



North Carolina Institute of Medicine Board of Directors Meeting

January 21, 2025

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

In-person at the NCBiotech Center and remote participants over Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present:

Anita Bachmann, MHS
Reuben Blackwell
Vickie Bradley, RN, MPH
Goldie Byrd, PhD
Lori Byrd, DNP, RN, CRE
Frank Courts, DDS, PhD
Perrin Jones, MD
Jennifer Jordan, MD
Trish Markus, JD, CIPP/US
Brian McGinnis, FACHE, FACMPE
Richard Montague
John Morrow, MD, MPH
Tim Norris, MBA, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, CHBC
Patty Pfeiffer, DEd, MSN, RN
Carrie Rosario, DrPH, MPH, CHES
Danny Scalise
Adam Sholar
Betsey Tilson, MD, MPH
Bill Way, MD

Members Absent:

Cory Hess, MBA
Andrew Kaiser

NCIOM staff present: Deidre Bishop, Ruby Brinkerhoff, Khristian Curry, Don Gula, Emily Hooks, Brieanne Lyda McDonald, Ivana Muszkiewicz, Michelle Ries, Ayana Simon

Guests: Andrea Eason, CPA, CEO of Blackman and Sloop and Katie Ledford, CPA, Blackman & Sloop

Call to Order and Celebrations

Adam Sholar, NCIOM Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM. A quorum was confirmed based on both in-person and virtual attendance.



Ayana Simon, NCIOM's new Associate Director, read the organization's mission statement. Michelle welcomed and celebrated Ayana joining the NCIOM team in mid-December. Ayana has a background in social work, project management, and patient-centered roles and policy work.

Michelle recognized board member Danny Scalise for receiving the Dogwood Award from Josh Stein when he served as NC's Attorney General; she also recognized Danny for receiving American Public Health Association's Woodward Award. Michelle also recognized Ronny Bell, the NC Medical Journal Editor in Chief, for receiving the Rural Research Engagement and Advancement Fund Award through UNC Rural and UNC Research. Michelle recognized board member Dr. Betsey Tilson for her service on the board since 2018. She was appointed to the board by virtue of her role as state health director and has resigned from that position. Michelle thanked Betsey for her involvement on the board and support of the NCIOM staff and organization.

Review and Approval of October 2024 Meeting Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes was made by Danny Scalise and seconded by Reuben Blackwell. The motion passed without opposition.

Review of 2025 NCIOM Board Meeting Dates

Deidre Bishop reviewed the dates for 2025 Board of Directors meetings:

- April 22, 2025
- July 15, 2025
- October 21, 2025

Audit/Finance Committee and Operations Report

Brian McGinnis, as the chair for Audit and Finance Committee, reported that the Audit and Finance Committee recently met to discuss the annual audit process. Andrea Eason and Katie Ledford, who have worked with the NCIOM for several years, were present to review the audit findings. Katie shared that they plan to issue an unmodified or clean opinion, indicating no deficiencies in internal control.

Financial Position Overview: Katie Ledford presented the financial position for Fiscal Year 2024. There was an increase in cash due to collections of promises to give and accounts receivable. Contracts receivable decreased, mainly due to an amendment of the Essentials for Childhood contract. Promises to give decreased due to prior collections on The Duke Endowment grants which were larger than the new promises to give received.

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets: The fiscal '24 statements showed an increase in investment return due to market conditions. Program expenses increased primarily due to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Evolve contracts.



Audit Report Approval: Adam thanked the Audit and Finance Committee and the team. The board unanimously accepted the audit report.

Emily Hooks provided an update on the financial position. She also asked board members to fill out the conflict-of-interest statement and verify their contact information.

President's Report

Development.Update;

Michelle shared that two new contracts have been signed since October, including one for veterans' health through the Division of Mental Health, and another for direct care workforce through the Center on the Workforce for Health. Veteran's Health is a two-year contract that allows for a six-month planning phase for interviews, focus groups, and site visits. The Center on the Workforce for Health agreement focuses on the direct care workforce and carries forward many recommendations from past task forces and several policy barriers highlighted at the 2024 Annual Meeting. Our team is working on applications for the NC Medical Journal and communications capacity building, general operating funds, and Hurricane Helene work at the request of The Duke Endowment.

Annual.Meeting;

Emily shared the successes of the 2024 Annual Meeting which was focused on Long-Term Services and Supports. Overall there was a decrease in sponsorship, but the team is already pursuing a presenting sponsorship for the 2025 Annual Meeting which will focus on Healthy NC 2030, as we will be at a halfway point for those health indicators.

Hiring:

Khristian has moved out of state and will transition to part-time; her work will largely focus on maternal health. Kaitlin Phillips, our Director of Communications and North Carolina Medical Journal managing editor, stepped down from her role at the beginning of January. The team is updating the job description for that position and working with UNC HR to get the position posted. Ruby Brinkerhoff, who has served as the Assistant Managing Editor for two years, is increasing her hours and supporting newsletter development and the NCMJ. We also plan to hire a graduate student who is a Veteran to serve as a research assistant to support the Veterans' Health Task Force.

NCMJ and Communications Update

Michelle reviewed the newsletter "NC Health Policy Forum". Ruby discussed plans for streamlined communication between NCIOM and NCMJ and highlighted the team's focus on a more cohesive approach. Dr. John Morrow asked questions about demographics of distribution list.



Program Update

Review.of.Essentials.for.Childhood.Update.Committee.and.Update.Report

Ivana Muszkeiwicz presented on the composition of the update committee and report that will have strategies and recommendations that reflect the changes in child maltreatment research and the current policy landscape. Dr. Betsey Tilson emphasized the importance of statewide alignment with other plans, highlighting childcare as a health intervention and the need for addressing the childcare workforce crisis. Reuben Blackwell talked about the adoption of positive childhood experiences and encouraged the committee to consider the policies that inadvertently decrease access to positive childhood experiences. Dr. Bill Way asked questions around the review of the 2015 report and how implementation status was determined.

Review.of.Legislative.Health.Policy.Fellows.

Ivana Muszkeiwicz presented on this year's program designed for legislative staff and aides. Danny Scalise recommended reaching out to local public health leaders to serve as presenters for future legislative staff programs. Reuben Blackwell asked a question around the connection to General Assembly committees, and Ivana shared that legislative aide invitations were based on the committees most relevant to NCIOM's work. Dr. John Morrow asked a question around NCIOM and School of Government collaboration; Michelle noted that we have asked their staff to serve as speakers in the past.

Review.of.Maternal.Health;Doula.Action.Team.

Khristian Curry presented on the exploration of Medicaid coverage of doula services to improve maternal health and infant health outcomes in our state. Over five months, NCIOM convened an action team that included 9 trained doulas, clinicians, and representatives from Medicaid and the PHPs. Additional virtual listening sessions were convened to gain perspective from doulas from around the state. Recommendations were developed in a report to NC DHHS.

Board of Directors Strategic Discussion: Health Policy Priorities in 2025

Michelle led a discussion on health challenges faced by North Carolina and/or board members' communities. Board members discussed a variety of challenges including: mental health and coordination, health care costs and workforce, technology and data, environmental health, oral health, and human trafficking.

Adjourn

Danny Scalise motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Reuben Blackwell seconded. Adam Sholar adjourned the meeting at 2:04pm.