

Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC)

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2009

Members Present: Dan Rahn (Chair), Michael Adams, Mark Becker, Linda Bleicken, Valerie Hepburn, Freida Hill, Deborah Lyons, Linda Roberts-Betsch, Patrick Schloss, Peter Sireno, and Eberhard Voit.

Center for Health Workforce Planning and Analysis (CHWPA) staff present: Chris Albrecht, Kristi Fuller, Dara O'Neil and Ben Robinson.

Guests present: Chris Baucom (Governor's Office of Workforce Development), Deidra Brown (AHEC), Terri Durden (USG), Susan Herbst (USG), Shelly Nichols (USG) and John Vanchella (USG).

Opening Remarks:

Dan Rahn opened the meeting with remarks regarding the purpose of the committee.

Discussion: The question was raised if the Governor's Office and other agencies would collaborate with CHWPA. Deborah Lyons thinks such an organization would be welcomed not only by the Governor's Office, but also across the state. Mark Becker asked about data collection, noting that needed data was not readily available and that most boards collect their own data. Ben Robinson indicated that the Nursing Taskforce would work with the committee and encourage involvement among other task forces.

Introduction to the CHWPA:

Ben Robinson, Executive Director of CHWPA, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the development of the CHWPA, its mission, goals and activities.

Role of the Advisory Committee:

Dan Rahn and Ben Robinson presented an outline, charge and governance structure of the HPAC. The Committee reviewed and approved the by-laws with the following changes:

- Change non-research to "other sectors"
- Define "substantial" to mean institutions that offer 2 or more health professions programs
- Add "education" to the last sentence under Article II: General Function so that latter part of the sentence reads "health professions education in the state."
- Under Article IV: Reports of the HPAC, add a statement that CWHPA work products are to be reviewed by HPAC members prior to dissemination to the public.

Discussion: Proposed meeting dates and times were discussed. Committee members were asked to forward their availability on the proposed dates to Pat Wright, Administrative Coordinator, CWHPA.

Legislative Update:

Ben Robinson gave an update on legislation related to health professions education and the workforce, state budget, and the federal stimulus package.

CHWPA Developments/Proposals:

Chris Albrecht provided an overview of the CHWPA website.

Discussion: HPAC members asked that the website be opened for a short period of time for member review and comment.

The following Nursing Education Task Force proposals were discussed:

Academic Common Market:

Kristi Fuller gave an overview of the proposal developed for a pilot program that would amend the Academic Common Market (ACM). The ACM is a program housed under the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) that allows students to attend an out-of-state program at in-state tuition rates if that program is not offered in their home state. The proposed change would be to include Nursing PhD programs in the ACM. Proposed policy change driven by capacity concerns and expertise issues.

Discussion: The HPAC felt a policy may be needed to guarantee students would return to Georgia after degree completion to practice. The question was raised regarding the availability of online Nursing PhD programs. Dan Rahn asked Dara O'Neil, Director of Health Workforce Research, to provide the committee with the number of PhD, DNS, DNP, and EdD faculty at USG institutions in an effort to better understand where there is excess capacity in the other SREB states. The proposal was tabled until more information could be provided.

Tuition Assistance Program:

Chris Albrecht gave an overview of the proposal developed to amend the University System of Georgia's (USG) Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). TAP is a program that enables full-time, benefits-eligible employees of the USG who have been employed six months or longer to enroll in up to eight academic semester credit hours and have their tuition waived. Participation is granted on a space-available basis. The proposed change would be to allow part-time nursing faculty participation in the program.

Discussion: The HPAC felt a policy may be needed to ensure that individuals that take advantage of this benefit contract with the USG to teach at least one year or payback an amount equal to the tuition remitted. The proposal was tabled until more information could be provided.

Differential Tuition:

Ben Robinson presented the group with a letter from Tim Mescon, President, Columbus State University, requesting that the CHWPA investigate the usage of differential tuition levels for certain professional degree programs.

Discussion: Various committee members discussed the impact changing tuition levels would have on students ability to use the HOPE scholarship to fully cover their tuition costs.

Decision: Not approved. Committee feels the current fee-based schedule is sufficient and could adjust these fees as needed rather than adjusting tuition to accommodate the added expense of health professions programs.

Behavioral Task Force:

Ben Robinson discussed the need to create a Behavioral Health Task Force to address the shortages in the behavioral health workforce in Georgia. This group would be comprised of leaders from around the state that are dedicated to educating and employing behavioral health professionals.

Decision: The HPAC members approved the creation of a Behavioral Health Task Force.

Chancellor's Strategic Plan Measures:

Ben Robinson presented Strategic Goal 3 of the Chancellor's Strategic plan which addresses the production of health professions graduates. A chart was given outlining the challenge, actions, and target production numbers for meeting statewide needs.

Decision: The chart was approved.

Health Professions Data Warehouse:

Dara O'Neil discussed the data collection procedures with the HPAC and discussed the development of a data warehouse. The following were discussed:

- A revised memorandum of understanding is being developed between the USG and Technical College System of Georgia to share data between the two agencies.
- In collaboration with the Secretary of State's office a licensure renewal survey was conducted of registered nurses renewing their license this year. The purpose of the survey was to gain a profile of the registered nursing workforce in Georgia. As applicable, the Center will continue to work towards implementing licensure renewal surveys of various health professions.

Simulation:

Ben Robinson gave the HPAC an overview of the efforts to increase clinical training hours for nursing students and other health profession disciplines across the state. The Regional Simulation plan would include the creation of 7 sites in various regions across the state open to area colleges, hospitals and community business partners for use in simulation training.

Decision: The HPAC approved pursuing general obligation bond financing for development of regional simulation centers. The HPAC asked for a more developed business plan before moving this initiative forward.

Future Agenda Items:

Nursing Education Expansion Plan: The Nursing Education Expansion Plan was distributed and committee members were asked to review and submit their feedback prior to the next meeting.

Legislative, budget and other priorities for FY10: To be discussed at next meeting.

Faculty layoffs in Georgia nursing programs: To be discussed at next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

Action Item	Responsibility	Status/Notes	Deadline
Revise HPAC By-Laws	Robinson		Next Meeting
Send Availability for Proposed Meeting Dates to Pat Wright	HPAC Members		Next Meeting
Set Meeting Dates	Wright		Next Meeting
Open CHWPA website	Albrecht		Next Meeting
Provide follow-up requested by HPAC on the ACM	Fuller		Next Meeting
Provide number of PhD, DNP, DNS, and EdD nursing faculty	O'Neil		Next Meeting
Provide follow-up requested by HPAC on TAP	Albrecht		Next Meeting
Develop Behavioral Health Task Force	Robinson and Fuller		Next Meeting
Creation of business plan for Regional Simulation Initiative	Albrecht		Next Meeting
Review Nursing Education Expansion Plan and provide feedback	HPAC Members		Next Meeting

Submitted by:
Pat Wright, Administrative Coordinator
Center of Health Workforce Planning and Analysis
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia