**Health Care Workforce Strategic Plan Advisory Group - Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 10:00 AM**

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**Meeting Date/Location:** Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 10:00 AM, virtually via Microsoft Teams

**Video Recording of the Meeting:** [Health Care Workforce Strategic Plan Advisory Group - 6/7/23 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoETGeFTIck)

**Attendance:** Robin Miller, Wendy Trafton, Mary Anne Sheahan, Luca Fernandez, Laura Wreschnig, Debora Teixeira, Anita Selec, Maureen Hebert, Heriberto Troche, Patrick Gallivan, Stephanie Stead, Abby Rhim, Pat Jones, Helen Labun, Jerry Baake, Devon Green, Rebecca Kapsalis, Elizabeth Cote, Stephanie Pegliuca, Mary Kate Mohlman, Jessica Wood, Jill Olson, Jessica Fredette

Laura Wreschnig began by delivering a brief rundown of the meeting’s agenda followed by the introduction of new participants. Anita Selec, Heriberto Troche, and Pat Jones introduced themselves to the rest of the meeting participants.

Oral Health Director Robin Miller of the Vermont Department of Health delivered a presentation titled “Dental Workforce Recommendations in the State Oral Health Plan”. Director Miller prefaced her presentation by stating that “the current dental health care system is not working for all Vermonters”. The presentation suggests that a transformed system would provide more equitable patient care than the traditional system in place now. This transformed system proposes several adaptations to the way oral care is administered now, including:

* “Dental care messages and services are woven into primary medical care and vice versa, bi-directional referrals
* Dental practice teams include dental therapists and all dental team members are working at their top of scope
* Dental care expands into public heath settings like schools, nursing homes, and residences
* Value based payment and motivational interviewing are incorporated into patient centered care using medical management model”.

Director Miller proceeded to lay out strategies to expand the dental workforce in Vermont. Strategy one stresses the importance of building strong connections with partners in the workforce, such as high school students and adult learners, the expansion of the Vermont State Dental Society workforce meetings, and the expansion of the residency program at UVM. Strategy two addresses the need to diversify the dental workforce via hiring practices. Strategies three and four move to utilize dental therapists and public health dental hygienists to their full potential.

Miller then addressed the need to increase access to dental care to all Green Mountain State residents. Increasing capacity, efficiency, and productivity while making care culturally and linguistically appropriate were suggested methods to improve access. She wrapped up her presentation by further expressing how marginalized communities still face difficulties receiving oral care in Vermont that prevent the industry from being truly equitable. Miller then received questions regarding the content of her presentation.

Luca Fernandez at VDH followed Miller by addressing the status of his Act 183 grants and forgivable loan programs. The grant/program and its status are currently as follows:

* Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment – signed with sub-grantee
* Professional Loan Repayment Program – routing for signature
* Nursing Faculty Scholarship – routing for signature
* Mental Health Master's Level Scholarship – routing for signature
* Nursing Faculty Premium Pay – schools working to gather FTE data for the state.

Elizabeth Cote supplemented the update and the pair responded to questions from participants.

Following the Act 183 update from Fernandez and Cote, Wendy Trafton provided updates on the Nursing Preceptor Grants and Nursing Pipeline and Apprenticeship Grants.

Troche added a few housekeeping items and updates at the end of the meeting. Wreschnig then concluded the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

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Respectfully submitted by Dylan Morse

Dylan Morse, Intern, State Workforce Development Board