

**August 4, 2019 BOD Minutes**  
**Ruidoso Convention Center, Rooms 1&2**  
**8:00 am, Breakfast Served**  
**Chaired by Dr. Frank Ralls**

**Present:** Roberto Agüero, MD; Sara Bittner; Mac Bowen, MD; Arlene Brown, MD; Valerie Carrejo, MD; Dion Gallant, MD; Virginia Hernandez, MD; Veneta Ianakieva, MD; Bridget Lynch, MD; Jennifer Phillips, MD; Abby Pribosova; Frank Ralls, MD; Ada Stewart, MD; Dan Stulberg, MD; Emilia Vesper, MD and Lourdes Vizcarra, MD.

**Ruidoso Conference:** Dr. Valerie Carrejo, Scientific Program Chair, thanked everyone for attending the Conference and received a round of applause on its success. Feedback from the evaluation sheets showed that 51 – 7 voted for NMAFP to keep their conferences to three days of CME instead of two full days and 2 half days.

**Congratulations to the new NMAFP Officers:** Dr. Valerie Carrejo, Immediate Past President & Board Chair; Dr. Virginia Hernandez, President; Dr. Veneta Ianakieva, President-Elect; Dr. Bridget Lynch, Secretary-Treasurer and Dr. Mac Bowen, Vice President.

**Call for Nominations & Vote for Board Chair:** Dr. Frank Ralls asked for nominations, and Dr. Valerie Carrejo was nominated. No further nominations were received, a vote was taken, and the Board unanimously approved. Congratulations to Dr. Valerie Carrejo, the 2019-2020 NMAFP Board Chair.

**Update on the Winter Refresher in Albuquerque:** Dr. Veneta Ianakieva, Scientific Program Chair, shared the Agenda for her February Conference with the Board Members. It will be held at the Sandia Resort Conference Center on Feb. 8, 2020.

**NM Teaching Health Center GME Op-ed Opportunity:** Dr. Jennifer Phillips asked the Board if they would approve signing on to a letter that will be sent to multiple papers about the teaching health center refunding that will be voted on again in September or October. Dr. Bowen shared that it is a good idea to bring attention to this publicly. To date there is only one Teaching Health Center in NM, and it is the FM Residency Program in Silver City. More Teaching Health Centers are in the works in NM as they are very valuable and have great retention rates, especially in Primary Care. This is not guaranteed funding, and every five years it must be voted on. Dr. Ada Stewart, AAFP BOD member, shared that on the Federal side, AAFP also continues to advocate for the Teaching Health Centers because of their success rates. A motion was made to sign on to the letter that Dr. Phillips will critique, a vote was taken, and it passed unanimously.

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Med Student Reception, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>:** Dr. Veneta Ianakieva shared with the Board that for the first time, the Med Student Reception will take place on Saturday instead of Friday. This is the same weekend as the New Mexico Medical Society's Conference, so hopefully both activities will have more participants. Dr. Bridget Lynch shared that she is hoping for 140 photos for the slideshow that will be running in the background; and, currently they only have 35, so please continue to send photos to Sara. A sign-up sheet, for Board Members planning on attending the Med Student Reception, was passed around the room.

**Legislative Affairs Committee Report:** Dr. Bridget Lynch gave the Committee report from their meeting that was held the day before. In preparation for the next Legislative Session, would the Board be willing to take another survey like they did last year? This information will be shared with our Lobbyist, Steve Lucero. Dr. Dion Gallant thinks this is a good idea and something that NMAFP should do every year. (Annual What's on your Mind, and this is what NMAFP will take to the upcoming Legislative Session) Year after year will build momentum, and the members will get to the point where they expect to receive this survey. Dr. Lynch says they plan to focus on the Board this year and move on to the membership in future years.

Dr. Phillips and Dr. Rakel brought the following idea to Dr. Madden and our Lobbyist, Steve Lucero, about a year ago. Many states are passing the Primary Care Spend (Investment), and the AAFP endorses it to make sure that all health systems and all payers are putting at least 10-12% into PC. Right now, it is 5-6% or even less. This should be our long-term goal, like our neighbor state of CO, who just passed a bill and will soon start publishing their data.

### **Resident Reports:**

**Emilia Vesper, MD – (Las Cruces):** The Las Cruces Residency Program has been concentrating on getting more local community physician involvement in helping the crisis at the border with asylum seekers. Deming is in serious need of help. Dr. Vesper would like to get Albuquerque more involved, because they have a lot more services and resources, but she is not sure how to go about this. It is very hard to get people bussed from the border to Albuquerque. Dr. Vesper shared there is still a constant flow of asylum seekers in Las Cruces, but she is not certain where they are now being sent. Are they being held in facilities? This is a very big concern. Are they just not being able to cross the border is another big concern? Are they safe? It seems like the whole process has now changed. There is a State website for any physician to sign up if they want to volunteer.

Dr. Aguero shared that the Silver City Residency Program has also been getting a significant number of people to screen from Lordsburg's detention facility who was reportedly over triple max capacity at one point. For a while the Residency saw a significant number of visitors on a daily basis, and the largest population they were bringing through everyday were children and women, including women that were pregnant, but they now have no idea what happened to these individuals. Dr. Aguero's current understanding is that there are a large number in Deming that are being housed in one of the hangers at the airport that is being run by community volunteers who have been asking for all sorts of donations and help with logistical support. As far as the medical component goes, it seems they have stepped in with the wrong personnel to help with the screening component.

Dr. Stulberg shared that the Federal Government is giving these private corporations \$1,000 a day per individual, and then they only give each person a bottle of water and a sandwich per day. Dr. Stewart encouraged members to write resolutions about this situation and bring to the AAFP Congress of Delegates. A motion was made to write a simple resolution about this mistreatment, a vote was taken, and the motion passed. Dr. Phillips will work on this resolution.

**Roberto Aguero, MD – (Silver City):** The Hidalgo Medical Services Residency Program is a 1 + 2 Program and the only Teaching Health Center in the State. We have our incoming class that starts in Las Cruces. We transition the second-year group to Silver City, and they are already on their rotations. As far as the graduating class from last year, one stayed on as Faculty and one

went to a rural area in Minnesota. This year they are continuing their current course with not much change.

**Mac Bowen, MD, Residency Director – (Santa Fe):** Christus St. Vincent is still a 1 + 2, and their interns do their first year at UNM. They are working on getting their inpatient service back up to full spectrum. As far as their graduating class, two went back to their home towns – Espanola and Roswell – doing full spectrum. One graduate ended up doing a Fellowship in Global Health, and hopefully she will come back to NM. The last one ended up as a Hospitalist in Taos, so all four are going to be hopefully retained long term. What Dr. Bowen is struggling with is how Christus St. Vincent can expand since they are locked into their cap. They have been running very successfully for the last 20 years. Board Members offered several suggestions. After some discussion, the Meeting was adjourned.

**Future Board Meetings:**

November 2, 2019 NMAFP Office, Noon, Lunch Served

February 7, 2020, Sandia Resort & Conference Center, 5:30 pm, Roadrunner Room  
Hors d'oeuvres Served

May 2, 2020, NMAFP Office, Noon, Lunch Served

**Med Student Reception & Budget Meeting:**

Saturday, September 14, 2019, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Med Student Reception, Nativo Lodge  
5:30-8:30 pm Dinner Served

Sunday, September 15, 2019, Annual Budget Meeting, NMAFP Office, 10:00 am,  
Breakfast Served