from the report. Each recommendation had a brief update regarding progress since last year.

Dr. Delo raised the point of requirements for courses that physicians have to take in Florida. Dr. St. Onge mentioned that these courses in the recommendations are in addition to Florida requirements and that mental health is a broad topic to cover. Dr. Andree said the council should view the recommendations in lieu of COVID-19 and review what items need to be added. She also mentioned that the survey may need to be changed. Dr. Mai requested more information regarding the length of time for achieving each recommendation (one year, etc.)

Dr. Saver indicated that last year we had an accurate count of residents. He noted that osteopathic residency programs were being added to the ACGME for accreditation. Dr. St. Onge responded that the annual updates of residents are almost closed (end of August) and data should be available by the end of September. Dr. St. Onge indicated that they will then be able to update the GME spreadsheet. Dr. St. Onge said that we need to be very careful with counting programs & people due to the merger of the AOA & ACGME accreditation. Dr. St. Onge will share the data with this council and the Council of Florida Medical School Deans. Dr. Chaudhry said this was a great suggestion from the previous year. Dr. Chaudhry also said the council may explore where graduates go after their residency programs. The council could identify where they practice and where Florida students are matched for their residency. The data exists but it would require work to match the students, residents and physicians. A question arose in terms of the new residency programs and how to determine results from these programs.

The council received a copy of the physician workforce strategic plan from several years ago. The council will have further discussions regarding the plan.

The floor was open for public comment. No public comments were made.

The council will have another meeting toward the end of September to review and approve the recommendations. Dr. Rivkees asked council members to look over the recommendations and respond to Mr. Dunn by September 18<sup>th</sup> in order for the council to meet the week of September 28<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Saver requested a copy of the recommendations in a Word document. Mr. Dunn will provide this to the council.

Dr. St. Onge indicated that now is a good time to send information promoting residency in Florida to medical students. Dr. Rivkees said the department had this information last year. Dr. Chaudhry said that most interviews are virtual for residency programs. Students are not physically here, and it is hard to sell the residency programs without them in Florida to experience it. Dr. Rivkees indicated that if members have ideas for materials to please send them to Mr. Dunn.

There was a motion to adjourn and the council approved the motion unanimously.