



North Carolina Institute of Medicine Board of Directors Meeting

April 21, 2026

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

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

MINUTES

Members Present:

Vickie Bradley, RN, MPH
Goldie S. Byrd, PhD
Lori Byrd, DNP, RN, CRE
Frank Courts, DDS, PhD
L. Allen Dobson Jr., MD, FAAFP
Christopher Grubb, MD
Jennifer Jordan, MD
Andrew Kaiser
Trish Markus, JD, CIPP/US
Richard Montague
Timothy Norris, MBA, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, CHBC
Riteshkumar Patel, PharmD, CPP, BC-ADM, CDCES
Patricia "Patty" Pfeiffer, EdD, MSN, RN
Carrie Rosario, DrPH, MPH, CHES
Abhijit Roychowdhury, MD
Adam Sholar, JD
Michael Tart, MBA

Members Absent:

Reuben Blackwell
Perrin Jones, MD

Staff Present:

Deidre Bishop
Ruby Brinkerhoff
Sarah Dancausse
Emily Hooks
Brieanne Lyda-McDonald
Michelle Ries
Ayana Simon
Patrick Tang



Call to Order and Celebrations

Board Chair Dr. Lori Byrd called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm and Patrick Tang, Project Director, led the reading of the NCIOM mission statement. Michelle Ries, President & CEO, reviewed upcoming meeting dates, noting that the July Board meeting would be held on July 14 and that plans were underway to align the October Board meeting with the Annual Meeting reception.

Michelle also welcomed new staff member Sarah Dancausse, Research Specialist, to the NCIOM team, recognized recent accomplishments of board members Dr. Carrie Rosario and Dr. Lori Byrd, and acknowledged the resignation of board member Danny Scalise, who recently accepted a position in Washington state.

The Board reviewed the January 2026 Board meeting minutes. Upon motion by Andrew Kaiser and second by Dr. Frank Courts, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Audit/Finance Committee and Operations Report and Presentation of FY 2027 Draft Budget

Emily Hooks, Director of Strategic Operations, and Andrew Kaiser, Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, presented the proposed fiscal year 2027 budget. Emily reviewed the organization's financial position, budget assumptions, anticipated grant revenue, staffing expenses, and projections for the coming fiscal year. Andrew noted that the Audit and Finance Committee had reviewed and recommended the budget for approval. Upon motion by Dr. Frank Courts and second by Dr. Carrie Rosario, the Board unanimously approved the FY 2027 budget as presented.

Emily also reviewed the organization's current financial position and invited interested Board members to consider serving on the Audit and Finance Committee.

President's Report

Development Update

Michelle Ries, President & CEO, presented the President's Report. She provided updates on current and anticipated funding opportunities, including communications capacity-building support from The Duke Endowment, ongoing work with the Center on the Workforce for Health, renewals of the Essentials for Childhood and Maternal Health projects, and several proposals under development related to family caregiving, rural health, and patient engagement.



Michelle also reviewed progress related to the organization's development and fundraising strategic planning effort, including recommendations received from moss+ross and the formation of the Board Development and Fundraising Committee. Board members discussed donor engagement strategies, the potential role of individual donors, and the committee's future structure as a standing committee.

Board of Directors Appointment Process - Review and Update

Michelle provided an update on board appointments, noting that the organization continues to await one gubernatorial appointment and a replacement appointment for the seat formerly held by Danny Scalise.

Legislative Relationships Update

Ayana Simon, Associate Director, provided an update on the 2026 Legislative Health Policy Fellows Program, reporting strong participation and engagement among attendees. She summarized recent program sessions and discussed plans for upcoming activities. Michelle highlighted recent policy impact related to the NCIOM Oral Health Task Force, including introduction of legislation to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for dental services. Board members discussed future opportunities to strengthen legislative engagement and broaden participation in educational activities.

NCMJ and Communications Update

Brady Blackburn, NCIOM Communications Director & NCMJ Managing Editor, and Ruby Brinkerhoff, NCMJ Assistant Managing Editor, provided updates on NCIOM communications activities and the North Carolina Medical Journal. They reported continued growth in digital readership, website traffic, newsletter engagement, and social media reach. They also reviewed upcoming journal themes, plans for the 2026 NCMJ Symposium, and the journal's rebranding effort.

Board members discussed topics for future issues, including nurse well-being, rural workforce challenges, and collaborative care models involving pharmacists and other health professionals. Additional discussion focused on opportunities to expand NCIOM's presence on social media platforms beyond LinkedIn.

Program Update

Brieanne Lyda McDonald, Project Director, provided an update on the Veterans' Health Task Force, including the task force structure, workgroup activities, and emerging recommendations. Discussion focused on improving veterans' awareness of available services, increasing access to community-based care, strengthening provider training



related to veteran health needs, and expanding support for veterans and their families. Brieanne also reviewed plans for report development and post-project engagement activities.

Discussion

The Board participated in a discussion regarding frequently asked questions about NCIOM and its work. Members suggested topics related to the organization's role, project selection process, legislative requests for information, policy impact, and opportunities for stakeholder engagement. Several members noted that FAQ content could be helpful both as a written resource and as part of future video communications.

Michelle reminded the Board of upcoming events, including the NCMJ Symposium, the July Board meeting, and the October Annual Meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Richard Montague moved to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Dr. Christopher Grubb. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:53pm.