



Vermont State Workforce Development Board

Health Care Committee - Meeting Minutes

June 20th, 2022

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Committee Members in Attendance: Ena Backus, Stephanie Pagliuca, Johanna Beliveau, Laura Pelosi, Katie Marvin, Luca Fernandez, Margaret Robinson, Anne Bilodeau, Jessa Barnard, Patrick Gallivan, Sam Russo, Jill Olson

Guests in Attendance: Victoria Biondolillo, Abby Rhim

Ena Backus began the meeting at 12:04 pm. She first asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Ena Backus, Director of Health Care Reform, Agency of Human Services

Luca Fernandez, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Department of Health

Margaret Robinson, Director of Public Health Nursing, Department of Health

Victoria Biondolillo, Executive Director, Vermont State Workforce Development Board

Stephanie Pagliuca, Senior Director for Workforce Development and Recruitment, Bi-State Primary Care Association

Jessa Barnard, Executive Director, Vermont Medical Society

Laura Pelosi, Vermont Health Care Association

Anne Bilodeau, Chief Operating Officer, Health Care and Rehabilitation Services

Patrick Gallivan, Executive Director, Vermont State Dental Society

Johanna Beliveau, CEO of Visiting Nurse and Hospice, President of VNAs of Vermont

Jill Olson, Executive Director, VNAs of Vermont

Katie Marvin, Family Doctor at Lamoille Health Partners, President of Vermont Academy of Family Physicians

Abby Rhim, Executive Assistant, Vermont State Workforce Development Board

Ena Backus then noted S.11 (Act 183), the 2022 legislative session and how the bill related to what was brought forward or put forward in the workforce development strategic plan. She also mentioned reviewing initiatives underway that are not mentioned in S.11.

Jessa Barnard mentioned discussing the worker relocation grant and adding health care related workers as eligible in the future.

Ena Backus noted the recommendation.

Victoria Biondolillo volunteered speaking with ACCD regarding qualification for the relocation grant.

Ena Backus then shared her screen, consisting of a breakdown of investments that the bill outlines related to health care.

See document link.

Johanna Beliveau asked a clarifying question regarding the Preceptor Working Group, convened by the Director of Health Care Reform. She voiced concern that there has been minimal communication with that working group and that nobody from home health and hospice care is involved in those conversations.

Laura Pelosi added that she doesn't believe any providers are engaged with that group.

Ena Backus added that there should be an ongoing conversation regarding the composition of the group. Additionally, she stressed the need to establish information crossover from the working group.

Jessa Barnard highlighted the need for additional preceptor programs.

Jill Olson stressed that outside of preceptor programs, it is also important to confirm that nursing schools are training folks in other clinical settings and supporting other health care employers who are doing preceptorships.

Lauri Pelosi added that there needs to be broader conversations occurring.

Ena Backus offered suggestions be made to the working group, created by Act 183, in addition to OPR, to ensure coordination and progress.

Jill Olson recommended that with so many different groups, we clarify what each groups believes to be their charge.

Ena Backus agreed. She then continued reviewing the document.

Victoria Biondolillo then confirmed that there are no occupational restrictions for relocation grants, applicable in the new fiscal year.

Jessa Barnard ask if there was any information that could be shared with the committee members to then distribute to organizations and agencies.

Victoria Biondolillo said that she would collect and distribute this information.

Ena Backus then returned to reviewing the document.

Sam Russo made a comment regarding the \$1,250,000 designated and specialized services agencies to use funds for loan repayment and tuition assistance. He noted his hope of adding naturopathic physicians into the AHEC loan repayment program.

Jill Olson noted that she is having a hard time following all the different initiatives and the role of this group. She suggested identifying ways for this group to tune in and be most supportive in all of these different efforts.

Stephanie Pagliuca agreed to Sam Russo's point about naturopaths. She also added that while there are opportunities for expansion and funding sources, she personally can only recognize and make changes to things that she knows.

Ena Backus noted the monumental number of initiatives. She then highlighted the grants to health care employers for the nursing pipeline and apprenticeship program and asked how the group could analyze that one grant program. What feedback could we receive as a group to understand and evaluate the grant? She shared that this would be a good way for the group to plug in.

Jill Olson agreed. She shared that she is trying to help her team become grounded in this work, so if we develop processes to assess, that would be helpful.

Ena Backus suggested that she could update this document and add specific opportunities that can be highlighted to ground folks in the initiatives. She noted that this likely excludes VDH as the department likely already has processes established for loan repayment and scholarship programs.

Sam Russo added that input likely comes through VSAC and AHEC.

Ena Backus added that the committee could also invite subject matter experts into conversations, if needed. She then shifted to discussing premium pay for workforce recruitment and retention programs. She shared that as this program plays out, it is important that the group identifies metrics for assessment.

Anne Bilodeau asked when organizations will be notified of grants.

Ena Backus shared that she believes it will be the end of June. She then asked the group if there were any topics that should be added to the next meeting's agenda. She then thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Abby Rhim.

Abby Rhim, Executive Assistant
Vermont State Workforce Development Board