

**Vermont State Workforce Development Board**

Vermont Health Care Workforce Development Strategic Plan Advisory Group - Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2022

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

**Committee Members in Attendance**: Ena Backus, Laura Pelosi, Rebecca Kapsalis, Brian Kerns, Stephanie Pagliuca, Jessa Barnard, Lisa Fox, Mary Kate Mohlman, Johanna Beliveau, Anne Bilodeau, Elizabeth Cote

**Guests in Attendance**: Abby Rhim, Devon Green, Cheryle Wilcox, Wendy Trafton, Betsy Hassan, Jessica Fredette

Ena Backus began the meeting with brief introductions from each of the committee members.

Update on Act 183 Programs and Grants

-Ena Backus began with an update on various requirements within Act 183 (S.11) and how some efforts work alongside the Vermont Health Care Workforce Development Strategic Plan.

-She noted the two new positions that have been created within the Agency of Human Services, including a workforce development coordinator position and a data manager position.

-Regarding nurse preceptor incentive grants, as well as health care employer, nursing pipeline and apprenticeship programs, the Agency of Human Services will be issuing an RFP in order to have a vendor help get the included programs running. There will also be a preceptor working group that will convene before the first half of November.

-Wendy Trafton noted the premium pay program for workforce recruitment and retention. One round of funding has been completed and another round, including parameters, will be released shortly.

Student RN Apprentice Licensure

-Betsy Hassan noted an Alabama collaborative program where they developed a student nurse apprentice program that also includes specific licensure. The model is in alignment with the standard coursework of nursing schools and accredited programs. It allows participants to become fully licensed while contributing to the workforce a bit sooner. This could expand to other licensed healthcare careers. She highlighted the Vermont Medical Practice Act, a statute that allows medical students to engage in medical practice under the supervision of a licensed vision. She suggested that this similar law could be used as a framework. It was also suggested that the group discuss if this idea could be added onto an already existing program or stand alone.

-Ena Backus raised the question of connecting with the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) as a next step.

-It was decided that Betsy Hassan would follow up with Alabama with clarifying questions. Ena Backus will connect and bring OPR to a future discussion.

Discussion: Central, streamlined information on financial assistance and other support options for persons interested in health care careers

-Ena Backus raised the idea of a single place where information on resources can live so that people can refer to it and understand the financial support available to them. Currently, the resources are dispersed within the Agency of Human Services, not clearly compiled.

-It was suggested that a webpage or another similar platform could be helpful to provide easier access.