

Maine Health Workforce Forum Steering Committee Meeting

February 26, 2014

Meeting Notes

Present: Valerie Landry, Mercy Hospital; Paul Bolin, Eastern Maine Medical Center, Karen O'Rourke, UNE, Maine AHEC; Charles Dwyer, Maine Health Access Foundation; Jean Michel Kayumba; ME CDC

Agenda

Where we are now - financing, expectations and timeline – There was a review of the current funding, resources and discussion of what we wanted to accomplish during the next 12 months. Currently there is \$2,000 from a grant from the Bingham Program and limited administrative support available through AHEC. Potential activities include: a Summit; addressing the data collection issues with the professional licensing boards; regional meetings to bring employers and educators together to discuss and address regional needs; and continuing to be the voice that advocates for and raises the importance of health workforce development. There was discussion about various levels of staffing, utilizing Forum members to participate and offer whatever assistance they could.

Current Activities

State Loan Repayment Program – One item of immediate interest is the recently announced opportunity to submit a proposal to HRSA to establish a State Loan Repayment Program in Maine. Such a program has to be administered by a state's primary care office and Matt Chandler at ME CDC is taking the lead on putting the proposal together. It is a challenging proposal to develop because of its matching requirement and administration through the state. Matt will be putting together a small committee to work on the proposal and Sally, Charles and Karen have offered to participate. It was suggested that the Forum might be able to offer assistance in providing someone to help review the contract language.

Maine DOL Health Workforce Data Report – Paul Leparulo will be available to present this report in April. Valerie will be checking with Commissioner Paquette about her availability and then will send those dates to Karen to check with Dora Mills. The Forum will take on the role of champion for the report. After this meeting which will focus on the initial release of the report, a follow-up Forum meeting will be held to discuss what to do about the report, possibly working with the Public Health Districts. After some discussion it was agreed that Augusta would be the location for the April meeting, and Sally and Karen will explore potential sites, possibly with some Forum members. There was discussion about the length of the meeting and given the length of the report, getting some materials – such as the executive summary and a copy of the slides to have available for the meeting. Charles has offered to have MeHAF send out the press advisory for the event. Jean Michel offered to help in whatever way he could. Another conference call will be scheduled prior to the event to finalize more of the details and Paul Leparulo will be invited to participate in that call.

Forum Meetings

Steering Committee – A meeting of the Forum Steering Committee will be held following the April meeting, hopefully in the same location. Karen, Paul and Sally will work to identify people to ask to serve on the Steering Committee and any others who are interested are welcome to participate.

Full Forum Meeting – The next meeting of the Forum is scheduled for May 16th from 1 – 3:00 at UNE in Portland. Call in options will be available.