



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS (VIRTUAL) MEETING  
October 20, 2020, 12-2 pm**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Costa Andreou, MD  
Anita Bachmann, MHS  
Reuben Blackwell  
Penney Burlingame Deal, DHA, RN, FACHE  
Goldie Byrd, PhD  
Lori Byrd, DNP, RN, CRE, LPC  
Lyndsay Jensen, PA  
Brian McGinnis, MBA  
Lawrence Nycum, MD, MMM  
Carrie Rosario, DrPH, MPH, CHES  
Lisa Shock, MHS, PA-C  
Adam Sholar  
David Sousa, JD  
Sara Stoneburner, MD  
Betsey Tilson, MD, MPH  
William Way, MD

**Members Absent:**

Alexandra Dean, PhD, NCC  
Lee Ellis  
Perrin Jones, MD  
John Morrow, MD, MPH

**Staff Present:**

James Coleman, MPH  
Don Gula, MBA  
Emily Hooks, MEd  
Kisha Markham  
Brieanne Lyda-McDonald, MSPH  
Alison Miller, MA  
Kaitlin Phillips, MS  
Michelle Ries, MPH  
Peter Morris, MD, MPH, MDiv

**Welcome and Call to Order – David Sousa, Chair**

Mr. Sousa, Board Chair, brought the meeting to order with opening remarks. Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held via teleconference (Zoom).

Mr. Sousa welcomed all the Board members, and recognized Peter Morris who received a lifetime achievement award at this year's Bernstein Virtual event. Mr. Sousa provided an update on the President/CEO search. The search committee includes David Sousa (Curi), John Lumpkin (Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation), Mark Holmes (Sheps Center for Health Services Research, UNC-CH), Pam Silberman (Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC-CH), Carrie Rosario (UNC-Greensboro), and Brian McGinnis (Catawba Valley Medical Group). The search committee conducted an initial round of screening interviews with six candidates and selected three finalists. The three finalists will meet virtually with the entire

NCIOM staff, and Michelle Ries will present results of the staff meetings back to Mr. Sousa. The search committee will then meet and determine the top candidate who will be presented to the full Board in a specially-called board meeting. The Board will then vote on the candidate, UNC HR will be notified, and an offer will be extended. Mr. Sousa anticipates the new President/CEO to start on/around January 1, 2021. Mr. Sousa mentioned that BCBS NC Foundation will provide up to \$25,000 in funds for work to support executive transition.

### **Review of Minutes – David Sousa, Chair**

Mr. Sousa indicated that the members received the minutes of the July 21, 2020, meeting of the Board in advance. Brian McGinnis requested a change to reflect the correct names of his employer. Brian McGinnis made a motion to approve and accept the amended minutes, which was seconded by Anita Bachmann. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **President’s Report - Michelle Ries, Associate Director**

Ms. Ries thanked the NCIOM staff for all their support and then she provided an overview of the President’s report. We have received a new contract from DPH for Essentials for Childhood and have finalized memorandums of agreements with our four partners. We facilitated three meetings with DHHS to work on the re-design of the NC Child Fatality Prevention System. We are currently holding sessions with legislative staff and AARP NC volunteer leaders as part of the Legislative Health Policy Fellows Program. Those sessions include four 2-hour sessions and we hope to have one or more mini sessions for legislators and staff to focus on special topics of interest to program alumni. The Healthy North Carolina 2030 task force has been completed and we continue to work on communications strategies to promote the recommendations of that work. The Maternal Health task force contract with DPH has been renewed and will continue to have virtual task force meetings. The NCIOM annual meeting is scheduled to be a virtual meeting held on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The focus will be on COVID-19 and the impacts of foregone care. Keynote speaker is Cynthia Cox, vice president of Kaiser Family Foundation. We have also been working with NC DHHS to convene the NC COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee, which will be presented in more detail later in the meeting. Ms. Ries also discussed potential new projects. She is working with the South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health to establish a task force on pandemic preparedness, which if approved will be funded largely by the Duke Endowment. Other potential projects include: Future of Local Public Health; Healthy Aging; and Long-Term Care Work Force. Ms. Ries then introduced the newest member our staff, Alison Miller, who joined NCIOM as a project director. Ms. Miller came to NCIOM from her previous position at DHHS.

Mr. Sousa commented on the LHPF sessions and he raved about the presentations that were provided, especially the one Dr. Tilson presented on the pending COVID-19 vaccine. Mr. Sousa also stated that during the search committee interviews all three finalists discussed the HNC 2030 report and commented on its value and impact to the state, and the possible impact that COVID-19 could have on it.

### **Finance Report – Don Gula, Director of Operations**

Mr. Gula presented NCIOM finances through the end of August 2020. The 2020 fiscal year ended on June 30<sup>th</sup>, with slight decreases in revenue and expenses as a result of COVID-19. The audit for FY20 begins in the last week in October and the results will be presented at the January Board meeting. The August financials are in line with the approved budget. Our investment portfolio with Morgan Stanley continues to see good growth.

### **Motion to Extend the term of NCIOM Board of Directors Officers – David Sousa, Chair**

Mr. Gula listed the current board officer positions, terms, and bylaw guidelines regarding officers. The current officers are: Chair – David Sousa; Vice-Chair – John Morrow; Treasurer – Penney Burlingame Deal; Secretary – Goldie Byrd. All our Board officer appointments are currently due to end by the January 2021 Board meeting.

Mr. Sousa led a discussion that the Board consider extending the current term of all the board officers until June 2021. The reason for the action is that with a new NCIOM President/CEO starting in January along with the current COVID-19 pandemic, it would be helpful if there was some executive carryover and continuity to help in the transition. Anita Bachmann made a motion that the current Board officers remain in place until June 2021. Adam Sholar seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee Presentation – Brienne Lyda-McDonald, Goldie Byrd, Betsey Tilson**

Ms. Lyda-McDonald provided a presentation on the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee. All states are required to submit COVID-19 vaccination distribution plan to federal government, and the NCIOM role was to convene a COVID-19 vaccine advisory committee to provide feedback to NC DHHS on this plan. The Committee had 3 co-chairs: Dr. Goldie Byrd, Dr. Leah Devlin, and Dr. Art Apolinario. A steering committee guided the work of the advisory committee. Committee membership was broad and diverse, including from vaccine development, tribal representation, corrections, faith leaders, disability rights advocates, and health care professions. The committee has met three times for 2-hour meetings. At each of these meetings NCDHHS staff presented background information and NCIOM staff facilitated discussion and collected feedback. Committee feedback is collected verbally, in zoom chat box, and written comments via email after meetings. All feedback is collected and sent to DHHS. The North Carolina vaccine distribution plan was submitted to CDC on October 16<sup>th</sup>. There has been some media attention around the vaccine distribution plan, with Michelle completing interviews with local media outlets. Dr. Goldie Byrd provided some context to the committee, stating that people from diverse stakeholder groups and representing historically marginalized communities were included in the process, and provided key input on reasons for vaccine hesitancy and appropriate, community-led methods of communication to build trust and inform about the vaccine. This is very important especially with the level of mistrust in communities of color around vaccines. The Advisory committee convened under several key principles including equity and continuous communication around the plan and evaluation. Dr. Tilson added the following discussion. The basic grounding principles will not change, but logistics and some other details of the plan may be changed as time goes along and we have the opportunity to assess. Because there is a lot of uncertainty around the vaccine, education and communication efforts will also be involved in this process. The next piece is provider enrollment - every provider who will give COVID-19 vaccine has to enroll with the federal government. Board members expressed appreciation for this work, and interest in participating as community and health care leaders to support communication efforts.

### **NCIOM Communications/NCMJ Update - Peter Morris, NCMJ Editor-in-Chief and Kaitlin Phillips, Managing Editor**

Dr. Morris provided an overview of most recent issues of NCMJ and upcoming issues. Ms. Phillips provided an update on analytics. We are currently troubleshooting issues with analytics with NCMJ website, but for first half of year we are keeping a steady number of unique visitors. Both the NCMJ and NCIOM have been receiving a lot of media attention. Ms. Phillips also provided an update on blog. Blog has received twice as many page views compared to last year.

### **Scheduled Meeting Dates**

January 19, 2021

April 20, 2021

Mr. Sousa motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Nycum seconded the motion. The October NCIOM Board Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.