

**Maine Health Workforce Forum
May 16, 2014 Meeting Notes**

Present: Ellen Libby, Jeff Nevers, Beth Campbell, Harry Simones, Theresa Mudgett, Lynn Gagnon, John Spritz, Barbara Ginley, Julie Chase, Charles Dwyer, Karen O'Rourke, Sally Sutton, Joan Dolan, Chris Riendeau, Carol Fackler, Sherry Rogers, Lisa Miller, Matt Chandler, Catherine MacClaren

Meeting Materials on Forum's website www.mainehealthworkforceforum.org

H1B Grant Overview

Health Care Workforce Academy Pilot Outline

High Demand Eligibility Criteria Application Form

4 Grant Overview

Upcoming Grants – There are a number of grant opportunities that are now pending from USDOL: JD NEG (Job Driven National Emergency Grant), WIA (Workforce Incentive Act) Grant, Ready to Work H1B, Apprenticeships (still to be released) and WIF (Workforce Innovations Funds). Joan Dolan reviewed the 4 Grant Overview Chart and the MDOL's approach to applying for the different grants, which will generally include developing industry or sector partnerships and essentially following the flow chart described in the Health Care Workforce Academy Pilot Outline utilizing work based training like OJT and apprenticeships.

JD NEG – This proposal will use the workforce academy approach for the various sectors chosen in the regions. Given the 2 year time frame, it can only be used for shorter term trainings, like associate degrees or stackable certificates. No incumbent workers can be trained under this grant.

Some issues raised in discussion:

- Need for DOL and DECD to work more closely together to leverage resources
- There needs to be a resource for new nurse grads – this may be more appropriate under the H1B
- Grants will be used to line-up employers – MDOL is currently gathering information about job openings at hospitals
- Survey Monkey is still available for people to complete
- The need for industry recognized certificates, which can be locally developed and recognized, and for stackable certificates

H1B – The focus of this grant will be on bio-science, HIT, health care, maybe utilizing a STEM focus. There was discussion of the need for clinical lab instructors.

Apprenticeship Grant – This grant is due out this fall. Maine is in a good position for a successful proposal. Joan Dolan and several others from Maine will be attending a conference in Boston in June regarding addressing impediments to successful health care apprenticeships.

The Maine Health Workforce Forum agrees to serve as an industry partnership for the JD-NEG grant, the H1B proposal and others that may be developed.

Julie Chase will get a letter from the Maine Community College System in support of grant proposals.

There was discussion of a nurse practitioner program as an option for foreign trained physicians.

Appreciation was expressed for Joan Dolan's efforts in working to move the various proposals forward.

Health Workforce Data Report – Karen opened up comments on the report and presentation by Paul Leparulo. Charles Dwyer pointed out the high demand for clinical psychologists indicated in the report and pointed out that this was an example of the need in some cases to get more detailed information to explain the data.

There was discussion about the lack of data from the licensing boards. Joan Dolan pointed out that the grant proposals will include funding for CWRI (Center for Workforce Research and Information), that there is funding for a vacancy survey which will be conducted this fall and the need to cover costs of getting data from the professional licensing boards.

John Spritzer discussed Growing Portland's approach to taking a cross-sector/discipline approach to health care informatics. USDOL will be re-doing standard occupation titles.

Barbara Ginley raised the point of high turnover for some positions and there was discussion about the CNA and home health care workforce and the need to get more information and bring this back before the Forum.

Sherry Rogers discussed the nursing data in the report and the need for nursing faculty. Carol Fackler reported on the discussions being held by the nursing schools and the move toward the seamless transition from ASN to BSN. There was also discussion about the nursing PhD efforts and Carol will report back this fall.

Lynn Gagnon pointed out some differences in the nursing data in the report and the data that the nurse have.

There was discussion about the need to change the timing of the report to better coincide with the release of workforce data. It was also suggested that we may want to look to MA for their data, i.e. key role of office managers in implementing Affordable Care Act.

State Loan Repayment Program Grant Proposal (SLRP) – A proposal has been submitted by Matt Chandler at Me CDC for a SLRP proposal which will include 7 employers who have agreed to providing a match for funds for loan repayments for 8 specific health professional positions who would work in those employment settings.

Updates – Karen O'Rourke reported that Becky Lamey and Nicolle Morin Scribner are pursuing further distribution of the CNA Eldercare and Acute Care curriculums. More information will be available at the next meeting.

Licensing Board Data – There was discussion about the best strategy for collection of health professional data from the State’s professional licensing boards. The National Center for Health Workforce Analysis has developed minimum data sets for 9 professions.

Next Meetings

- A Steering Committee meeting will be scheduled the first week in June to discuss the grant proposals, possibly at Maine General. The JD-NEG grant, if awarded will begin in June.
- A full Forum meeting will be held in the fall.
- A committee will be set-up to address the issue of gathering data from the professional licensing boards. Karen O’Rourke will chair this sub-committee.