

**Maine Health Workforce Forum
Steering Committee Meeting
April 15, 2014, Augusta**

Meeting Notes

Present

Lisa Miller, Bingham Program
Sarah Dubay, Penobscot Community Health Center
Karen O'Rourke, AHEC, UNE
Jeff Nevers, UNE
Theresa Mudgett, Eastern Maine Development Corporation
Joanna Morrison, Eastern Maine Health Systems
Ellen Libby, Eastern Maine Health Systems
Nicole Morin-Scribner, St. Mary's
Joan Dolan, MDOL
Tracy Tweedie, Northern Maine Development Corporation
Rebecca Lamey, Maine General
Paul Bolin, Eastern Maine Health Systems
Sally Sutton, New Mainers Resource Center

MHWF Transitions – Paul Bolin and Karen O'Rourke welcomed Steering Committee members and discussed the Forum's transition and move to UNE as a way to try to continue to meet the needs of stakeholders, and how the goals of the Forum fit nicely with AHEC's role to address recruitment and retention of health care workers. Support from the Bingham Program has helped to make this transition possible by providing some staff support for the Forum. Sally Sutton discussed her new role as Program Coordinator for the New Mainers Resource Center, which is work that grew out of the Forum's efforts around foreign trained health care professionals. Sally will continue to provide staff support for the Forum for the near future.

Moving Forward – Networking opportunities, establishing relationships and information sharing, such as through the website, continue to be important aspects of the Forum's role. Because funding for the Forum is limited at this time we need to take on projects that require few resources but will benefit from the involvement of the Forum members. The chairs will look to individual Forum members to take the lead on whatever projects the forum takes on.

Proposed Activities - There was discussion about potential funding opportunities such as the State Loan Repayment Program, and ME CDC's application, which is in process. Joan Dolan also discussed the potential opportunities under the soon to be announced new apprenticeship funds from USDOL. Possible programs to support through an apprenticeship program grant application are a Healthcare Workforce Academy for CNAs and entry level positions and nurse residency opportunities which are a high priority for employers. Lisa Miller discussed the Maine Partners in Nursing Preceptor Program as a possible approach or model to consider. Discussions will continue when the RFP is released and more is known about the specific requirements of the grant.

Nicole Morin Scribner discussed the CNA Geriatric Specialist and the need to get this position recognized by other employers. It is suggested that the Forum might coordinate a meeting with the nursing board of licensure to discuss this type of worker. Nicole Morin Scribner and Becky Lamey plan to meet with Commissioner Paquette and will report back to the Forum.

There was discussion about using regional meetings as a way to get out information from the report (Paul Leparulo, Joan Dolan and Garret Oswald), and also to get out information about apprenticeships and CSSP (Competitive Skills Scholarship Program).

There was discussion about how to best advocate for the collection of data from the professional licensing boards in addition to adjusting the timing of the report so that it is released when the most current data is available, and that this could be an important role for the Forum. It was also suggested that going forward, potential grant applications should include funding to cover costs of Forum, CWRI and gathering licensing data.

Forum Meeting Agenda – Based on the discussion the following items will be included on the agenda of the next meeting:

- Open discussion about the Health Workforce Report
- Apprenticeship grant (Joan)
- State Loan Repayment Program (Sally/Matt)
- CNA Geriatric Specialist (Nicole and Becky)
- Regional DOL meetings (Joan)
- Licensing Board Data (Karen)

Next Forum Meeting – May 16, 2014, 1:00 – 3:00 UNE, 716 Stevens Ave., Portland. Call-in option will be available.