

STATE COMMISSION ON THE EFFICACY OF THE CON PROGRAM

Twin Towers Building/200 Piedmont Avenue
20th Floor, West Tower, Floyd Room
Atlanta, Georgia

August 17, 2006; 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Daniel W. Rahn, MD, Chair, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT

Melvin Deese, MD
Richard Holmes
Donna Johnson, Esq.
Robert Lipson, MD
Rhonda Medows, MD
Dan Maddock
Daniel Rahn, MD
Ronnie Rollins
Joseph “Rusty” Ross, Esq.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Don Balfour
Representative Austin Scott

GUESTS PRESENT

Travis Lindley, Resurgens Orthopedics
Anne Finlon, Chafin Consulting
Charles Ellis, Kea, Inc.
Leah Watkins, Powell Goldstein
Linda Womack, Emory
Larry Lloyd, Innovative Consultants
Brian Looby, MAG
Brad Borum, Kaiser Permanente
Christi Cauchel, Emory
Webb Cochran, Tenet
Tom Bauer, Ga. Assn. of Homes and Svcs. for the Aging
Bill Lewis, Lewis Consulting
Scott Tanner, JTA
Scott Maxwell, M&M
Helen Sloat, Nelson Mullins
Cynthia George, Phoebe Putney
Kathy Browning, GSGS
Lori Jenkins, Phoebe Putney
T. Chambless, GACH
Julie Windom, GACH

STAFF PRESENT

Doris Berry
Robyn Bussey
Rory Gagan
Charemon Grant, JD
Richard Greene, JD
Bruce Henderson
Matt Jarrard
Robert Rozier, JD
Landry Smith III
Rhathelia Stroud, JD

GUESTS PRESENT cont'd

Dodie Pitman, HCA
Jacqueline Tate, DCH
Allie Baxter, Bisbee Consulting
Jeffrey Baxter, Nelson Mullins
Lisa Noni, The Strategy House
Kim Menefee, WellStar
Temple Sellers, GHA
Philip Jackson, GHA
Jay L. White, Chafin Consulting
Holly Snow, Piedmont
Besty Bates, Bates Assoc.
Rick Ivey, Archbold
Stan Jones, Nelson Mullins

WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Daniel Rahn called the meeting to order at 1:08pm. He introduced Richard Holmes as the Chairman of the Board of the Department of Community Health and welcomed Mr. Holmes as the Vice-Chairman of the CON Commission. Dr. Rahn gave a brief overview of the agenda, and asked if there were any suggested changes to the minutes. There were none, and Dr. Rahn noted that the minutes were accepted as submitted.

PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE REPORT

Dr. Rahn introduced Ben Robinson, the Executive Director of the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce. Mr. Robinson explained the purpose of the board, board composition, its function, and he discussed data findings regarding physician capacity and medical education. He gave an overview of the current state of the physician workforce in Georgia and outlined challenges the State faces in recruiting and retaining physicians. Dan Maddock commented on the difficulty of recruiting and retaining doctors in rural areas. Dr. Rahn asked that the Commission hold all questions and comments until after John Fox of Emory Healthcare presented.

PRESENTATION ON LEARNING INSTITUTIONS

Dr. Rahn introduced John T. Fox, President and CEO of Emory Healthcare. Mr. Fox thanked the Commission and commended their work in evaluating the CON program. Mr. Fox stated that Emory Healthcare favors retaining Georgia's CON program and modifying it to ensure access to quality health care for all Georgia citizens. He outlined recommendations and examples of changes that could be made to improve the CON program. Mr. Fox and Mr. Robinson fielded questions from Commission members. No actions were taken at that time.

CONSULTANTS' WORK PLAN UPDATE

Dr. William Custer briefed the Commission on the consultants' work to date and its ongoing plans. He said that his team has undertaken three efforts: assembling all the data they requested, classifying the regulatory structure of the states being studied, and taking hospital discharge data to define markets in each state. Dr. Custer stated that the consultants hope to have all of their data by Labor Day. Dr. Custer responded to questions from Commission members. No actions were taken at that time.

PRESENTATION FROM THE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

James Peoples, the Director of Health Policy and Strategy for the Department of Community Health (due to the absence of Charles Owens) presented an overview of the Office of the Rural Health Services. He briefly explained each of the Office's initiatives and its ongoing efforts. Questions and discussion were deferred until after the presentation by Jimmy Lewis of HomeTown Health.

PRESENTATION ON RURAL HEALTH

Jimmy Lewis, CEO of HomeTown Health, LLC presented testimony regarding the CON program from the perspective of rural hospitals. He discussed challenges rural hospitals face and recommendations on solutions to resolve these issues. Due to time constraints, Dr. Rahn asked that any questions for Mr. Lewis or Mr. Peoples be deferred until the next CON Commission meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Rahn asked Commission members to be prepared to schedule subcommittee and full Commission meetings through the remainder of 2006 in order to review the data consultants' report and to prepare its final recommendations. Dr. Rahn pointed out the need for the Commission to block off two days to finalize its report. He asked that Commission members coordinate meeting schedules with Robyn Bussey, they agreed to do so. Finding no other business to discuss, Dr. Rahn adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

Minutes taken on behalf of Chair by Robyn Bussey.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel W. Rahn, MD
Chairman

Please Note: Copies of each speaker's presentation are posted on the Department of Community Health website at www.dch.georgia.gov. Commission members not in attendance at this meeting received copies of the presentations via mail.

To obtain a digital recording of this meeting, please submit a request to the Division of Health Planning.