



Board of Directors 2025 Annual Report

AAFP Board of Directors

Resident

Aerial Petty, DO
GW-CPV Family Medicine Health
Policy Research Fellowship
Washington, DC
Class of 2025

Student

Mikala Cessac, MD
Montefiore Family and Social
Medicine Residency
Bronx, NY
Class of 2025

Purpose & Scope of Work

Purpose:

Bring a resident and student perspective to high-level decision-making discussions of the AAFP Board of Directors. This opportunity includes social media and public relations training, as well as unique mentoring opportunities with established leaders in family medicine.

Scope of Work:

- Help orient other resident and student officers to the AAFP governance and policy
- Communicate issues of importance to the appropriate AAFP commissions
- Coordinate the discussions of the resident and student delegations at the AAFP Congress of Delegates
- Attend all AAFP Board of Directors meetings as a voting member
- Serve on the AAFP Commission on Education Subcommittee on Resident and Student Issues
- Attend meetings of a Commission for which you serve as a Board liaison according to AAFP Board policy
- Attend FUTURE the year following election, including facilitating the candidates' forum
- Attend two Congress of Delegates and AAFP FMX meetings
- Attend the National Conference of Constituent Leaders/Annual Chapter Leaders Forum (NCCL/ACLF)
- Attend other meetings as directed by the Board Chair

Meeting Schedule:



- COD/FMX/Board Meeting, September 22-28, 2024, Phoenix, AZ
- Board of Directors Meeting, December 3-7, 2024, Kansas City, MO
- AAFP Winter Cluster, January 24-26, 2025, Kansas City, MO
- Board of Directors Meeting, February 26-28, 2025, Washington, DC
- AAFP Nom Com Meeting, March 14-15, 2025, Kansas City, MO (Aerial)
- AAFP/NCCL, April 21-26, 2025, Kansas City, MO
- AAFP Summer Cluster, May 31-June 1, 2025, Virtual
- AAFP FMAS, June 22-24, 2025, Washington, DC (Optional; Aerial)
- Board of Directors Meeting, July 22-26, 2025, Minneapolis, MN
- FUTURE Conference, July 30-August 2, 2025, Kansas City, MO
- COD/FMX/Board Meeting, October 1-October 10, 2025, Anaheim, CA

Commission Work:

Commission on Education

The mission of the Commission on Education (COE) is to provide a venue for the development of recommended policy and the dissemination of expertise and new information related to the education and professional development of family physicians until completion of the residency training period. Through the Subcommittee on Resident and Student Issues, its priority areas of attention include:

- Protect the interests and well-being of all students and residents, including fellows in training, as learners and developing professionals.
- Cultivate the leadership development of students and residents.
- Increase AAFP student and resident member engagement and competency in addressing health disparities, building health equity, and improving population health.
- Monitor and advise the Board on the impact of changes in the resident and student clinical learning environment and provide recommendations regarding pertinent AAFP policy.
- Facilitate the screening process for appointing resident and student members to AAFP and other leadership positions.

Commission on Federal and State Policy (Aerial)

The Commission on Federal and State Policy (CFSP) informs and guides the Academy's federal advocacy program and the AAFP's support for constituent chapters in their advocacy efforts before state governments. Commission members participate in the following regular activities within the commission's scope of work:

- Analysis of state and federal legislative and regulatory policy issues impacting family physicians, patients and the health care system.
- Provide recommendations for potential revisions to state and federal legislative and regulatory policy issues that would have a positive impact on family physicians, patients and the health care system.
- Production of white papers and policy position statements aimed at informing and influencing legislative and regulatory policies at the state and federal levels.
- Collaboration with reference committees at the Congress of Delegates to provide expert analysis of proposed resolutions and their alignment with and impact on AAFP legislative and regulatory policies objectives.



- Review of resolutions approved by the Congress of Delegates, National Conference of Constituency Leaders (NCCL) and the Student & Resident Congress.
- Five-year review of relevant AAFP policies.

Commission on Quality and Practice (Mikala):

The commission works to improve the practice environment of family physicians. It directly supports the following AAFP's Strategic Objectives: Increase Payment to Reflect Contribution; Comprehensiveness of Practice; Reduce Administrative Complexity; Help to Optimize Patient Care via Technology. The commission studies and develops recommendations, policies, and programs for family medicine in the following areas:

- Administrative Burden
- Emerging Technologies and Health Data Use
- Health Care Delivery Models
- Health Information Technology
- Performance Measurement
- Physician Employment
- Physician Payment
- Practice Environment
- Practice Management
- Practice Transformation
- Private Sector Advocacy
- Quality Improvement
- Scope of Practice and Privileging

CQP provides oversight of several member interest groups (MIGs) listed below. The MIGs can bring forward recommendations for consideration by CQP. As of this date, the groups include:

- Direct Primary Care MIG
- EMR Optimization MIG
- Employed Physician MIG
- Home-based Primary Care MIG
- Hospital Medicine MIG
- Independent Solo/Small Group Practice MIG
- Telehealth MIG

Interviews:

- Memorial Day marks summer's unofficial start, safety tips shared. ARC PDX, ABC News. May 27, 2025. (Aerial)
- AAFP Minority Health Month Instagram Live. @the_aafp. Participated on April 18, 2025. (Aerial)
- Match Day Memories. MedCentral. Interviewed on February 25, 2025. (Aerial)
- Residency Road Map for Medical Students: Balance Professional, Personal Goals and Aim for Happiness. Medscape. Interviewed by Kathleen Doherty February 11, 2025. (Aerial)
- Match Day 2025 Journey. MedCentral. Interviewed April 8th, 2025. (Mikala)



- I Chose Family Medicine so I Can Care for the Whole Patient. AAFP Voices Blog. March 17th, 2025. (Mikala)

Conclusion:

Our time on the Board of Directors has been invaluable. We have been able to provide student and resident voices to a highly-engaged, membership-centered organization. We have had the opportunity to lead discussions with our representatives on Capitol Hill about Medicaid protections and investment in primary care. We have directly provided feedback on the medical student focused “Be Their First” campaign, alongside many other strategic visions. We have found mentors and built lifelong friendships with the incredible physicians and staff that propel the AAFP forward in its mission. We highly recommend that any student or resident interested in the future of Family Medicine apply for this incredible opportunity.