



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COST ADVISORY COMMITTEE An Inventory of Its Records

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Agency: Minnesota. Medical Education and Research Cost Advisory Committee.
Series Title: Records.
Dates: 1979-2000 (bulk 1993-1997).
Quantity: 0.5 cu. ft. (16 folders in partial box).
Location: 128.I.5.14F

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At the direction of the state legislature, the Minnesota Department of Health began studying changes in the financing of medical education and research in 1993. The Medical Education and Research Cost [MERC] Advisory Committee was established in that year by the Legislature to examine the financing of medical education and research in Minnesota's changing health care market. Following the establishment of a MERC Fund in 1996 [Laws 1996 c451 art4 sec65], the purpose of the advisory committee shifted to providing advice and oversight on the distribution of the fund. The members, appointed to four year terms by the Commissioner of Health, fill the following requirements: the consideration of the interest of all stakeholders; representation of both urban and rural interests; and representation of ambulatory care as well as inpatient perspectives. To ensure appropriate representation of all eligible provider groups and stakeholders, the Commissioner appoints members from the following groups: public and private medical researchers; public and private academic medical centers, including representatives from academic centers offering accredited training programs for physicians, pharmacists, chiropractors, dentists, nurses, and physician assistants; managed care organizations; employers; consumers and other relevant stakeholders. The advisory committee is governed by *Minnesota Statute 15.059*.

The MERC Fund provides funding for the clinical training of selected medical professions: physicians (medical students and residents), doctor of pharmacy practitioners, doctors of chiropractic, dentists, advanced practice nurses (clinical nurse specialist, certified registered nurse anesthetists, nurse practitioners, and certified nurse midwives), and physician assistants. It was funded for the first time in 1997, with monies from the state's General Fund and Health Care Access Fund [Laws 1997 c225 art 7 sec 2; c203 art1 sec2]. Those dollars were matched with

federal Medicaid funds and distributed on the basis of the number of eligible trainees and the average cost of clinical training (based on a statewide average for each of the provider types covered by MERC).

Since its inception, changes have occurred periodically to both the fund's financial and distribution structure. Major funding changes have included the 1998 transfer of medical education dollars from the Prepaid Medical Assistance Program [PMAP] and Prepaid General Assistance Medical Care Program [PGAMC] to the MERC Fund [Laws 1998 c407 art2]; the 1999 addition of interest earned on the medical education endowment, an endowment created following the one-time tobacco settlement [Laws 1999 c245 art11]; a large reduction of the General Fund allocation and addition of funding from the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center in 2002 [Laws 2002 c220 art 15]; and the 2003 liquidation of the medical education endowment and replacement with funds from an existing cigarette tax [Laws 2003 1st Spec Sess c21].

Major procedural and distribution changes have included the Commissioner of Health receiving authority to review the provider groups eligible for the MERC Fund [Laws 1998 c407 art2] and, in 2003, the combination of all MERC and PMAP funds into a single annual distribution with a combined "67%/33%" distribution formula, with 90% awarded based on the combined distribution formula and 10% awarded to sponsoring institutions as discretionary funds to be used as the institution wished, and eligibility changed to exclude any advanced practice nursing program sponsored by an organization that was not part of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities [MnSCU] system, the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center, the Mayo Clinic, or the Private College Council [Laws 2003 1st Spec Sess c21].

Sources: MERC Website, Minnesota Laws, Minnesota Statutes.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

The records of this body, charged with examining the financing of medical education and researching Minnesota's changing health care market, include minutes, correspondence, notes, reports, background materials, and data files. Mainly created by two advisory task forces, MERC I (1993-1994) and MERC II (1994-2000), they detail the task forces' activities; research, health care, and education costs; and the health professional workforce. They also contain data on doctors, dentists, and nurses.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Academic medical centers—Minnesota.
Chiropractors—Training of—Minnesota.
Cigarette industry—Law and legislation—Minnesota.
Dentists—Training of—Minnesota.
Health planning—Minnesota.

Health.

Managed care plans (Medical care)—Costs—Minnesota.

Medicaid—Law and legislation—Minnesota.

Medical assistance—Minnesota.

Medical care—Minnesota—Cost control.

Medical education policy—Minnesota.

Medical education—Minnesota—Finance.

Medical personnel—Training of—Minnesota.

Medical research personnel—Training of—Minnesota.

Medicine—Research—Minnesota—Finance.

MinnesotaCare.

Nurses—Training of—Minnesota.

Pharmacists—Training of—Minnesota.

Physicians' assistants—Training of—Minnesota.

Physicians—Training of—Minnesota.

Products liability—Tobacco—Minnesota.

Tobacco industry—Minnesota.

Tobacco—Taxation—Minnesota.

Organizations:

Mayo Clinic.

Medical Education and Research Costs Project (Minn.).

Minnesota Private College Council.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Minnesota. Dept. of Health.

University of Minnesota. Academic Health Center.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**Preferred Citation:**

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See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below. Each file consists of one folder unless specified otherwise.

Location

128.I.5.13B

Advisory Taskforce (MERC I):

Meeting minutes and correspondence, 1993-1994. 2 folders.

Phone notes, 1993-1994.

Advisory Taskforce (MERC II):

Meeting minutes and correspondence, 1994-1995, 1997.

Research Cost Form, responses, 1995.

Reports, Health Care Cost Information System, 1993-1995.

Subcommittees:

Cost of Education Subcommittee, 1994.

Health Professional Workforce Subcommittee, 1994. 4 folders.

Research Subcommittee, 1994-1997. 2 folders.

Workforce data files:

Doctors, AMA Distributed Reports, 1979-1994.

Dentists, 1990-1994.

Nurses, 1987-2000.