



DRAFT - GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

The Roosevelt Hotel
July 21, 2023- 1:00 pm

PRESENT:

Danita Anderson, MD
Michael Bacon, MD
Donnie Batie, MD, FAAFP
Mary Madonna Baudier, MD,
FAAFP
Kirk Bonner, MD
Lionel Bourgeois, MD
Roxanne Boyd, MD
Richard Bridges, MD, FAAFP
Donald Brignac, MD
Kenneth Brown, MD, FAAFP
Brian Callihan, MD
James Campbell, MD
Lisa Casey, MD
Alex Courville, MD
Madeline Cozad, MD
Bruce Craig, MD
Andrew Davies, MD
Mark Dawson, MD, FAAFP
Nikki DeBord, MD
James Donnell, MD
Christine Edomwande
R. DeSha Folgar, MD
Amy Galiano, MD
Jody George, MD

Jessica Gilbert-Slipman, DO
Wayne Gravois, MD
Amy Griffin, MD
Christopher Griffin, MD
Karl Hanson, MD
Brian Harrell, MD, FAAFP
Brittany Harvey, MD
Keisha Harvey-Mansfield, MD
Brent Hebert, MD
Emily Holt, MD
Elizabeth Hudnall, MD
Rhonda Kendrick, MD
Karrie Kilgore, MD
Emily Kinney, MD
Lindsay Liles, MD
William Long, MD
Laura McCormick, MD
Maxwell McCray, Jr., DO
Carl McLemore, MD
Darrin Menard, MD
Ronald Menard, MD
Joseph Nida, MD, FAAFP
Teri O'Neal, MD, FAAFP
Danielle Pawlichuk, MD
Travis Phipps, MD

Zachary Pray, MD
Paul Rachal, MD
Tarek Rafati, MD
Claire Romaine
Emilio Russo, MD, FAAFP
Jason Schrock, MD
Peter Seidenberg, MD
Esha Sharma, MD
Gyanendra Sharma, MD
Vincent Shaw, MD, FAAFP
Ronald Slipman, MD
J. Michael Smith, MD
Kanika Sood, MD
Magaly Stores, MD
Rick Streiffer, MD
Robert Sudduth, MD
Brittany Tav, MD
James Taylor, MD, FAAFP
Christopher VanHise, MD
Charles Webb, DO, FAAFP
Pamela Wiseman, MD

Special Guests

Larry Simon, MD, MBA, FACS - Blue Cross Blue Shield of LA
John Meigs, MD, FAAFP, AAFP Board Representative

LAFP Staff:

Ragan LeBlanc, Executive Vice President
Lee Ann Albert, Membership and Outreach Coordinator
Joe Mapes-LAFP Lobbyist
Sandy Mapes-LAFP Lobbyist

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Lisa Casey called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

INVOCATION

Dr. Jody George gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Casey led the pledge of allegiance.

IN MEMORIAM REPORT

Dr. Casey reviewed the Memoriam Report, he asked for a moment of silence for a member who passed away since the last General Assembly: Sylvia Claire Boyer, MD, Savitri S. Kadan, MD, C H Nash, MD and Donald L. Peterson, MD.

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. Casey then recognized the LAFP members who had an LAFP membership anniversary and asked that they stand for recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Casey then recognized the LAFP Board members that served the past year by asking them to stand.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER – LARRY SIMON, MD, MBA, FACS

Dr. Casey gave an overview of Dr. Simon's background stating he is currently the managing medical director for medical policy and medical appeals for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, where he also serves as the medical director for coding and reimbursement and the chair of Credentialing and Medical Quality Management Committees. He's a member of the AMA CPT editorial panel, serving on the Executive Committee and as co-chair of the Molecular Pathology Advisory Group and Tumor Genomics Testing Workgroup. He also chairs the Medical Directors Forum for both the Louisiana Association of Health Plans and the National Anti-Fraud Advisory Board of Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Prior to joining Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana, Dr. Simon served in numerous leadership roles for the American Academy of Otolaryngology and the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, and the Louisiana State Medical Society. Dr. Simon is an alumnus of the Louisiana State University, Baylor College of Medicine, Rady Children's Hospital, and the B.I. Moody College of Business at the University of Louisiana, a diplomate of the American Board of Otolaryngology, and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Simon has over 14 years of experience in health policy and health care reform, and he has presented over 170 lectures and seminars on these topics. A Rotarian, an animal rescuer, a member of multiple civic boards, and a patron of the arts, Dr. Simon enjoys spending his time outside of work serving his community, helping the animal shelters and abandoned dogs of Louisiana, and traveling and enjoying life with his wife and their family and friends.

Dr. Casey proudly welcomed Dr. Larry Simon.

ADDRESS OF GUEST SPEAKER – LARRY SIMON, MD, MBA, FACS

Dr. Simon thanked the LAFP for allowing him to present at the meeting and provided an update. He discussed the importance of partnerships and how Blue Cross continues to renew and maintain their strong commitment to partnering with the primary care physicians of Louisiana and to provide the best health care that they can in Louisiana. He stated that BCBS hopes they can leverage through their organization is both their local presence and size and that they had been operating in Louisiana for over 90 years and that they pride themselves on being a Louisiana company. He went on to say that there are 1.9 million lives covered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana plans and with this large impact on the state, it provides a wealth of claims and member data, of providers in the network, outstanding providers that they work with to help drive quality drive outcomes, physician directed initiatives to improve the health and lives of Louisianians. Dr. Simon informed the Assembly that they hope they can continue to use their size, scope and reach to partner with as many doctors as possible to help as many patients as possible in Louisiana.

Dr. Simon went on to discuss the Covid pandemic. He stated that earlier this year, on May 12, 2023, the public health emergency ended the national emergency and that there have been changes in regards to Covid as BCBS has moved from sort of the pandemic towards the endemic phase. He stated that the doctor, payer and the public health community are now trying to find ways to use Covid care, vaccines, preventative measures and risks assessments into the fabric of what they currently already provide. He stated that BCBS would be continuing the \$0 cost share for vaccines when provided by an in-network provider, including vaccinations for flu, shingles, etc. and continuing to maintain a no cost share for the oral antivirals for the at-risk patients who have Covid. He stated that in line with national trends, BCBS was no longer covering

the over the counter Covid tests. Due to Covid being a moving target, and policies continuing to evolve, providers can access the most up to date information about what Blue Cross is doing in relationship to Covid, there's the website [bcbsa.com/covid 19](https://bcbsa.com/covid19).

Dr. Simon went on to inform the Assembly regarding the coding and reimbursement structure regarding expanding telehealth. He stated that BCBS was committed to allowing to be able to provide telehealth care to their patients and were seeing record numbers of visits using the Amwell platform. BCBS is continuing to work to expand the availability of telehealth with as many providers in Louisiana with regards to Occupational therapy, physical therapy, chiropractic, and physicians so that as many patients as possible are able to get the services that they need through telehealth if that is the preferred method for administering the service from the doctor and the patient standpoint across all age groups. He informed the Assembly that this had been particularly useful for behavioral health and that during the Covid pandemic, 50% or more of behavioral health visits were conducted via telehealth. He went on to discuss that due to the end of the public health emergency, states are resuming verifying eligibility for the Medicaid rolls and that BCBS was hoping they can move in to fill this gap, because they are the only plan in Louisiana that has never left the exchange. As part of their commitment as a Louisiana company, they have always been on the exchange, and they intend to always be on the exchange. He informed the members that if they have patients that are losing their Medicaid eligibility, they are very likely to be able to qualify for some substantial subsidies to get coverage off of the individual exchanges on healthcare.gov. He stated that if members had patients who are losing eligibility, they could use resources such as [straight talk la.com](https://straighttalkla.com) and healthcare.gov, where information was available on the types of plans and what types of subsidies they qualify for and maintain coverage.

Dr. Simon went on to inform the members regarding the Gold Card Program. He stated that during the 2022 legislative session, a bill passed with combined support of LAHP and LSMS in conjunction with the payers, to develop a gold card program for patients in Louisiana. He informed the members that as they continue to work towards easing prior authorization requirements and the amount of time and resources that both doctors and payers must commit to this process. He stated that the program launched 21 days ago and went live in Louisiana. With regards to the physician side, they are focusing to start the Gold Card program and build a foundation using high tech imaging. The data show that this was by far the most common service that primary care doctors were ordering that was leading to a prior authorization process. He stated that the program is structured where doctors who have had at least 50 tests ordered in the preceding year, with a 95 to 99% approval rating, will receive a gold card to where any time they put in a request for an advanced imaging technique, it would automatically be approved. The estimated impact is nearly 1000 providers are going to be eligible for the program and that they hope the number of qualified doctors will continue to grow. On the hospital side, BCBS is eliminating the need for concurrent reviews, so that when a patient gets admitted to a hospital, they will receive an authorization for the initial inpatient stay and having to be reauthorized for longer stays at the facility. He informed the members that this review process was going away and that patients would only have to have the initial admission authorized.

Dr. Simon went on to discuss the work on expanding provider participation in the value-based program of Quality Blue. He stated that this program was developed as a partnership to find different ways to structure reimbursements on the various services provided and in line with guidelines and quality measures leading to the best care for the patient. He went on to say that the program was designed to give primary care providers increased resources to achieve these goals and that it is continually being expanded to other providers and that BCBS was also looking at ways to expand these programs, not just to chronic illnesses, but to other illnesses that have good metrics to be used by more doctors and by more members to continue to drive quote value, but drive outcomes, success and healthier patients.

Dr. Simon stated that it is important for Blue Cross to partner with the doctor community on screening interventions and preventative care for patients so that they are meeting certain guidelines and what screenings are going to be the most appropriate for patients with certain risk factors. He informed the membership that BCBS has case managers that work in conjunction with physician offices on outreach to patients, encouraging the patients to see their physicians and to talk to their physicians about the most appropriate screening tests and protocols, based on their conditions, lifestyles and risk factors. He stated that it was a two-pronged approach where they work hard to partner with the providers in the community, encouraging annual wellness visits.

Lastly, Dr. Simon discussed the care management team that BCBS currently has that consists of over 300 people that work to provide outreach, resources and guidance to patients to help them get connected with the services that they need. He informed the membership to utilize the case management program so that patients can enroll. He provided the membership with the link with some websites and digital resources that physicians can give to their patients to learn more about conditions and resources that are available at BCBS. He thanked the membership for allowing him to present and took questions.

Dr. Casey thanked Dr. Simon for presenting.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GUEST SPEAKER – JOHN MEIGS, JR., MD, FAAFP - AAFP BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Casey then went on to introduce the next speaker and stated that each year we have a representative from the AAFP that comes and provides updates on the national academy. She stated that the AAFP represents over one hundred and thirty thousand physicians, including most of us and medical students nationwide. She introduced the national representative Dr. John Meigs, Jr., MD, FAAFP. She informed the assembly that Dr. Meigs was a family physician from Centreville, Alabama who previously served one year as the board chair, president and president elect of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He also served four years as speaker and three years as vice speaker of the AAFP's governing body, the Congress of Delegates. He is an active member of the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians and served on its board of directors, including terms as the president elect president and board chair. He also has served on the board of its foundation. Dr. Casey proudly welcomed Dr. John Meigs.

ADDRESS OF THE GUEST SPEAKER – JOHN MEIGS, JR., MD, FAAFP - AAFP BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Meigs thanked the members for the opportunity to present to the General Assembly and stated that he brings greetings from the board of directors of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Membership

The AAFP has currently has about 131,000 members now across the country and that number has increased each year over the past five years. He stated that they were seeing a significant increase in the number of DO's and that of the total active membership, 48% are female and 18% are doctors of osteopathy. He stated that with the new physician membership, 57% are female and 29% are DO's. He stated that during COVID, the AAFP had significant reductions in the number of student members across the academy but that the LAFP number of medical students had not declined. Dr. Meigs reported on the match this year and stated that that family medicine had the largest match in the history of the specialty last year and that 13% of the graduating students in the United States chose family medicine. He stated that this still was not enough to meet the needs of this country, but that the numbers continue to go in the right direction. He informed the assembly that in order to continue to get students to go into family medicine, we have to continue to influence medical students, going from interest to choice.

AAFP Strategic plan

The Academy focuses its efforts on a set of strategic priorities through the strategic plan set by the Board of Directors. The first priority that the AAFP has is increasing family physician payment both on the fee for service side as well as on the value-based side. Ultimately, everybody recognizes that we're still not paid adequately for what we bring to the health care system. The second priority is diversifying leadership and making sure that the AAFP has different perspectives that comes to the board of directors and the Congress of Delegates. The third thing the AAFP is focusing on is reducing administrative burden and strengthening the pathway that takes people from childhood and high school into family medicine. The AAFP continues to be a trusted provider of education. He stated that currently under the strategic plan, there was not a specific category for diversity, equity and inclusion and that the Academy is striving to include this going forward.

Workforce

Dr. Meigs discussed the physician workforce and the need for reform for improved slots for family physicians. In the match data from this most recent match, for the first time, more DO's matched than MDS. There has been a rapid expansion of osteopathic medical schools. The AAFP continues to try to strengthen the pathway of family physicians to care for patients and communities. Programs are available, beginning as early as high school, to identify students with an interest in

medicine. If physicians come from the communities where they live, they are more likely to go back and practice and serve in these communities.

Advocacy

Dr. Meigs reported on some of the AAFP advocacy efforts in Washington. Dr. Meigs discussed the AAFP advocacy efforts at the US Congress and the regulatory agencies with regards to family medicine and maintaining a comprehensive scope of practice. He focused on the strategic objectives and strategies for with regards to advocacy supporting sustained comprehensive family medicine practices and ways to ensure long term viability of family medicine. He went on to discuss the second of the strategic objectives that was to reduce administrative complexity regarding the regulatory and administrative burden of modern medical practice that is the leading cause of burnout in physicians today. The AAFP has been focusing on how technology can be used so that physicians can spend their time taking care of the patient as opposed to trying to write notes. He encouraged members to contribute to their state and national PAC.

Member Involvement and Resources

Dr. Meigs informed the membership regarding the AAFP intent to develop ways to get physicians involved at the national level. He stated that members can participate in the Congress of Delegates or serve on a commission. He stated that FMX was coming up in Chicago in October, and the themes for this year are, on the clinical side, diabetes, hypertension, and preventive medicine. Also, there is the FPM journal available for members around various topics affecting their practices today.

AAFP Foundation

Lastly, Dr. Meigs discussed the great work that the AAFP Foundation does and informed the members that the foundation has focused on three areas that are family medicine cares, family medicine leads and family medicine explorers. He stated that if members were not familiar with those, to look at the website. He stated that Family Medicine Cares is a grant program for underserved or underserved and free clinics in communities. The Family Medicine Leads Program is a program that identifies students who are not currently in leadership positions but have the potential and provides these students with scholarships to Kansas City and connect them with a variety of leaders and to get them the additional leadership skills and experience that they need to be able to step forward and be the next leaders in our academy. The family medicine explorers is a recognition that peer review articles may or may not always be applicable to our practice and making sure that we are getting that practice based research that actually answers the questions that we need to know and for the practice that we actually have.

Dr. Meigs thanked the assembly for allowing him to be there and opened the floor for any questions. Dr. Casey informed the assembly that Dr. Meigs would be around the afternoon for any questions, comments, concerns or thoughts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for discussion on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Follow Up Actions Taken From the 2022 General Assembly

Dr. Casey stated that a report was being presented from the LAFP Board of Directors regarding action of resolutions that were passed during the 2022 General Assembly that was outstanding. The report was as follows:

Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians 2022 General Assembly Action Grid – As of July 2023		
Resolutions	Executive Committee Approved Action:	Action Taken
None	N/A	N/A

Dr. Casey informed the assembly that as far as for new business follow up actions from last year, the assembly.

APPROVAL OF 2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Dr. Casey requested that all members in attendance review the minutes. The following motion was adopted by unanimous consent of the Assembly:

MOTION (APPROVED)

THAT THE AUGUST 19, 2022 MEETING MINUTES BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION CARRIED.

BYLAWS TASKFORCE REPORT

Dr. Casey informed the Assembly that a Bylaws Taskforce Report had been submitted for approval and directed the membership to that report for discussion. She stated that there were two items that needed approval so that the LAFP bylaws matched the AAFP bylaws approved at the 2022 Congress of Delegates. She stated that the two items proposed were to allow the LAFP annual meeting to occur virtually if needed and the second item proposed was to change the verbiage for the eligibility of membership as a resident member. The Assembly reviewed the report and the following motion was made:

THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVE THE BYLAWS TASKFORCE REPORT. THE MOTION CARRIED.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND LATE RESOLUTIONS

Dr. Casey announced there were six resolutions submitted prior to the deadline. Without further comment she proceeded with the Resolutions for the Assembly's consideration:

RESOLUTION 1: INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Submitted by: Karl Hanson

Dr. Casey read Resolution No 1: Independent Practice and stated that Resolution 1 was submitted by Dr. Karl Hanson.

RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians create an Independent Physician Practice Group for the expressed purpose to assist physicians with their efforts to start an independent practice.

Dr. Casey then asked if Dr. Hanson had any additional comments and for him to state his intent for this resolution.

Dr. Hanson informed the assembly that this resolution was to request that the LAFP endorse or create an independent practice physicians' program to assist primarily residents with the process of knowledge on how to start an independent primary care practice. He stated that during his lecturing to residencies that there was currently no interface with the LAFP from the standpoint of residents actually getting assistance or knowing who to contact on how to start a practice.

Dr. Streiffer from New Orleans stated that since his retirement, he has continued to keep up desperately with the state of family medicine in this country and that there was a tremendous amount of distress in the discipline and in all primary care regarding the nature of the practice dysfunction. He was in agreement with the resolution but felt that creating an independent practice group would be a significant undertaking and was concerned if the Academy in any depth had explored what this would really mean. He suggested a friendly amendment to the resolution, proposing that the Academy form a time limited task force, charged by the board of directors of the Academy to look at the feasibility, practicality and the financial implications of creating an independent physician practice group and other solutions to the dysfunction of practice today, and report back within a time frame so that future action can continue. He also stated that he had concerns with not including employed practice and the dysfunction of how employed practices don't value, empower, reimburse, and really diminish the potential of the family physician and felt that this needed to be addressed.

Dr. Streiffer proposed the following motion:

MOTION

THAT LOUISIANA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS CREATE A TIME LIMITED TASK FORCE CHARGED BY THE LAFP BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND INITIATE STRATEGIES FOR INDEPENDENT PRACTICE, AN INDEPENDENT PHYSICIAN PRACTICE GROUP FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE,

TO ASSIST PHYSICIANS WITH THEIR EFFORTS TO START AN INDEPENDENT PRACTICE AND OR ENTER AND SUSTAIN A SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYED PRACTICE.

Dr. Seidenberg from LSU in Shreveport went to the microphone for clarification and stated that he understood that the resolution was trying to form an independent physician practice group and proposed that the wording say “an independent physician practice advisory group” because that’s the actual intent from what he understood. The following motion was made and seconded:

**MOTION
THAT “ADVISORY” BE ADDED IN BETWEEN PRACTICE AND GROUP. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

The Assembly then voted on the first order amendment changed from the original resolution as it was originally presented. The motion carried. The Assembly then voted on the doubly amended resolution.

**MOTION
THAT THE LOUISIANA ACADEMY FAMILY PHYSICIANS CREATE A TIME LIMITED TASK FORCE CHARGED BY THE LAFP BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND INITIATE STRATEGIES FOR INDEPENDENT AND INDEPENDENT PRACTICE ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE TO ASSIST PHYSICIANS WITH THEIR EFFORTS TO START AN INDEPENDENT PRACTICE AND OR ENTER AND SUSTAIN A SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYED PRACTICE. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

The resolution was adopted.

**RESOLUTION 2: PRIMARY CARE OUTPUT BY STATE MEDICAL SCHOOLS
Submitted by: Karl Hanson**

Dr. Casey read Resolution No 2: Primary Care Output by State Medical Schools and stated that Resolution 2 was submitted by Dr. Karl Hanson.

RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians supports efforts and legislation that would incentivize the state medical schools in New Orleans and Shreveport wherein funding of said schools is indexed by a yet to be determined formula based on the percentage of graduating medical seniors who chose a residency in Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Med-Peds or Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Casey then asked if Dr. Hanson had any additional comments and for him to state his intent for this resolution.

Dr. Hanson stated that although he was encouraged by the current match data, the family medicine output over the previous couple of years by the LSU medical schools in New Orleans and Shreveport has been less than 4% of medical students. He went on to say that the charter of the LSU Shreveport Medical School is to enhance and produce more students going into family medicine and primary care and that they had not been successful with doing so. He informed the Assembly that he felt that the only way to achieve this goal was through incentivization and funding available to students who choose primary care. He stressed that the medical schools have a primary responsibility to ensure that the citizens of Louisiana have an adequate primary care base to take care of the citizens. With this resolution it would look at ways to explore or create some sort of incentivization through legislation that the LAFP could consider endorsing to entice the medical schools to do a better job with students choosing primary care and family medicine in specific.

Dr. Seidenberg from Shreveport stated that though he appreciated the sentiment of the resolution and agreed that we need more family physicians, that LSU Shreveport was gradually making improvements since he became the department chair. He stated that over the last year, 7.7% of their graduates went into family medicine and that the incoming class actually has 14.7% choosing family medicine. He stated that they are making changes and moving forward with expanding the number of residencies that they have in North Louisiana as well to help tackle that need. He stressed that his fear of starting to incentivize or punishing medical schools for not producing enough primary care physicians may have ramifications on the academic medical centers in a very negative way, and actually may produce counterproductive

consequences. He also had concerns regarding the absence of general internal medicine from that list, although the majority of people graduating from internal medicine now go into subspecialties or fellowships.

Dr. Richard Bridges from Amite suggested to the Assembly that this resolution be referred to the board of directors with consultation of the Legislative Affairs Committee, due to the resolution involving the actual drafting of legislation. He stated that the Board of Directors reviewed the resolution in the meeting and that they took no official position due to logistics that needed to be looked at before drafting any sort of legislation. The following motion was made and seconded:

THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REFER RESOLUTION 2: PRIMARY CARE OUTPUT BY STATE MEDICAL SCHOOLS TO THE LAFP BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Dr. Casey then informed the assembly that they would then move to voting on the resolution that the resolution be referred to the LAFP Board of Directors. The resolution was then voted on by the General Assembly:

THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REFER RESOLUTION 2: PRIMARY CARE OUTPUT BY STATE MEDICAL SCHOOLS TO THE LAFP BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE MOTION CARRIED.

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 3: OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATION IN THE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION PROCESS

Submitted by: Karl Hanson

Dr. Casey read Resolution No 3: Opposition to Participation in the Prior Authorization Process and stated that Resolution 3 was submitted by Dr. Karl Hanson.

RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians opposes any imposition of the prior authorization process which transfers that duty from the payor to the family medicine physician.

Dr. Casey then asked if Dr. Hanson had any additional comments and for him to state his intent for this resolution.

Dr. Karl Hanson from New Orleans vocalized that even though the insurance companies have been mandated by the legislature to come up with a gold card plan, physicians endlessly talk about eliminating unnecessary administrative burden. He stated that the prior authorization process is a self-imposed artificial process by the insurance industry, whose primary responsibility is to their shareholders. He stated that it was an unnecessary hurdle placed on licensed and practicing physicians who are in a 1 to 1 relationship with their patient, and that physicians should not have to accept the responsibility of having to perform insurance companies' fiduciary responsibility with how they are managing their plan. He informed the Assembly that this resolution was proposed so that the LAFP would oppose prior authorizations at all levels.

Dr. Casey then informed the assembly that they would then move to voting on the resolution that the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians oppose prior authorizations at all levels. The resolution was then voted on by the General Assembly:

THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVE RESOLUTION 3: OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATION IN THE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION PROCESS AND THAT THE LAFP OPPOSES ANY IMPOSITION OF THE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION PROCESS WHICH TRANSFERS THAT DUTY FROM THE PAYOR TO THE FAMILY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN. THE MOTION CARRIED.

The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION 4: PATIENT TRANSFER OF CARE

Submitted by: Karl Hanson

Dr. Casey read Resolution No 4: Patient Transfer of Care and stated that Resolution 4 was submitted by Dr. Karl Hanson.

RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians endorses the practice and appropriate legislation which provides a mechanism for that continuity at the patient's discretion; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians recommends that in the case where a patient's physician is an employed physician, and said physician is no longer part of the physician employer, that physician employer SHALL provide, in writing, the following options to that physician's patient:

- I, the patient, chose to follow my current physician who is no longer under your employ and request that all records be transferred to my current physician who is no longer under your employ for the sake of continuity and preference.
- I, the patient, wish to stay in the current physician employer's system and have the right to select which physician I wish to assume my care.
- I, the patient, wish to stay in the current physician employer's system and will allow the employer to assign my care to any physician within the employer entity.
- I, the patient, no longer wish to be cared for by the physician employer and request a personal copy of my chart or access to the full chart within your system using the appropriate log ins.

Dr. Casey then asked if Dr. Hanson had any additional comments and for him to state his intent for this resolution.

Dr. Karl Hanson from New Orleans stated that the intent of this resolution was due to if a physician leaves an employer organization and sets up practice somewhere else, notwithstanding any non-compete or restrictive covenants, that the patient should always be granted the right that if their physician leaves a place of employment, that that patient has a proactive right at actually instructing the employing entity to forward their records to this now independent physician who is now in their own practice. But it's simply to emphasize that if a physician leaves an employee group, the employee should not feel that they actually own possession of anything of the patients that the records primarily have to follow the patient. This resolution is to formalize the process where every patient is proactively given these options.

Dr. Richard Bridges from Amite spoke on behalf of the Board of Directors, reporting that the board reviewed the resolution. He stated that they were in support of the first resolve and felt that the second resolve should be referred to the board of directors or legislative and advocacy committee to work on the language and address any issues.

Dr. Casey then informed the assembly that they would then need to divide the question and move to discussing and motion on the first resolve only. She asked for any further testimony on the first resolve only. With there being none, she stated that they would move to voting on the first resolve that the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians endorses the practice and appropriate legislation, which provides a mechanism for that continuity at the patient's discretion. The resolution was then voted on by the General Assembly:

THAT THE LOUISIANA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS ENDORSES THE PRACTICE AND APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION, WHICH PROVIDES A MECHANISM FOR THAT CONTINUITY AT THE PATIENT'S DISCRETION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

The first resolve was adopted.

Dr. Casey then informed the assembly that they would now need to discuss the second resolve only and asked for any further testimony. Dr. Hanson asked for clarification from the board regarding their opposition to the second resolve. Dr. Brian Harrell from Lake Charles informed the assembly that the board thought that the language was too specific and could potentially restrict the LAFP on developing language to achieve the goal of the resolve in terms of the support for potential legislation.

Dr. Wayne Gravois from Zachary made a motion to refer the second resolve to the LAFP Board of Directors and/or Legislative and Advocacy Committee to draft language and report back to Assembly next year on what was developed. With there being no further discussion, the assembly moved to voting on the referral of the second resolve.

THAT THE SECOND RESOLVE OF RESOLUTION 4 BE REFERRED TO THE LAFP BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND/OR LEGISLATIVE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE TO DRAFT LANGUAGE AND REPORT BACK TO THE ASSEMBLY NEXT YEAR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

The second resolve was referred to the LAFP Board of Directors.

RESOLUTION 5: VACCINE TESTING

Submitted by: Karl Hanson

Dr. Casey read Resolution No 5: Vaccine Testing and stated that Resolution 5 was submitted by Dr. Karl Hanson.

RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians requests that the Louisiana Department of Health and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices or any such appropriate institution conduct trials on vaccine versus placebo and unvaccinated versus full vaccinated children to assess safety, efficacy and the effect on chronic illness.

Dr. Casey then asked if Dr. Hanson had any additional comments and for him to state his intent for this resolution.

Dr. Karl Hanson from New Orleans stated that due to the questions and concerns related to vaccines since Covid and because physicians counsel patients on various vaccines, he would like to see vaccines tested against placebo throughout their history so that good recommendations can be made when providing to patients on the side effects, etc with regards to the recommended childhood immunizations. He also stated that he wasn't sure if the appropriate entities were included that the LAFP would need to make the recommendation.

Dr. Lindsay Lyles from New Orleans stated that she had concerns with the entities referred to in the resolution and that when it comes to vaccines, the actual problem is the VERS system and the inaccuracies of information. She also stated that she felt that this issue was more of a national problem and not something that could be changed on a state level.

Rick Streiffer from New Orleans stated that he heard the concerns and agreed that this was an issue bigger than the state. He asked Dr. Meigs if the AAFP had some sort of entity that looked at the guidelines for vaccines. Dr. Meigs stated that the AAFP Commission on Health of the Public and Science does study all vaccines and makes their recommendations.

Dr. Casey then informed the assembly that they would then move to voting on the resolution that the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians requests that the Louisiana Department of Health and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices or any such appropriate institution conduct trials on vaccine versus placebo and unvaccinated versus full vaccinated children to assess safety, efficacy and the effect on chronic illness. The resolution was then voted on by the General Assembly:

MOTION (FAILED TO BE ADOPTED)

RESOLVED, THAT THE LOUISIANA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS REQUESTS THAT THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES OR ANY SUCH APPROPRIATE INSTITUTION CONDUCT TRIALS ON VACCINE VERSUS PLACEBO AND UNVACCINATED VERSUS FULL VACCINATED CHILDREN TO ASSESS SAFETY, EFFICACY AND THE EFFECT ON CHRONIC ILLNESS.

The resolution was not adopted.

RESOLUTION 6: DUES INCREASE

Submitted by: LAFP Board of Directors

Dr. Casey read Resolution No 6: Dues Increase and stated that Resolution 6 was submitted by LAFP Board of Directors.

RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians (LAFP) Board of Directors urges the membership to approve for the annual dues for active members of the LAFP will increase \$50 dollars beginning January 2024 resulting in the total annual dues for Active membership to be \$370 dollars, First-year New Physician membership to be \$185, Inactive membership to be \$185, Supporting membership to be \$370 and Transitional membership to be \$185 be approved by the General Assembly at its July, 2023 meeting.

Dr. Casey then asked if the board had any additional comments about the intent for this resolution.

Dr. Brian Harrell spoke on behalf of the LAFP Board of Directors regarding their support for this resolution. He stated that the board was proposing this resolution due to the current inflation and operating costs increasing. He informed the assembly that there had not been an increase in dues for over ten years and in order to sustain the organization, the board highly recommends that the assembly pass this resolution.

Dr. Casey then informed the assembly that they would then move to voting on the resolution. The following resolution was then voted on by the General Assembly:

THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVE RESOLUTION 6: DUES INCREASE AND THAT THE ANNUAL DUES FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE LAFP WILL INCREASE \$50 DOLLARS BEGINNING JANUARY 2024 RESULTING IN THE TOTAL ANNUAL DUES FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP TO BE \$370 DOLLARS, FIRST-YEAR NEW PHYSICIAN MEMBERSHIP TO BE \$185, INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP TO BE \$185, SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP TO BE \$370 AND TRANSITIONAL MEMBERSHIP TO BE \$185. THE MOTION CARRIED.

The resolution was adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF PAST PRESIDENTS

Dr. Casey went on to acknowledge the LAFP Past Presidents by asking them to stand.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Casey asked for members who served on a committee to stand for recognition. He stated that the Academy could not do its work without the specific committees and thanked them for everything that they had done on the committees over the past year.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT – RAGAN LEBLANC

Dr. Casey asked for a report from the Executive Vice President. Mrs. LeBlanc stated that she did not have anything additional to report from what was included in her written report.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Dr. Casey stated that all of the officer's reports were included in the General Assembly Handbook and asked if any of the officers had anything additional to add and to come to the microphone. He stated that the reports included all of the work in your Academy over the past year and encouraged all members to take the time to read the reports.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

RESIDENT AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dr. Casey stated that a written report was submitted and included in the handbook.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Casey stated that a written report was submitted and included in the handbook. He asked Dr. Zach Pray if he had anything additional to add.

LEGISLATIVE & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE – RICHARD BRIDGES, MD

Dr. Casey stated that a written report was submitted and included in the handbook by the committee chair.

Dr. Richard Bridges informed the Board that the Committee on Legislative and Membership Issues met continuously over the past year via conference. He then gave an overview of the 2023 legislative session and thanked Mapes & Mapes for all their hard work. He thanked Ragan for always supporting the LAFP and Lee Ann for taking care of the first aid station. Lastly, he thanked everyone who volunteered as doctor of the day.

Dr. Bridges then provided a report on several bills that were of particular interest for the LAFP. Dr. Bridges stated that ACT 312 (HB 468) passed and creates an infrastructure and minimum standards for health insurance issuers requiring a utilization review process for healthcare services and pharmaceuticals. This legislation was offered by Rep. Thomas Pressly at the request of LSMS. He stated that Rep. Pressly was instrumental in getting this legislation passed and went above and beyond with his support of physicians and this legislation. Senators Gary Smith and Katrina Jackson also pushed hard to keep important components of the legislation intact as it moved through the Senate.

Dr. Bridges informed the board that ACT 333 (SB 188) passed and that this bill closely tracks transparency requirements proposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services relative to Medicare Advantage organizations expected to go into effect January 1, 2026.

Scope of Practice

Dr. Bridges informed the board that scope remains one of LAFP's top priorities. He stated that the LAFP saw two significant scope of practice bills that were filed and dealt with specific issues that the LAFP has seen before. HB 471 by Rep. Barbara Frieberg was filed at the request of corporate pharmacies. That would have allowed any licensees of the Louisiana State Board of Pharmacy (LaBOP) to give any vaccination to any child aged 7 and older. Proponents of the legislation continue to tout this effort as an increase in access, though this has not proven true when you consider the loss of access to primary care that results from removing children from a pediatric medical home. This bill went to the wire receiving three votes on the final day of the session. It died on the calendar after the House refused to approve the conference committee report which stripped two key amendments from the bill offered by Sen. Jay Morris.

Dr. Bridges informed the board that Act 296 (HB 599) was reported by substitute from the House Health and Welfare Committee as HB 652. The original legislation was filed by Rep. Dustin Miller and encompassed components of the Global Signature Authority legislation the LAFP has fought in years past. Rep. Miller, who is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, met with a number of stakeholders before stripping everything but the ability for a nurse practitioner and physician assistant to "certify the existence of an illness of a teacher, school bus driver, or teaching staff for the purpose of using sick leave or extended sick leave." All parties agreed to work with Rep. Miller outside of the legislative session to address other concerns that were removed from the bill.

Dr. Bridges informed the board that ACT 322 (SB 66) by Sen. Fred Mills changes the term "telemedicine" to "telehealth" in Louisiana statute. LAFP opposed the legislation and offered amendments to tighten language that now requires anyone conducting a telehealth visit on a Louisiana patient to create a written record. The LAFP has concerns related to telehealth and expressed those concerns but were met with a lack of interest in how to balance those concerns with the benefits of "easing access to healthcare."

Dr. Bridges informed the board that SB 172 by Sen. Brett Allain did not get heard in committee. The legislation focused on noncompete clauses in physician contracts specific to physicians caught by noncompetes when their employing practices are sold. However, as the bill was drafted there were unintended consequences that could not be alleviated in a compressed legislative session.

Lastly, Dr. Bridges informed the board that 5 physicians had recently been awarded the funding of the physicians loan forgiveness program and that Rep. Echols was instrumental in helping the LAFP to pass this legislation last year. He stated that over the next year, the LAFP would be working with him to add teaching faculty to the list of eligible providers to receive this funding.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – JODY GEORGE, MD

Dr. Casey stated that a written report was submitted and included in the handbook. He stated that overall LAFP membership still remains strong and positive. He encouraged members that if they had not renewed, to please do so and to encourage any of their colleagues to also renew.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – BRYAN PICOU, MD

Ragan LeBlanc provided the report on the finances over the past year. She stated that the current LAFP financials including the 2022 Profit Loss Statement, 2023 Profit Loss Statement and current account holdings were included in the meeting packet. The LAFP ended 2022 with a profit of **\$47,004.36**.

She stated that as of 7/01/2023 we have the following balances in our operating and investment accounts:

- **LAFP Academy**
As of 7/01/2023 the Academy had **\$489,531.84** cash on hand. Therefore, the Academy is currently in sound financial shape.
- **LAFP Foundation**
The Foundation had **\$68,910.13** on hand as of 7/01/2023.
- **LaFamPac**
LaFamPac had **\$56,523.97** on hand as of 7/01/2023.

The LAFP has a total of **\$614,965.94** on hand to support operations through the remainder of the year.

She informed the members that the audit has not been done yet this year. She informed the Assembly that she thought that the financials otherwise looked good and that there were no major concerns at that time and that if anyone had any questions, to please see her during the meeting.

MATCH DATA

Dr. Casey reported the Match Data for Family Medicine Residency Programs for 2022-2023 and announced the data tables were located in the handbook. She stated that 16 students from LSU - New Orleans, 11 students from LSU - Shreveport, 18 students from Tulane, and 4 students from University of Queensland's Ochsner Clinical School went into family medicine. With regards to the national match data, the US match rate was 89% and Louisiana was 90% for family medicine. The demographics for the medical students 46% US and 54% IMG for Louisiana. Lastly, Dr. Casey stated that there is a total of 199 residents in the Louisiana family medicine residency programs and that 65 to 70 graduates are coming out of these programs per year in family medicine. The programs in Louisiana are remaining competitive and continue to fill with quality applicants. Louisiana needs to continue to draw students from outside the state in order to fill these spots because there is not enough graduates from Louisiana medical schools alone.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE- JODY GEORGE, MD

Dr. George submitted a report with the recommendations for nominations on the LAFP Foundation and the LAFP Academy Board of Directors. Dr. Casey referred to the nomination slates included in the handbook and read the nominations to the Assembly.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF THE LAFP OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Casey called for any member from the floor interested in making a nomination for any position to make it known at this time. Hearing no additional nominations, the nominations were closed.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF THE LAFP FOUNDATION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Casey called for any member from the floor interested in making a nomination for any position to make it known at this time. Dr. Wayne Gravois nominated Jason Schrock for to replace him as secretary of the LAFP Foundation. Dr. Casey asked for any additional nominations. Hearing none, the nominations were closed and by acclamation, the slate was approved.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF THE LAFAMPAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Casey called for any member from the floor interested in making a nomination for any position to make it known at

this time. Hearing none, the nominations were closed.

Dr. Casey thanked the Nominating Committee for their hard work in submitting a full slate of nominations.

DISTRICT 8 ALTERNATE DELEGATE ELECTION

Dr. Jason Schrock nominated Dr. Roxanne Boyd for the District 8 Alternate Director of the LAFP Board of Directors. Dr. Casey stated that due to the slate already being approved, a motion to reconsider the slate was needed. A motion was made by Dr. Taylor and seconded by Dr. George. The assembly then voted on reconsidering the slate and was approved. Dr. Casey asked Dr. Schrock to clarify if Dr. Pippin was stepping down or was Dr. Boyd planning to run against him. Dr. Schrock stated that she was running against him. Dr. Roxanne Boyd went to the microphone and introduced herself. She informed the assembly of her involvement in the LAFP and the committee she currently serves on and asked that they consider her in their vote. Dr. Casey then informed that the assembly would need to re-approve the slate of officers for the LAFP Board of Directors minus District 8 Alternate. The assembly approved the slate of officers. Dr. Casey provided those in attendance how the election process would be handled. She informed the members that Dr. Richard Bridges and Dr. Jason Schrock would serve as the tellers. She stated that the results would be tallied and announced later during the meeting.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR/ALTERNATE REPORTS

No verbal or written reports were provided.

FAMILY MEDICINE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Dr. Casey stated that written reports were submitted and included in the handbook. He asked if any of the department chairs had anything to add.

FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORTS

Dr. Casey stated that the written Residency Program reports submitted were included in the handbook.

LAFP FOUNDATION

Dr. Casey stated that a written report was submitted and is included in the handbook.

2023 FAMILY MEDICINE AWARD WINNERS

Dr. Casey stated the Family Medicine winners for 2023 is included in the handbook and listed on the LAFP website. The winners are as follows: The E. Edward Martin, Jr., MD Family Medicine Award was presented to Rana Mehdizadeh, the Michael O. Fleming MD Family Medicine Award was presented to Samuel Taylor, the LSU-New Orleans Gerald R. Gehringer Family Medicine Award was presented to Arden LaGrone and the Tulane Family Medicine Excellence Award was presented to Moira Wood. The Resident Award of Excellence was presented to Alexi Johnson, DO. She congratulated the winners.

LAFAMPAC BOARD – MARGUERITE “CISSY” PICOU, MD

Dr. Casey stated that a written report was submitted and is included in the handbook by Dr. Cissy Picou, LaFamPac President.

ELECTION RESULTS

Due to there being a special election during the General Assembly, for the District 8 Alternate Delegate position, the winner of that election was Roxanne Boyd, MD. She congratulated everyone on their new positions and thanked them for agreeing to continue to serve over the next year. The following officers were elected for the 2023-2024 year.

LAFP Board of Directors

President	Vincent Shaw, MD	Baton Rouge
President-Elect	Lisa Casey, MD	New Orleans
Vice President	Richard Bridges, MD	Amite
Secretary	Teri O’Neal, MD	Monroe
Treasurer	Bryan Picou, MD	Natchitoches
Speaker/GA	Derek Anderson, MD	Baton Rouge

Vice Speaker	Lindsay Liles, MD	New Orleans
AAFP Delegate	Bryan Picou, MD, FAAFP	Natchitoches
AAFP Alt. Delegate	Jonathan Hunter, MD, FAAFP	Alexandria
AAFP Alt. Delegate	Jonathan Hunter, MD	Alexandria
District 1 Director	Brandon Page, MD	New Orleans
District 1 - Alternate	Ronnie Slipman, MD	New Orleans
District 4 Director	Joe Nida, MD, FAAFP	Minden
District 4 Alternate	Peter Seidenberg, MD	Shreveport
District 5 Director	Euil Luther, MD, FAAFP	Monroe
District 5 Alternate	Rhiju Poudel, MD	Monroe
District 6B Director	Brian Callihan, MD	Hammond
District 6B Alternate	Emilio Russo, MD, FAAFP	New Orleans
District 7 Director	Jason Fuqua, MD	Sulphur
District 7 Alternate	Danette Null, MD, FAAFP	Lake Charles
District 8 Director	Bryan Picou, Jr., MD	Natchitoches
District 8 Alternate	Roxanne Boyd, MD	Alexandria
Resident Representative	Nikki Debord, MD	Alexandria
Resident Alternate	Danielle Pawlichuk, MD	Alexandria
Student Representative	Christine Edomwande	New Orleans
Student Alternate	Kacy Henwood	New Orleans

Foundation Board of Directors

President	Brian Harrell, MD, FAAFP
President-Elect	Vincent Shaw, MD, FAAFP
Secretary	Jason Schrock, MD
Treasurer	Bryan Picou, MD, FAAFP
Immediate Past President	Kenneth Brown, MD, FAAFP
Lay Member #1	Natalie Maxwell
Lay Member #2	Kathy Prejean
Lay Member #3	Stewart Gordon, MD
Lay Member #4	Katy Braun
Lay Member#5	Brian Jakes
LAFP Member #1	John Mercke, MD
LAFP Member #2	Nichole Guillory, MD, MPH
LAFP Member #3	Rachael Kermis, MD

LAFAMPAC Board of Directors

President	Marguerite Picou, MD, FAAFP	Natchitoches
Treasurer	Wayne Gravois, MD	Zachary
District 1 Director	James Campbell, MD	New Orleans
District 2 Director	Lindsay Liles, MD	Metairie
District 3A Director	Jack Heidenreich, MD	Raceland
District 3B Director	Zeb Stearns, MD	Eunice
District 4 Director	Peter Seidenberg, MD	Shreveport
District 5 Director	M. Tahir Qayyum, MD, FAAFP	Monroe
District 6A Director	James A. Taylor, Jr., MD, FAAFP	Zachary
District 6B Director	Chris Foret, MD, FAAFP	Franklinton
District 7 Director	Jody George, MD	Lake Charles
District 8 Director	Bryan Picou, MD, FAAFP	Natchitoches

The following motion was adopted by unanimous consent of the Assembly:

MOTION (APPROVED)

THAT THE NOMINATIONS SLATE SUBMITTED BY THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE LAFP FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS, LAFP BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE LAFAMPAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION CARRIED.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Casey asked if anyone had any further business or announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

This concluding the General Assembly business, the following motion was made by unanimous consent of the Assembly:

MOTION (APPROVED)

THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 3:22 PM. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Anderson", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Derek Anderson, MD
Speaker
General Assembly

Lisa Casey, MD
Vice-Speaker
General Assembly