



## Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians

### Strategic Direction 2025-2027

The MAFP mission is to improve the health of all Mississippians by supporting and promoting family medicine.

The leadership and staff of the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians met at The Old Capitol Inn in Jackson, MS on Friday, December 14 to set a roadmap for family medicine in the state. Prior planning sessions were held in 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015, 2018, and 2021.

MAFP was founded in 1949 and is an affiliated chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. The MAFP is a medium size chapter (401-1001 Active members) of the AAFP with 1,305 total members (as of November, 2024) which includes 572 Active members representing 88.2% percent of potential members paying dues. The retention rate for Active members is 92.9%. There are 164 Resident members and 451 Student members. The Academy recognizes the importance of engaging first-year new physicians and offers a 50% discount to this member segment. 75% of MAFP graduating Resident members converted to Active membership. The MAFP dues are \$325 and AAFP dues are \$510.

The IRS has designated MAFP as a 501(c) (6) trade association or professional society and it is affiliated with the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, designated as a 501(c) (3) charitable organization.

Planning participants:

Jonathan Buchanan, MD, Director at Large  
Walter Burnett, MD, Vice President-Elect  
Rickey Chance, DO, Director District 1  
Susan Chiarito, MD, Past President  
J. Anthony Cloy, MD, Director District 4  
Randy Easterling, MD, Past President  
James Ervin, MD, President-Elect  
Dustin Gentry, MD, AAFP Alternate Delegate  
Jennifer Gholson, MD, AAFP Delegate  
James Griffin, MD, Past President  
Anna Marie Hailey-Sharp, MD, Director District 3  
Stephen Hammack, MD, Immediate Past President  
Amy Hollman, MD, Director District 5  
Luke Lampton, MD, AAFP Delegate, Past President  
Emily Landrum, MD, Director District 7  
Carlos Latorre, MD, Past President  
Bruce Longest, MD, Secretary  
Stacy Mitchell, Student Member  
Chris Park, MD, Director District 8  
Paul Pavlov, MD, Past President  
Katie Royals, MD, AAFP Alternate Delegate  
Melissa Stephens, MD, Director District 2  
Lauren Stevens, DO, Resident Member  
Chrystal Sumrall, MD, Treasurer  
John Vanderloo, MD, President  
Patrick Whipple, MD, Director at Large

Caley Dawkins, Public Awareness Director, Staff  
Beth Embry, Executive Director, Staff  
Hope Ladner, Advocacy Director, Staff  
Beth Wilson, Foundation and Workforce Director, Staff

Existing mission statement: Improve the health of all people in Mississippi by supporting family medicine physicians.

Proposed mission statement: Improve the health of all Mississippians by supporting and promoting family physicians.

Existing vision statement: A family physician for every Mississippian.

Proposed vision statement: No change.

Goals – The Core Competencies of MAFP

Five goals were set to position the profession, promote patient care and advance the mission and value statements.

- I. Advocacy  
Existing: Serving as the unified voice of family physicians and their patients in Mississippi.  
Proposed: Serve as the unified voice of family physicians.
- II. Academy  
Existing: Ensure a sustainable, engaged, and organized association.  
Proposed: No change.
- III. Workforce  
Existing: Expanding the family physician workforce to meet patient and community needs.  
Proposed: Expand and support the family physician workforce.
- IV. Professional Development  
Existing: Providing education to enhance patient care, train physician leaders, and develop faculty and mentors for students/residents.  
Proposed: Provide high quality education and networking opportunities for family physicians.
- V. Public Awareness  
Existing: Improving public awareness of the roles and value of family physicians.  
Proposed: Improve public awareness of the roles and value of family physicians.

I. **ADVOCACY** – Serve as the unified voice of family physicians.

- A. Engage members in the legislative process to promote the mission and vision of MAFP
- B. Maintain and enhance visibility of Family Physicians in government arena
- C. Develop and strengthen partnerships with other organizations
- D. Improve the day-to-day experience faced by family physicians in their practice

E. Strengthen family medicine with government agencies, health systems, and payers

II. **ACADEMY** – Ensure a sustainable, engaged, and organized association.

A. Member Recruitment & Retention

B. Member Engagement

C. Financial Stability

D. Leadership Development

E. Periodic Organization Review & Succession Planning

III. **WORKFORCE** – Expand and support the family physician workforce.

A. Increase student interest and recruitment

B. Support Residency Programs Throughout the State

C. Engage and retain residents/early career physicians in Mississippi

IV. **PROFFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT**- Provide high quality education and networking opportunities for family physicians.

A. Provide Educational Sessions based on Membership Needs

B. Promote Degree of Fellow

V. **PUBLIC AWARENESS** – Improve public awareness of the roles and value of family physicians.

A. Public Awareness of Family Physicians in Mississippi

B. Strengthen Brand Awareness of MAFP

C. Produce a value-added journal to support the MAFP Strategic Plan

D. Establish and support awards that recognize MAFP Members

E. Maintain communications through MAFP website, social media, newsletters, and other channels