

February 21, 2025 Board Notes
5:30-7:00 pm, Sandia Resort, Roadrunner Room, Appetizers Served
Dr. Valerie Carrejo, Board Chair

Present: Valerie Carrejo, MD; Dion Gallant, MD; Veneta Ianakieva, MD; Kristy Riniker, MD; Molly McClain, MD; Mike Fredericks, MD; Karen Vaillant, MD; Leandrita Ortega, MD; Alicia Gonzales, MD; Steve Lucero; Rick Madden, MD; Lisa Stolarczyk, MD; Sara Bittner; Jennifer Montano; and Samantha (Sam) Morris.

A special note: NMAFP Board Meetings are open. We encourage our members to attend and get involved. We will research ways to make the meetings more widely available, perhaps hybrid, to encourage additional participation.

Old Business:

Legislative Training Session, January 18, 2025, Steve Lucero and Rick

Madden, MD: 12 people attended, many were residents from Santa Fe. The session discussed the legislative survey and the resulting priorities: Recruit and retain physicians; medical malpractice reform; pharmaceutical costs containment; and costs in the business of medicine, such as eliminating gross receipt taxes on medical services and Medicaid payment increases.

AAFP Winter Cluster Meeting, January 24-26, 2025, Kristy Riniker, MD: The meeting was excellent overall and the focus on public health policies. They discussed policy making, policies up for renewal, newer Congress of Delegates policy, all while learning about parliamentary procedure. Dr. Riniker provided her interests and will be assigned projects throughout the year based upon her interests.

New Business:

Call for Vice President Nominations: Dion Gallant, MD nominated Dr. Meredith Barlow; Alicia Gonzales, MD nominated Dr. Kristy Riniker. Drs. Barlow and Riniker are considering the opportunity and will let NMAFP know. A BOD position is a five-year commitment. An election will be held at the Ruidoso conference (August 7-9, 2025) if both accept the nomination.

Call for a New Communication Chair: Molly McClain, MD volunteered and was unanimously approved.

43rd Annual Winter Refresher Update, Molly McClain, MD: As of the night before the conference there were 26 exhibitors and 129 attendees. A few more attendees may register at the start of the conference. A total of 9 Prescribed credits are available if attending both the conference and poster session. Dr. Alicia Gonzales shared that there were many applications for the poster session and a total of 35 were accepted. Presenters were encouraged to submit a PDF version in advance to be reviewed so that the posters would be in the correct format and free of grammatical errors.

Call for New Alternate Delegate to the AAFP COD, Valerie Carrejo, MD: Dr. Valerie Carrejo, Senior Delegate, announced Dr. Jennifer Phillips is stepping down as delegate. Dr. Veneta Ianakieva will move up to the junior position of Delegate and Dr. Molly McClain will move up to Senior Alternate Delegate, and the Junior Alternate Delegate position is vacant. Dr. Kristy Riniker expressed interest, was formally nominated with no opposition and is now Junior Alternate Delegate. NMAFP is appreciative of the four delegates representing NM.

67th Annual Family Medicine Seminar, August 7-9, 2025, Dr. Valerie Carrejo, MD on behalf of Dr. Melissa Martinez, Scientific Program Chair: A handout with the tentative schedule was handed out. The schedule contains one more sponsored talk than usual, and the schedule is nearly finalized. It will be accredited for 20 Prescribed credits.

Call for Delegates to the AAFP NCCL, Valerie Carrejo, MD: Sam Morris sent out an email asking for National Conference of Constituency Leaders delegate volunteers, but did not receive any interest. The NCCL serves as a platform for the different perspectives and concerns of AAFP members from underrepresented constituencies to help bring about change. Member constituencies include women, BIPOC, new physicians, international medical graduates, and LGBTQ+ physicians or allied physicians. Another email will be sent, the deadline is March 15, 2025.

Governmental Affairs Committee Update, Rick Madden, MD, Chair and Steve Lucero, NMAFP Lobbyist: Our Doctor of the Day program is not as robust as some previous years, with only 1-2 volunteers per week, and Dr. Rick Madden there most days. A doctor in conversations with legislators is extremely useful, so NMAFP hopes for more volunteers in the future.

A formal committee meeting will take place during the Winter Refresher Conference lunch period. This year's legislative session is a long session. 1002 bills were introduced,

which is less than usual. Many are related to health care, some relate to the identified priorities. A summary of bills was discussed including financial support Family Medicine Residencies in NM; retention and recruitment of physicians; a fast track option for immigrant physicians if international training is complete; various medical malpractice revisions; preserving 340B pharmaceutical discounts; increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates; and a court system specifically for behavioral health offenders intended to be therapeutic in nature.

New logo from AAFP, Sam Morris: AAFP is introducing a new logo for themselves and providing states with a new logo to implement at will. The new logo was shown and adopted unanimously.

UNM Faculty Award Nominations, Valerie Carrejo, MD: AAFP has various awards each year. Dr. Jennifer Edgoose with UNM nominated Dr. Elena Bissell for the AAFP Exemplary Teaching Awards for Medical Education and Dr. Felisha Rohan-Minjares for the AAFP Thomas W. Johnson Award for Career Contributions to Family Medicine Education. Both accepted the nomination, and applications will be submitted by the March 15, 2025 deadline. Dr. Carrejo asked for NMAFP to formally support the nominations and it was unanimously approved. NMAFP hopes to support and nominate NM doctors for future awards.

Retirement Plan Options, Dion Gallant, MD: Sam, new executive director, met with a financial advisor regarding retirement plan options. Various options were presented including a SEP IRA or Simple IRA. Sara Bittner, previous executive director, received a 10% retirement plan contribution and a similar option for Sam is desired. A Simple IRA plan does not allow for such contributions, but a SEP IRA does and it requires the same contribution for all NMAFP employees. Sam will confirm the details and report back to Dr. Gallant.

Christus Southern NM FM Residency Program Update, Leandrita Ortega, MD: Their program is in middle of recruitment and hopes to recruit NM students. It is somewhat difficult to recruit to Alamogordo, likely because of the more rural location. The 1+2 residency accepts three per year.

Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine, Karen Vaillant, MD and Mike Fredericks, MD: The school is in the middle of interviews. Both locations will admit over 300 students, with around 200 in Las Cruces. The school is expected to have a full

class, though it is also hard to recruit to the area. The school is working on scholarship opportunities.

Future NMAFP Activities:

- 43rd Annual Winter Refresher in Albuquerque and Poster Session, Saturday, February 22, 2025, Sandia Resort and Casino
- Board Meeting, Saturday, May 3, 2025, Noon, Lunch Served, Location TBD
- 67th Annual Family Medicine Seminar, August 7-9, 2025, Ruidoso Convention Center, Ruidoso
- Board Meeting, Sunday, August 10, 2025, MCM Elegante Lodge and Resort, 8:30 am, Breakfast served
- 20th Annual Med Student Reception, Friday, September 12, 2025, Sandia Resort, 5:30-8:30 pm
- Annual Budget Meeting, Saturday, September 13, 2025, 10:00 am, Breakfast served, Location TBD