I. Introductions

Council members, speakers, and observers were introduced.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes – March 19, 2018

The minutes of the June 25, 2018 Plenary Session were approved.

III. Nomination Committee Report

Dr. Taubman updated the Council on the work of the Nomination Committee and the status on vetting new members for the Council. Since the last Plenary, the Committee has recommended that the Department of Health (DOH) consider eight candidates for the Council. He said that in the coming months the committee will be considering many more candidates until there are enough candidates to replace all members whose terms have expired.
IV. Executive Director’s Report – Thomas Burke – Health Workforce Programs Update

Thomas Burke provided updates on several DOH workforce development programs. He said that a Request for Applications (RFA) for the sixth Cycle of the Doctors Across New York (DANY) Physician Loan Repayment (PLR) and Physician Practice Support (PPS) Programs was released in February for a November 2019 start date. He noted that 100 awards were made in cycle five, the previous cycle of the program. Also, the DANY Psychiatrist Loan Repayment Program provides up to $150,000 for psychiatrists that practice in NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) facilities for at least five years. There have been 15 psychiatrists awarded funding and applications are accepted on a rolling and continuous basis.

Mr. Burke said that 24 awards were announced for the third round of the Primary Care Service Corps (PCSC) in June 2018. This program provides loan repayment to non-physician health practitioners who agree to practice in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for an initial two-year obligation and can be renewed for up to three additional years. Since its inception in 2012, 76 practitioners have received awards through the program. Mr. Burke shared that the next funding opportunity, round 4, is scheduled to be released in Fall 2019.

Mr. Burke said that the 2019 cycle of Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP) was posted in February with a late March due date. Award announcements are expected to be made in June for projects that begin this summer.

Mr. Burke noted that DOH made 84 two-year Health Workforce Retraining Initiative (HWRI) awards in September 2018. This program supports the training and retraining of health care workers to obtain new positions, or meet new job requirements of existing positions.

Mr. Burke shared that there have been no changes in the SUNY and CUNY Diversity Programs, Workforce Data Initiatives, Area Health Education Centers, DANY Ambulatory Care, or the Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY) Diversity in Medicine programs since the last plenary session.

Mr. Burke said that no new funding was provided by the Legislature to support the Take-A-Look Tour, sponsored by the Iroquois Healthcare Alliance, in collaboration with the American College of Physicians. This program provides residents, medical students and other medical professionals with the opportunity to visit facilities, practitioners and providers in upstate New York. Since the program began in 2012 there has been seven tours to date with approximately 50 participants in total. According to Mr. Burke, two more tours are scheduled to take place this fall, and the contract will expire in December.

Next, Mr. Burke discussed the State “30” J-1 Visa Waiver program, sharing that recipients of all 30 J-1 Waivers for 2019 have been notified and packets to the Department of State are currently being completed.
Lastly, Mr. Burke said that, with the exception of the Take-A-Look Tour, all workforce programs were funded in the 2019-20 budget at the same level as in the previous fiscal year.

V. ECRIP Center Training Projects – Scott Sherman, M.D., MPH., Omar El-Shahawy, M.D., MPH, Ph.D. and Bianca Dearing, D.D.S., Ph.D. – NYU Langone Medical Center and Moro Salifu, M.D. – SUNY Downstate Medical University.

Empire Clinical Research Investigators Program (ECRIP) researcher from NYU Langone and SUNY Downstate Medical University presented to the Council about their ECRIP projects. Doctors, Scott Sherman, Omar El-Shahawy, and Bianca Dearing of NYU Langone’s Center for Alternative Tobacco Product Studies (CATS) discussed their ECRIP projects about Tobacco use and alternate tobacco products in New York State. The research fellows discussed their projects, how ECRIP has helped them forge and expand their research experience, and how their projects will help further build clinical research capacity on tobacco and alternate tobacco products in New York.

Dr. Moro Salifu of SUNY Downstate University discussed his ECRIP project about translational health disparities research on Type 2 Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease. Dr. Salifu discussed his project, which consisted of didactic, clinical research, and translational research components, its results, successes, and the accolades and future plans of the project fellows.

VI. Council Draft Recommendations

The Council reviewed draft policy recommendations to be included in the upcoming NYS Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME) Report. Each recommendation was reviewed and discussed by members. The Council concurred with all previous and new recommendations that will be included in the next Council report.

VII. Doctors State Innovation Model (SIM) Rural Residency Programs – Patrick Russell

Patrick Russell of DOH’s Office of Quality and Patient Safety presented to the Council on the State Innovation Model (SIM) Rural Residency Programs. Mr. Russell discussed the programs’ structure, funding, objectives, and progress. He added that the ultimate goal of the initiative is to create a cost-effective delivery system that allows all residents to obtain optimal health through coordinated, patient-centric health care that is supported and incentivized by value-based payments. He highlighted the progress of the five rural residency programs and their current status, including two that have begun to train residents in July 2018 (Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital and Arnot Odgen) and Cayuga Medical Center that will begin training three residents in July 2019.

VIII. Performance Measurement of Health Workforce Programs – Marc-Andre Massena

Marc-Andre Massena presented on DOH’s health workforce program performance evaluation project. Mr. Massena discussed the objective of the project to evaluate the outcomes and performance of 12 workforce development programs funded or administered by DOH. He discussed the programs that would be evaluated, the
objective and methodology of the evaluation, challenges that evaluators will face during the project, and the expectations for the project. Mr. Massena noted that while this project will be the first time many of these programs are being evaluated, the goal of this project is to establish a methodology to streamline future evaluations, allowing them to be incorporated into the administration of these programs.

IX. Integrating Social Determinants of Health into GME – Anu Ashok, Greater New York Hospital Association

Anu Ashok of Greater New York Hospital Association presented on integrating social determinants of health and graduate medical education. Ms. Ashok discussed the importance of the integration of social determinants of health into the provision of health care and graduate medical education. She also discussed the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requirements related to social determinants of health and Greater New York Hospital Association’s project to integrate Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) into residency programs to educate residents on social determinants of health and increase their awareness of the resources and services provided by CBOs. Ms. Ashok described the structure and objectives of the project, the hospitals and CBOs participating, and the project outcomes to date.

X. Adjournment

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.