

**OREGON ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
CONGRESS OF THE MEMBERS  
77<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
April 13, 2024  
Portland, Oregon**

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

It has been an honor to serve as your President. Since we gathered last year, the OAFP staff team has grown again to include Jackie Wirz, who is serving as the COO for the OAFP, and the Executive Director for ORCA-FM, our residency support network. The Board is looking forward to our next strategic planning work in fall 2024. However, awareness of the work we are doing, and our facility with communicating about our activities and successes could be improved.

We are pleased that stories from our second cohort of Primary Care Beyond Clinic Walls projects were presented a session yesterday. We continue to share the stories from our project participants through this conference, as well as presentations and talks with other organizations including AAFP Staff from the Health of the Public and Science team, AllCare, and others.

Our first **virtual Town Halls** were sparsely attended, and we are revamping our efforts to promote these events this year. These sessions will be an opportunity for the President to share updates with members after board meetings, but equally important, it will be a chance for us to listen.

We are participating in a grant-funded project through AAFP **to educate members on topics related to SUD and improving vaccination rates** among at-risk minority populations, and that work is evolving and continuing as we explore ways to support family physicians engaged in the critically important work of supporting patients with SUD.

After some project team changes on the “75 Stories” project, we anticipate it will be completed later this year, so keep an eye out for announcements about how to make sure you don’t miss a chance to get a copy when we print it.

As the report of the Commission on External Affairs notes, we will build on our successful push for permanent funding to support ORCA-FM in the next legislative session. We remain committed to advancing our long-standing goal of transforming how primary care is paid for and delivered. That goal shaped our support in 2023 of legislative efforts to advance universal health care access.

We have continued to work to strengthen our cross-sector coalition partnerships, and we hope these relationships will better inform and administrative simplification. Family physicians need more time with their patients and less time with their EHRs.

## Follow-up Actions from the 2023 Congress of Members

Our AAFP Delegates submitted two resolutions to the 2023 AAFP Congress of Delegates, with the following results.

1. OAFP's Delegates carried a resolution calling for AAFP to advocate for federal legislation to include diapers in Medicaid benefits to the AAFP Congress of Delegates, where it was ADOPTED and referred to the Commission on Health of the Public and Science.

Note: A similar resolution was passed at the NCCL Conference, where two resolved clauses were referred to the Commissions on Health of the Public and Science, and one was referred to the Commission on Public Policy. The CHPS will develop a policy statement on this issue in FY 24-25.

2. A resolution calling on AAFP to recognize the Political determinants of health was carried to the Congress, where a substitute resolution was ADOPTED.

The issue was referred to the Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness in Family Medicine.

Other Resolutions from our Congress of Members were addressed as follows:

**Resolution 1:** The resolution advocated for amending Oregon statute related to the licensure for internationally trained physicians after PGY-1. It was AMENDED and ADOPTED. The External Affairs Committee took on the role of spearheading efforts to move forward the resolution.

Staff and our contract lobbyist had multiple conversations with interested members, residency directors, chapter staff in states where licensure laws have changed along these lines. Discussions were on the scope of the issue and the relevant Oregon statute that would need to be changed. We continue to research the possibility of legislation on this topic. Senator Jama has expressed interest in the concept, but when our schedules did not align before the legislative session, he requested that we wait until after it concluded, thus it was not possible to draft and introduce it during the 2024 legislative session. A meeting is scheduled with him in the coming weeks.

**Resolution 5:** Requiring one-time training on suicide prevention for all physicians, was ADOPTED.

The Commission on External Affairs considered this prospect, and the interested physician discussed it with Sen. Steiner, who shared that legislation requiring CME is not generally tenable because of historical opposition from medical societies. We have

worked to promote training on suicide prevention that the Oregon Pediatric Society is producing, and included a Mental Health First Aid workshop in the 2024 annual conference. We will continue to seek educational opportunities and resources for our members on these topics.

**Resolution 6:** Related to insurance coverage for obesity treatment was ADOPTED.

In the 2024 legislative session, a bill was introduced to create a committee or task force to consider questions related to mandated insurance coverage for specific things. The bill did not advance. We will discuss with other stakeholders the possibility of legislation on this topic for 2025.

Thank you for entrusting me with the office of this Presidency. It has been both a full and a gratifying year.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan Vinson, MD, FAAFP  
OAFP President 2023-2024**