



Center For Family Medicine

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08 July 2016

TO: Primary Care Oversight Committee

FROM: Dr. Mark K. Huntington, Director
Center for Family Medicine

RE: RURAL RESIDENCY TRACK – Actions since last update (20 April 2016)

The Department of Health is working on the contract with the Center for Family Medicine (CFM) for allocation of the funds approved by HB1029 for the initial development phase of the Rural Residency Track (RTT). We anticipate this will be finalized and funds available in the near future.

Drs. Huntington and Heisler, CFM's Director and Rural Curriculum Coordinator, respectively, traveled to Pierre and met separately with physicians and administrators of both Avera and Sanford to explore some of the issues necessary for the establishment of a RTT in Pierre. In addition to identifying specific local resources available, creative "brain storming" discussions occurred. A number of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and potential pitfalls were identified. Though there are some challenges to Pierre as a site for the RTT, they do not appear to be insurmountable. Several potential local champions (including potential future Local Director candidates) were identified. Communication with the various relevant parties is ongoing. Future meetings will be jointly between the two health systems.

Work on curriculum adaptation to the RTT has begun. With a more clear understanding of the local resources following the initial site visit, these adaptations are more focused. As originally anticipated, the first 12 months of training will need to take place in Sioux Falls (where there is adequate volume for some of the specific training requirements), with the final 2 years occurring at the rural site. As the academic aspects take shape, relevant letters of agreement will be pursued with the local physicians and organizations.

Informal communication with the accrediting body (ACGME) is planned early in the process, in order to ensure efforts are efficient and in the right direction to facilitate a timely approval. Our best-case-scenario goal remains to obtain accreditation by mid-2017, in time to recruit for a 2018 entering class (completing residency in 2021).

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