

SUMMARY

Health Care Personnel Shortage Task Force

Pierce College, Puyallup College Center, Multipurpose Room
 July 25, 2013, 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Task Force Members Present: Dan Ferguson, Allied Health Center of Excellence; Sally Watkins, Washington State Nurses Association; Tracy Woodman, SEIU Healthcare 1199 NW; Charissa Raynor, SEIU Healthcare NW Training Partnership; Rochelle Wambach, Washington Student Achievement Council; Nancy Alleman, Washington Rural Health Association; Patti Rathbun, DOH; Eleni Papadakis and Nova Gattman, WTECB; Marie Bruin, SBCTC; Mary Looker. Community and Migrant Health Centers. Legislators Present: State Representative Drew Hansen, 23rd District; State Representative Joe Schmick, 9th District.

| TOPIC | SUMMARY |
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| Welcome and Introductions | Eleni Papadakis, Executive Director of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, chaired the meeting. She provided a brief overview of the purpose of the Task Force and welcomed members and guests. |
| Washington Employers' Current and Expected Demand for Five Health Care Occupations | Sue Skillman and Lorella Palazzo, UW Center for Workforce Studies, presented findings from their recently completed qualitative study, funded by the Workforce Board. The study examined employer demand for five health care occupations and expected changes in the coming years. The five occupations in the study are: Home Care Aides, Medical Assistants, Nursing Assistants Certified, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Associate Degree Registered Nurses. Through interviews with employers, this quick-turnaround study addresses the extent to which employers expect to see changes in workforce demand with the implementation of health care reform, and as they experience upcoming changes in funding and reimbursement. The results of the study are posted on the Task Force website (http://www.wtb.wa.gov/TaskforceJuly_25_2013meeting.asp). |
| Crosswalking Military Service to Nursing Professions | Paula Meyer, MSN, RN, State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission, presented findings from the Military Medical Education and Training Comparison Report, which looked at the training for specific military courses to see how they compared to civilian medical training and careers. There are some gaps. The military service training is geared toward caring for a primarily healthy population in a set age range, and does not include maternity or pediatric care. The report is posted on the Task Force website. The Commission is also looking at crosswalks from other military education/training to civilian careers. Marie Bruin from SBCTC spoke about their work with multiple agencies to prepare military members still on duty at Joint Base Lewis McChord for the transition to civilian employment. |
| Task Force Legislative Report | Nova Gattman, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, summarized the 2012 Task Force recommendations to the Legislature. The Task Force had success in getting funding for a workgroup to develop standardized language to be used in clinical affiliation agreements, and passage of legislation that called for the Student Achievement Council to contract with a professional fundraiser to secure funding for the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program. Rochelle Wambach reported that the Student Achievement Council is working with a national group to survey providers on the retention of their beneficiaries, and will provide additional information at the October meeting. Patti Rathbun from Department of Health updated on the status of surveying health care professionals as part of online renewals, which were a 2012 recommendation. Renewals are scheduled to begin in 2015. The department will be considering supplemental budget funding to begin implementation in 2014. These surveys will include demographic data on key health care professions. |

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| <p>Direction of the Task Force for 2013 Policy Recommendations</p> | <p>The Task Force members discussed possible future direction for the 2013 policy recommendations to the Legislature. Dan Ferguson spoke about creating innovative practices to encourage students from rural areas to remain there after completing their education and residency. Eleni Papadakis spoke about the issue of rural/underserved communities and asked for suggestions to address the workforce shortage in those areas. Tracy Woodman suggested simulation, Dan Ferguson spoke about competency based training, and Sue Skillman confirmed that distance learning is an ongoing need. Mary Looker spoke about the shortage at community health centers and the difficulties surrounding competing to fill those vacancies. Jodi Perlmutter spoke about the need to consider other strategies for health care payment – particularly in rural areas – to address the need for navigators and case managers for patients. Representative Hansen asked for a map that shows the location of uninsured residents and where the health care providers are based. Thea Mounts said that the Office of Financial Management has something similar. The map can be accessed at www.ofm.wa.gov/researchbriefs/2012/brief065.pdf. Representative Hansen asked that the Task Force consider funding models to reduce the health care personnel shortage. Rochelle Wambach, Representative Hansen, Jodi Perlmutter, Kendra Hodgson, and Marie Bruin are willing to help with this issue. The Task Force will also carry forward the issue of long term care at Eleni Papadakis’ suggestion.</p> |
| <p>Planning for the Future of Health Care in Washington State: State Innovations Model Grant</p> | <p>Karen Merrikin, Health Care Authority, presented information regarding the State Health Care Innovation process. Washington State received federal funding to design a six-month State Health Care Innovation Plan. The plan will look at a creative payment and service delivery model which has the ability to lower costs. The goal is to refresh key innovation strategies with an eye towards programs or changes that are sustainable regardless of whether federal funding continues. There are two focus areas: Creating the systems and supports needed to improve care and outcomes, and multi-payer, purchaser and provider transformation. The emphasis is to look at a consumer’s engagement in their health care and provide the information and background for them to make wise choices, as well as offering price transparency. The Health Care Authority is planning webinars and feedback sessions, and is willing to come back to the Task Force and present recommendations for feedback at the next meeting.</p> |
| <p>Next Meeting</p> | <p>The next meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2013, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at Pierce College Puyallup, Puyallup College Center Multipurpose Room.</p> |