



FMLC Update | August 2023

Advocacy

AAFP Executive Vice President and CEO Shawn Martin represented family medicine before the U.S. Senate Finance Committee as part of their hearing, [Consolidation and Corporate Ownership in Health Care: Trends and Impacts on Access, Quality, and Costs](#). The AAFP testimony focused on several key drivers of consolidation in primary care, starting with the continued under-investment in primary care and the burdensome regulatory framework associated with modern practice. Mr. Martin also spoke to the market advantages hospitals and insurance companies experience that have positioned them to acquire practices at an accelerated rate in recent years.

Making Care Primary Model - On Thursday, June 8, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) introduced the [Making Care Primary \(MCP\) Model](#). The AAFP has played a central role in shaping this new model and we are working closely with CMMI to connect them with our state chapters in the 8 states identified for the new program. The MCP model follows the AAFP blueprint which calls for creating an on-ramp for family medicine practices, followed by skill building and capability enhancement over time. In addition, CMMI released a [blog](#) post on Friday, June 9 outlining other steps they are pursuing to further support primary care.

Supreme Court Opinions – In early July, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) handed down opinions in three key cases:

[Students for Fair Admissions, INC v. President and Fellow of Harvard College](#)
[303 Creative LLS et al. v. Elenis et al.](#)
[Biden, President of the United States, et al. v. Nebraska et al.](#)

Each of these opinions will have immediate impacts on current and future AAFP members. At the present time, the AAFP is still analyzing the opinions, reviewing summaries and opinions from experts and discussing the impacts with our collaborators and partners. AAFP President Tochi Iroke, authored the following [SCOTUS Blog](#) for additional information on each of these decisions.

Medicare Physician Fee Schedule – on July 13, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published the [2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule](#) (MPFS). The AAFP team is reviewing and analyzing the proposed rule and preparing our formal comments, which are due on September 11, 2023. We also will be working with our state chapters and coalitions to drive support for key provisions of the proposal – especially the G2211 codes which provide additional payment for primary care physicians. The AAFP published a [summary](#) and issued a [press release](#) on the proposed rule.

Workforce

The AAFP reached medical students through revitalized Family Medicine Interest Groups (FMIGs), targeted exhibits and presentations at key meetings, and the Match communications strategy, all focused on supporting students in learning about and choosing family medicine, including dispelling myths and addressing student debt.

The “[Best Practice Guide: Strategic Planning to Increase Student Choice of Family Medicine](#)”, developed in cooperation with the ADFM’s Education Transformation Committee, was published on the

AAFP website and promoted to audiences interested in family medicine workforce development through pairing with the AAFP Match Analysis and meeting presentations.

A new curriculum, to be rolled out at FMX 2023, has been designed to train and resource AAFP members and non-members who can serve as champions for family medicine in their communities. Chapters increasingly participated in the pilot with HOSA Future Health Professionals to connect students with role models and mentors.

Residency program support focused on assisting residency programs in meeting the new revisions to the ACGME Program Requirements, changes to the application and recruitment system, assisting in start-up of new residency programs, and governmental advocacy for increased residency training positions. The [Residency Program Solutions](#) (RPS) consultation service produced an updated version of the Criteria for Excellence, promoted at the AAFP's Residency Leadership Summit. RPS consultants have expertise in competency-based medical education (CBME) and are available to assist residency programs as they implement the various aspects of CBME.

The AAFP hosted the 2023 [National Conference for Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students](#) in Kansas City July 27-29. This annual event brings thousands of medical students and family medicine residents to Kansas City to explore the future of family medicine and network with colleagues from across the nation. The event featured a great lineup of [Main Stage speakers](#) and an exhibit hall full of residency programs.

Collaboration with DARTNet

The AAFP has a long history of being a leading supporter of research in family medicine. Over time, the complexities of operating a practice-based research network and the realities of balancing our strategic and operational plans with research opportunities have caused us to consider how we can best support family medicine research. We have determined that the best option for the AAFP is through collaborations with organizations who share our goals and are committed to advancing high-quality patient care through the delivery of primary care. To that end, we are negotiating a new collaboration with DARTNet Institute.

This evolution of our longtime collaboration with DARTNet will include transferring research-focused awards and employees in the Practice-Based Research, Innovation and Evaluation (PRIED) Division to DARTNet. DARTNet plans to offer each PRIED employee an employment offer with DARTNet. Through this collaboration, the AAFP will continue to contribute to the generation of evidence supporting the practice of family medicine.

The AAFP will continue to recruit members to and practices to engage in practice-based research opportunities through the National Research Network (NRN), and the AAFP will continue to bring mission-centric projects to the collaboration moving forward. The research staff will be employed by DARTNet, and we will engage with DARTNet to conduct research.

In addition to continuation of the NRN, we also continue to invest in health care policy research through the Robert Graham Center. This investment includes a new partnership with Georgetown University to strengthen our research in the areas of access, equity and diversity.

By establishing collaborations like these, the AAFP is able to promote, fund and recruit research opportunities while reducing the complexities of operating a practice-based research network. This collaboration, in particular, allows the AAFP to continue our support of family medicine, practice-based

Organization Update

After seven years of service with the Academy, Shannon Scott resigned from her position as Chief Strategy Officer and Deputy Executive Vice President to pursue a new opportunity. In her departure, the AAFP made a key leadership changes that will further strengthen the Academy and position us for future success:

- Paula Matthews will report to me in the elevated position of Chief Administrative Officer. In this role, Paula will oversee Human Resources and Administration (buildings and services) and will take on the primary role of leading the AAFP's employee engagement strategies. Paula will be a key member of the EMT bringing greater focus to how we invest in employees; develop leaders; recruit and retain talent; and build a values-driven, member-focused culture grounded in trust.
- Bethany Burk will continue in her role as Chief of Staff, taking on a larger scope of work and additional management responsibilities. She will provide strategic and operational oversight of Board Operations, Governance, the Project Management Office and the AAFP's strategic and operational plans.
- Charlotte Kerner will continue in her capacity as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and will take on an expanded role as Senior Vice President of Finance and Business Performance. In her new capacity, Charlotte will lead the Information Technology division and will work with leaders and teams across the organization to identify performance improvement and revenue growth opportunities.
- Brian Edwards, Vice President of Membership, will now report directly to me to round out my view of the AAFP's strategic objectives and core competencies (Education, Advocacy, Members). research while maximizing the expertise and experience of a well-established enterprise.