



North Carolina Institute of Medicine Board of Directors Meeting

January 27, 2026

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Remote over Zoom due to winter weather

MINUTES

Members Present:

Reuben Blackwell
Vickie Bradley, RN, MPH
Lori Byrd, DNP, RN, CNE
Chris Grubb, MD
Andrew Kaiser, REBC
Trish Markus, JD, CIPP/US
Richard Montague
Timothy Norris, MBA, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, CHBC
Ritesh Patel, PharmD
Patricia "Patty" Pfeiffer, EdD, MSN, RN
Carrie Rosario, DrPH, MPH, CHES
Danny Scalise, MPH
Adam Sholar, JD
Michael Tart, MBA

Members Absent:

Goldie S. Byrd, PhD
Frank Courts, DDS, PhD
Perrin Jones, MD
Jennifer Jordan, MD
Abhijit Roychowdhury, MD

Guests:

Adrienne Collins and Jessica Wyant, Blackman & Sloop
Kristina Bowman and Lisa Adkins, Moss + Ross

Staff:

Deidre Bishop
Ruby Brinkerhoff
Don Gula
Emily Hooks
Brieanne Lyda-McDonald
Michelle Ries
Ayana Simon
Pat Tang



Call to Order and Celebrations

The NCIOM Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM, and a quorum was recognized. The mission statement was read by Ayana Simon, Associate Director, at the start of the meeting. A motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes was made by Danny Scalise, seconded by Tim Norris, and passed unanimously.

The board welcomed five new members, including Dr. Allen Dobson, Dr. Chris Grubb, Dr. Ritesh Patel, Dr. Abhijit Roychowdhury, and Michael Tart. Dr. Lori Byrd was welcomed as the new board chair.

Audit/Finance Committee and Operations Report

Andrew Kaiser, as the chair for Audit and Finance Committee, reported that the Audit and Finance Committee met in December to review the FY2025 audit and presentation by Blackman & Sloop. Adrienne Collins and Jessica Wyant from Blackman and Sloop, reviewed the audit findings. Adrienne shared that they plan to issue an unmodified or clean opinion, indicating no deficiencies in internal control.

Adrienne Collins presented NCIOM's financial performance for the 2025 fiscal year, highlighting a decrease in donor-restricted net assets due to the release of restricted grant monies, primarily from the opioid settlement and Evolve project. Adrienne and Jessica presented year-over-year revenue and expense trends, noting stable state appropriations and fluctuating contract income. Andrew Kaiser emphasized the stability of NCIOM's income despite varying grant timelines. Andrew 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. Deidre Bishop asked board members to fill out the conflict-of-interest statement and verify their contact information.

President's Report

Michelle Ries, President & CEO, shared that NCIOM received a \$570,000 award from the Duke Endowment for Communications Capacity Building and extended contracts with several other partners including DHHS and the Center on the Workforce for Health. She shared that the team also recently submitted an application to the Duke Endowment for a family caregiving task force and a general operating grant to the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust.

Michelle Ries shared that NCIOM is in the final stages for recruitment of a research specialist and will begin recruiting summer interns in February.



Ruby Brinkerhoff reported on the North Carolina Medical Journal's recent publications and plans for future issues. She shared that the NCMJ Symposium will take place in mid-June and will focus on pharmacy and access to care.

Ayana Simon presented updates on the Legislative Health Policy Fellows Program, including information on the 2026 cohort and the content agendas for this year's cohort.

Development and Fundraising Strategic Planning

The team from Moss & Ross presented their fundraising strategy recommendations to NCIOM, focusing on four key areas: leadership, messaging and materials, fundraising programs, and infrastructure. They highlighted the need to increase fundraising capacity and allocate more resources to fundraising efforts. Moss + Ross emphasized the importance of board engagement in fundraising activities. The group discussed the ongoing nature of implementing the Moss and Ross recommendations.

Michelle announced plans to launch a development and fundraising committee of the board and mentioned open spots on the audit and finance committee. She encouraged board members to reach out to her if they are interested in joining either committee.

The meeting adjourned at 2:01pm.