

PHYSICIAN MANPOWER TRAINING COMMISSION

FY-2007 Annual Report

Introductions

Oklahoma's Physician Manpower Training Commission, as developed under the provisions of Section 697.3 of 70 O.S. Supp. 1981 S 625.2 to 625.11, became fully functional as of November 1, 1975. The Commission was originally charged by the legislature to administer three programs: (1) the Oklahoma Rural Medical Education Scholarship Loan Program, (2) the Oklahoma Community Physician Education Scholarship Loan Program, and (3) the Oklahoma Intern-Resident Cost Sharing Program. Subsequently the Oklahoma Legislature has added the responsibility of a Physician Placement Program, Nursing Student Assistance Program, and the Community Match Incentive Programs. In October 2003, the Commission added a State Loan Repayment Program to its available programs and in July 2005, the Commission added the Physician Assistant Scholarship Program. The Commission is guided in all the programs by a sense of stewardship which requires that maximum effort, both individual and organizational, be utilized to increase the number of practicing physicians and nurses in Oklahoma and, particularly, in rural and underserved areas of the state.

Objectives

The Physician Manpower Training Commission has developed, in accord with legislative intent, five high priority goals:

- 1) Work to improve the balance of physician manpower distribution in the State of Oklahoma, both by type of practice and by geographic location;
- 2) Aid accredited physician training facilities in the establishment of additional primary medical care and family practice internship and residency training programs by sharing in the cost of these programs;
- 3) Assist Oklahoma communities in selecting and financing qualified medical and osteopathic interns/residents and other duly licensed physicians to participate in the Physician Community Match Program;
- 4) Assist Oklahoma communities, in any manner possible, in contacting medical and osteopathic students, interns and residents, or other physicians (inside and outside Oklahoma) who might wish to practice in Oklahoma;
- 5) Work with Oklahoma communities and the leadership of Oklahoma's nurse training institutions to provide nurses for underserved areas of the State.

The Physician Manpower Training Commission is proud of the progress which has been made in the State of Oklahoma in regards to the education of physicians and nurses who will eventually practice in rural Oklahoma. The Commission, in cooperation with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the University of Oklahoma College of

Medicine, the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine-Tulsa, the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Oklahoma's nurse training institutions, and all other agencies and individuals interested in health care in Oklahoma, is developing innovative methods of assistance to provide much-needed medical care to citizens of rural and underserved Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Rural Medical Education Scholarship Loan Program

The Commission, acting as administrator of the Oklahoma Rural Medical Education Scholarship Loan Program, received funds for FY-2007 in the amount of \$337,500 (\$212,500 General Revenue and \$125,000 Revolving Fund 210). This amount allowed the Commission to support 27 students (25 D.O. and 2 M.D.) who are obligated to practice in an Oklahoma community with a population of 7,500 or less. As of June 30, 2007, 387 students have been enrolled in the Rural Scholarship Program; 15 recipients are still in training; 236 physicians have returned to a rural community to render obligated service; and 7 scholarship recipients are repaying and 102 have repaid their loans in lieu of their obligated service. Attachment I shows locations of communities where Physician Manpower Training Commission scholarship recipients are or have been practicing.

Community Match Intern/Resident Program

In FY'89, the Community Match Intern/Resident Program also known as the Physician Community Match Program was proposed. This program is a loan forgiveness program created to provide funds for primary care physicians who agree to locate in a rural, underserved area of the state.

State funds are matched on a 50%-50% basis with a rural community in which the physician would agree to practice for a specified period of time. The Commission feels that the physician will build a practice during the period of obligated time and thus have an incentive to remain.

The Physician Manpower Training Commission and the sponsoring community's funds are given to the physician to be used to pay off medical school expenses or for start up costs in purchasing building, equipment, etc. During FY-2007 a total expenditure of \$160,000 (\$50,000 General Revenue, \$30,000 Revolving Fund 210 and \$80,000 sponsor funds) were awarded to physicians who began practicing in their obligated community.

The Commission has awarded 157 contracts for the Community Match Intern/Resident Program since June 1989; 144 physicians are currently fulfilling or have fulfilled their obligation in the rural areas; 13 physicians in lieu of obligated practice have repaid or will repay their loan. Attachment II shows locations of communities where Physician Manpower Training Commission recipients are or have fulfilled their practice obligation.

Family Practice/General Practice Resident Rural Scholarship Program

This program is similar to the existing Rural Medical Education Scholarship Loan Program and will be available to residents in an accredited Oklahoma Family Practice or General Practice Programs. Residents who elect this program will receive \$1,000 per month with a

month for month practice obligation in an underserved community. The community practice obligation begins immediately following residency completion. Penalties similar to the student program exist for non-performance. During FY-2007, \$357,447 of General Revenue, \$59,553 Revolving Fund 210 and \$60,000 of sponsor funds was expended for this program. There are currently 34 residents on the Resident Rural Scholarship Program who are still in residency training; 99 physicians have returned to their sponsoring community to fulfill their obligation; 23 physicians have repaid or will repay in lieu of obligated practice.

On or before the end of the 2nd year of Family Practice Residency Training, the resident must choose a community in which to practice from the available PMTC list. There are currently 50 communities interested in funding 50% of the resident's scholarship. After choosing a community, that community will then pay one half of the scholarship. Residents must also agree to spend one month during their 3rd year of residency on elective rotation in the community. Attachment III shows locations of communities where recipients set up practice after completion of their residency.

Nursing Student Assistance Program

The Nursing Student Assistance Program was established by the Oklahoma Legislature in 1982 and is administered by the Physician Manpower Training Commission. During FY2007 expenditure for this program totals \$706,644 (\$480,929 in General Revenue and \$225,715 in Revolving Fund 450). The purpose of this program is to provide assistance to Oklahoma nursing students pursuing LPN, ADN, BSN, or MSN degrees and who are interested in practicing nursing in Oklahoma communities, with emphasis placed on rural or smaller communities. From the inception of the program until June 2007, a total of 2,693 nursing students have been awarded Matching Scholarship loans and 1,712 received the Non-Matching Scholarship loan. There have been a total of 4,405 scholarship recipients. Attachment IV shows the distribution of nursing scholarships during the 2006-2007 school year and depicts the 131 Matching Scholarship recipients and 168 Non-Matching Scholarship recipients who attended nursing schools.

State Loan Repayment Program

In October 2003, PMTC's grant application was approved enabling the agency to operate a State Loan Repayment Program. This program will match state funds with qualified communities and these combined funds will be matched with federal dollars. The program is available to provide assistance in the repayment of educational loans to providers willing to locate in federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas. Eligible providers include: allopathic (MD) and osteopathic (DO) primary care physicians (family practitioners, internists, pediatricians, obstetricians and gynecologists, and general psychiatrists); primary care nurse practitioners (NP); certified nurse-midwives (CNM); primary care physicians assistants (PA); general practice dentists (D.D.S. or D.M.D.), registered clinical dental hygienists (DH); clinical or counseling psychologists (CP); clinical social workers (CSW); psychiatric nurse specialists (PNS); mental health counselors (MHC); licensed professional counselors (LPC); and marriage and family therapists (MFT). During FY2007 a total of four recipients received funding in the amount of \$85,000 (\$42,500 in Federal Funds, \$21,250 in Revolving Fund 210 and \$21,250 in Revolving Fund 205).

Physician Assistant Scholarship Program

The Physician Assistant Scholarship Program was established by the Oklahoma Legislature in July 2005. The purpose of the program is to increase the number of practicing physician assistants in communities of 20,000 or less population. Participants will receive \$1,000 per month, for a maximum of \$30,000, with a month for month obligation in a qualified community. The practice obligation begins immediately following the completion of training. During FY2007 twenty-one (21) Physician Assistant students were contracted for participation for a total amount of \$209,000 (\$180,000 General Revenue and \$29,000 of Revolving fund 210).

Oklahoma Intern-Resident Cost Sharing Program

The main purpose for the creation of the Physician Manpower Training Commission was to establish and administer a salary cost-sharing program for primary medical care intern and resident training programs throughout the state with emphasis on rural areas. The Commission received an appropriation of \$3,737,048 in FY-2007 to support this program.

In the time span that the Physician Manpower Training Commission has been responsible for the cost-sharing program, a total of 265 primary medical care residency and internship positions have been developed in the State of Oklahoma. The latest figures show the State of Oklahoma is now able to provide residency positions for all of its graduating medical students. At the time the Commission was established, there were 112 primary care residency and internship positions for postgraduate training in Oklahoma.

New impetus has been given to the growth of family practice residencies and the development of osteopathic internships in our state as a result of stipend funding for these primary medical care positions. A breakdown of expenditures for FY-2007 is delineated below:

Family Practice Residencies at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City totals \$1,208,307.

Family Practice Residencies at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine-Tulsa in Tulsa total \$1,139,737.

Family Medicine Residencies and Osteopathic Internships at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tulsa and Oklahoma City total \$1,389,004.

Outstanding progress has been made in expanding primary medical care internship and residency positions in Oklahoma since 1975. Gains have been made in all areas of postgraduate training in Oklahoma with substantial gains taking place in primary care internship and residency positions.

The progress that has taken place in the establishment of new residency and internship positions will continue, assuming that the following conditions are realized and met:

- 1) The participating hospitals can absorb the increased cost of new residency and internship positions and will continue the number of postgraduate positions now being funded.
- 2) The State continues to fund the residency and internship positions that have been created by the Commission, in addition to new positions that might be established.

Physician Placement Program

In 1976 the Oklahoma Legislature added the responsibility of a Physician Placement Program to the duties of the Physician Manpower Training Commission. It was evident there was a need for some mechanism to help place, in Oklahoma's rural towns, a number of physicians other than those who were participating in the Commission's scholarship programs. For several years funding for this aspect of the Commission's program was very restricted; however, the staff of the Commission worked cooperatively during this time with the Oklahoma State Medical Association and the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association to give limited assistance to Oklahoma communities in recruiting physicians from among the many graduates of Oklahoma's allopathic and osteopathic medical schools who were not already enlisted in a scholarship project.

The Physician Manpower Training Commission updates quarterly the "List of Practice Opportunities in Oklahoma," which has 69 rural Oklahoma towns currently seeking physicians. See Attachments V and VI concerning Oklahoma Communities Seeking Physicians listed by specialty, location and population.

Approximately 238 physicians graduate from Oklahoma's three medical schools each year. Staff members assigned to the Physician Manpower Training Commission are charged with the specific responsibility of contacting and counseling with these graduates and all physicians taking their postgraduate or specialty training in our state -- to alert these individuals concerning practice opportunities in Oklahoma, particularly in rural communities.

Administrative Expenditures

The Oklahoma Legislature appropriated \$418,375 for FY-2007 to the administrative budget of the Physician Manpower Training Commission. The Commission has 6.5 FTE's. In addition, the Commission supports one-eighth salary of an Assistant Attorney General.

June 30, 2007