

Texas Health Care Policy Council

Teacher Retirement System of Texas, 5th Floor Boardroom
1000 Red River Street, Austin, Texas 78701

PARTNERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2006

9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stacey Silverman (Chair), Alexia Green (Vice Chair), Rick Danko, Maureen Milligan, John Monk, and Ken Shine

MEMBERS ABSENT

Theresa Cruz and Larry Phillips

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting is called into order at 9:35 a.m. by Chair Stacey Silverman. Chair Silverman asked Mr. Tony Gilman, executive officer of the Texas Health Care Policy Council, to take roll. She also noted that Ms. Ada Grant, Rural Health Program Specialist in the Office of Rural and Community Affairs, was in attendance and representing Ms. Theresa Cruz.

REPORTS, UPDATES AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Approval of Minutes from the June 20, 2006 Meeting

Chair Silverman asked members to review the minutes of the June 20th meeting of the Texas Health Workforce Planning Partnership Subcommittee. Dr. Maureen Milligan made a motion to pass the minutes. Mr. Larry Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Update on the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) and 2007-2008 State Health Plan Update

Chair Silverman asked Mr. Gilman to brief the subcommittee on this item. Mr. Gilman told members that in order to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that both the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC) and Workforce Partnership Subcommittee meet their respective statutory charges, staff has been coordinating its work closely with Dr. Ben Raimer, chair of the SHCC, and staff at the Department of State Health Services. Mr. Gilman advised members that the SHCC approved its 2007-2008 Texas State Health Plan and released it for comment in July. The SHCC is scheduled to meet on September 14 and will be asked to approve the Plan at that time.

Mr. Gilman noted that unlike prior versions of the Texas State Health Plan, this year's version does not include workforce recommendations. Instead, the SHCC approved a separate document in July that contained general, nursing, and long-term care workforce recommendations. The SHCC's recommendations were forwarded to the Governor's office for review and inclusion into the Workforce Partnership Subcommittee's health workforce strategic plan.

The 2007-2008 Texas State Health Plan Update will be sent to Governor Perry prior to November 1, and staff plans to coordinate joint meetings in November with Dr. Raimer and other members of the SHCC so that the Texas State Health Plan Update and health workforce strategic plan are presented to the Texas Legislature at the same time. Mr. Gilman stated that he felt this approach would ensure the Legislature receives a unified message from the executive branch on health workforce issues.

Partnership members reviewed and discussed the State Health Plan Update.

Chair Silverman thanked Mr. Gilman for his presentation.

Presentation by the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies

Chair Silverman invited Dr. Aileen Kishi, Program Director for the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (CNWS), to present to the subcommittee. Dr. Kishi provided the subcommittee with information on the history of the CNWS, explaining that it was created to address the nursing shortage and funded through a surcharge on RN and LVN license renewals. She described the membership and duties of the Nursing Workforce Advisory Committee, and provided the subcommittee with information on past and current projects, including the development of a supply and demand forecasting model for Texas and participation in a project developing strategies to increase RN graduates in Texas.

Partnership members inquired about how the demand models work and discussed the difference between need and demand assessments. Partnership members discussed the work of the CNWS and inquired about when Dr. Kishi would complete work on her current projects. Noting that Dr. Kishi will complete her current projects in December, members asked staff to work closely with Dr. Kishi to ensure the CNWS' findings and recommendations are addressed in the subcommittee's health workforce strategic plan.

Chair Silverman thanked Dr. Kishi for her presentation.

Briefing and Consideration of Draft Health Workforce Strategic Plan

Chair Silverman asked Mr. Gilman to brief members on the health workforce strategic plan. Mr. Gilman advised Partnership members that staff have been developing the strategic plan for the last couple of months. He explained that the proposed plan includes three sections. The first section provides introductory information on the composition of the Workforce Partnership subcommittee and outlines the vision, purpose and focus of the proposed workforce strategy.

He noted that the strategic plan is designed to focus and synchronize all health workforce planning activities in Texas over the next five years. This will be a living document that will be updated and continually evolve over time as the health workforce environment changes and as the priority actions are addressed and fully implemented.

Mr. Gilman explained that under the plan, the members of the subcommittee will be responsible for ensuring coordination with other health workforce partners to implement the priority actions and achieve the goals set forth in the plan. The subcommittee will also serve as the forum for discussion and as the decision making body for changes to the strategic plan.

Mr. Gilman discussed the second section of the plan and noted that it identifies the challenges facing Texas and makes the case for having a strategic plan to address health workforce issues. This section highlights the importance of the health workforce to the Texas economy, the impact of population change, and the key factors that affect health workforce supply and demand. A one-to-two page profile of the following provider types, including a summary of key challenges and characteristics, is included in this section: primary care and direct care physicians, psychiatrists, dentists, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, registered nurses, psychologists, social workers, and licensed professional counselors.

Mr. Gilman noted that the third section of the plan is the most critical piece as it identifies the strategic plan's goals, objectives, and priority actions. He advised members that staff identified the priority actions through research and information learned from the presenters that participated in the April 20 and June 20 subcommittee meetings. He noted that the general workforce, nursing, and long-term care recommendations received from the SHCC had been incorporated into the plan.

Mr. Gilman reminded members that House Bill 916 directs the subcommittee to: (1) monitor the health workforce needs of the state; (2) undertake and implement appropriate health care workforce planning activities; and (3) research and identify ways to increase funding for health workforce. He reviewed the plans goals and expressed his view that the goals, objectives, and priority actions included in the strategic plan are responsive to the subcommittee's statutory charge.

Mr. Gilman provided Partnership members with an overview of the goals, objectives, and priority actions included in the strategic plan. Partnership members provided staff with comments on the health profession profiles in section two of the plan and on the priority actions included in section three.

Partnership members inquired and expressed concern about the number of licensure agencies in Texas. Mr. Gilman noted that consolidation is a sensitive issue with health professionals and discussed past efforts to consolidate the licensure boards. Chair Silverman directed staff to meet with licensure boards and health profession associations to gather additional information on this issue.

Administrative Items and Next Steps

Chair Silverman asked Mr. Gilman to provide the subcommittee with an update on next steps. Mr. Gilman advised members that staff would incorporate their suggested changes into the strategic plan and then informally release the plan to stakeholder groups for review and comment during the week of August 28. He noted that the subcommittee and Health Care Policy Council are scheduled to meet on October 3rd. The subcommittee will meet from 9:30 – 11:30 and Partnership members will be asked to formally approve the plan at that time. He indicated that the Council will meet following the subcommittee meeting and will be asked to review, among other items, the health workforce strategic plan. He noted that the Council will be asked to take action on the strategic plan on November 7th.

Public Comment

Chair Silverman invited anyone who had signed up for public comment to speak. Mr. Jim Willmann with the Texas Nurses Association asked the subcommittee to consider recommendations by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to increase basic formula funding for community colleges. Ms. Marcia Collins, with the Texas Medical Association, and Mr. Steve Shelton, with the East Texas Area Health Education Center (AHEC), inquired about several of the priority actions and whether they applied to medical schools, health science centers, or both. Ms. Collins also asked if the priority action relating to Graduate Medical Education (GME) is in support of adequate funding for both medical schools and residency programs.

Adjourn

Chair Silverman asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mr. Larry Jones and seconded by Dean Alexia Green. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.