



DELAWARE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DIMER)

Committee on Rural Health

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Hybrid In-Person and Teams Meeting

Meeting Attendance

DIMER Committee on Rural Health Members Attending:

- Nichole Moxley (Chair)
- Kathleen Matt, PhD
- Joseph Kim, DO
- Kate Smith, MD, MPH
- Janice Lee, MD MMM, FAAFP
- Marshala Lee-McCall, MD, MPH

Committee Members Absent:

Rachel Hersh, DrPH, MSN-PH, RN

DIMER Board

- Neil Jasani, MD

Delaware Health Care Commission

- Sheila Saylor, Public Health Treatment Coordinator

Public Attendance

- None

Ms. Moxley (Chair) started the meeting at 2:02 pm.

Meeting Minutes

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Moxley requested a motion to approve the May 13, 2025, meeting minutes. Jan Lee made a motion to approve the minutes, and Kate Smith seconded it. The committee members made no objections, and the minutes were approved.

National Rural Health Association Resources

Ms. Moxley shared resources from the recent National Rural Health Association conference. She offered to share presentations and other materials with the group as needed. Ms. Moxley will attend the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Region A meeting next week and will share relevant resources with the committee. Ms. Moxley touched on the success of the Rural Health Conference that was held on June 12, 2025.

Mini Med School One-Day Event Planning

Ms. Moxley led the Mini Med School event discussion, stating that she had sent to the committee a guiding document for planning the event, and Dr. Lee-McCall sent out “What a day would look like.” Ms. Moxley then deferred to Dr. Smith for guidance because her organization, The Delaware Academy of Medicine, has conducted several Mini Med events. The one-day Mini Med School event will be in person, moving away from the current online format. Dr. Smith led much of the discussion, outlining the typical structure of the Mini Med event, which includes presentations by healthcare providers about their daily work and career paths, emphasizing the diversity of roles in healthcare beyond physicians, such as nurses, occupational therapists, and medical assistants. The goal is to highlight rural healthcare providers and their unique challenges, like working with rural itinerant agricultural workers or bilingual populations. The Mini Med event will target high school students, potentially undergrad students, middle school students, and maybe others.

Dr. Smith stated that we should get the institutions on board first. The committee decided that the institutions would be Tidal Health, Beebe, LaRed, Christiana Care, BayHealth, and providers having a basis in rural healthcare. Dr. Smith pledged to provide the marketing for the event. Skill sessions are proposed as a hands-on component, based on a successful previous event held at Christiana Care. These sessions included activities such as suturing, CPR, intubation, and radiology introductions, conducted by medical students and residents. Dr. Kim suggested that the skill session focus on Emergency Medicine, Orthopedics, and OB/GYN. The importance of interactive learning and mentorship is emphasized to inspire students interested in healthcare careers.

Dates for the event were discussed, with a strong preference for Saturdays in October (notably October 11th or 18th) to avoid conflicts with the student’s athletic schedules and homecoming events. Dr. Kim proposed the Beebe School of Nursing building as an ideal venue due to its size, available simulation facilities, and ample parking. Dr. Kim is going to check with Dr. Robert from Beebe to see which of the chosen dates are available at the School of Nursing and get back to the committee. There was discussion about the logistics of room usage for lectures and skill sessions, noise considerations, and the potential for vendor tables to provide information on educational institutions and loan repayment programs.

Marketing strategies focus on reaching high school students broadly, including through guidance counselors and biology teachers, to attract those who might not yet have considered healthcare careers. The importance of engaging parents through separate informational sessions is also recognized, especially for topics like DIMER, student loan repayment, and nursing programs. There was discussion on future events, such as another Min Med or a Job Fair. The committee put that on hold until after the Mini Med School event to evaluate the success.

The committee discussed funding and sponsorship for the event. Ms. Moxley stated that her ~~department~~ [program](#) received one more year of funding and would support the Mini Med event, ensuring forward movement for food, rental fees, or other needs from the State Office of Rural Health. Dr. Kim stated that the only fees would probably be food, security, and cleanup. Dr. Lee stated that, potentially, there may be financial support from Beebe, Bayhealth, and TidalHealth. Food was identified as a primary cost, and rental fees for the venue might be waived in exchange for highlighting the hosting institution. Dr. Lee-McCall offered that, as the Director, additional sponsorship from Christiana Care’s Harrington Trust is a possibility. Dr. Smith offered that there may be support from the Delaware Academy of Medicine.

The committee discussed the practical details about supplies for skill sessions, such as suture kits and mannequins, with assurances that some resources are reusable and that additional contacts exist to secure needed materials. Dr. Smith has pledged 6 suture kits.

Next Steps

Ms. Moxley stated that between now and the next meeting, we should have secured a date and location. At the next meeting, we can secure the speakers and follow the agenda for the day. Next, we do the asks for the sponsorships, and then start setting the agenda and getting everything ready. That will give us, between August and September, to put everything together, and solicit and get the vendors for the tables. ~~there.~~

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:44 pm.

The next DIMER Committee on Rural Health Meeting: July 15, 2025, at 2 PM