

## Utah Health Workforce Advisory Council (HWAC)

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Virtual via Zoom

Anchor Location: Multi-agency State Office Building (MASOB)

8:00 – 9:45 am

### Meeting Minutes

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**Council Members Present:** Teresa Garrett (virtual), Rita Osborn (virtual), Sarah Woolsey, Kendra Muir (virtual), Jared Haines (virtual), Sam Finlayson (virtual), Tiffany Lipscomb (virtual), and Liz Klc (virtual).

**Staff Present:** Ashley Moretz (virtual), Marc Watterson (virtual), Kendyl Brockman, Sydney Groesbeck (virtual), and Diem Dang (virtual)

**Council Members Absent:** Tracy Gruber, Nubia Peña, Chris Williams, Mark Steinagel, Cheryl Hanewicz, and Tyler Goddard.

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**This meeting was recorded per the Open Public Meetings Act.**

#### **Welcome, Approval of Minutes and Roll Call: Liz Klc**

Tracy Gruber was unable to attend the HWAC meeting and asked that Liz Klc step in as chair.

**Motion passed** to approve the meeting minutes from the HWAC [03/20/24 Meeting Minutes](#).

#### **Administrative Updates: Kendyl Brockman**

Kendyl provided a brief update on the HWAC Action Plan and the clinical preceptor study. Veritas Health Solutions, LLC, the HWAC consultants, will be conducting this study and beginning the preparation work now. They have created the data parameters and they are currently under review with the Health Workforce Information Center (HWIC). The study will specifically align with what is outlined in the 2024 Action Plan and will begin with physicians (MD, DOs and surgeons) and then move to APRNs.

The study will be on all organizations here in Utah and focus groups with external stakeholders will be conducted. Additionally, the data used from the Utah Cross- Profession Minimum Data Set will be used to help determine the preceptor supply in Utah. More details on the study will be shared with the HWAC, as we move along. Additionally, the HWAC will be engaged throughout the entire study process.

#### **Legislative Review Subcommittee Update: Teresa Garrett**

Teresa provided an update on the Legislative Review Subcommittee. The group met on June 12 to discuss the Services Appropriations (SSA) Subcommittee meeting on June 18th. During this SSA meeting, multiple workforce programs were discussed and the recent GME funding cut was briefly mentioned. The Legislative Review Subcommittee hopes to identify opportunities during the interim or legislative session to connect with legislators about the importance of GME Medicaid funding.

**Utah Medical Education Council (UMEC) Update: Sam Finlayson**

Sam provided the HWAC with an update to UMEC's membership. Recently, the Governor has appointed five new members and these include Dr. Camille Collette, Dr. Frank Powers, Dr. Marc Babitz, Dr. Mark Greenwood and Dr. Colling Lash. He thanked the group for their help in identifying individuals who may serve on UMEC. Additionally, he updated the group on recent UMEC discussions. UMEC is in the process of reviewing the "Rural Residency Training Program" which is set to sunset on July 1, 2025. This program helps to fund costs associated with housing and transportation while residents are in rural rotations. UMEC Staff is working to collect more information on this program to share with UMEC so they can make their recommendation to the Legislature on this program.

**Data Subcommittee Update: Sarah Woolsey**

Sarah provided the HWAC with a very brief overview of Group 4 and 5.1 of the profession specific survey questions and the updates the Data Subcommittee made. There was no discussion on the surveys and motion was put forth to adopt.

**Motion passed** to adopt Group 4 and 5.1 profession- specific survey questions.

**Health Workforce Information Center (HWIC) Update: Sydney Groesbeck**

Sydney provided the HWAC with an overview of the Data Report Template that will be used to organize data from the profession specific surveys. Sydney mentioned that it can be hard to come up with a singular template that will encompass all and every bit of information that we could potentially include in those reports. Particularly when it comes to background information and potential supplemental data sources that we might be able to reference for each profession. However, we did compile something that would be applicable across all of those professions, and provided a very simple report template.

During the discussion on the template, the group decided that for ease and to meet all statutory requirements, those data reports should include data on education pipeline, using existing data from USHE and workforce labor projects from existing data from DWS. Including the DOPL, USHE and DWS data in one central report, will allow for the HWAC to have a more comprehensive report and may better inform conversations with the Utah State Legislature. Additionally, the HWAC requested a timeline of the surveys so they know when to expect the data reports. Overall, the group agreed that the report needs to not only be valuable to the HWAC but for the Utah State Legislature as well.

**GME Funding in Utah and Potential Sources: Kendyl Brockman**

Kendyl provided background on the GME funding in Utah currently. Currently, there are three programs being administered under UMEC that help to expand GME throughout Utah. These programs are the Medical Residency Grant Program ([UCA 26B-4-711](#)), Forensic psychiatry fellowship grant ([UCA 26B-4-712](#)), and the Family Medicine Residency program. The medical residency grant program covers costs associated with starting and expanding a residency slot, not necessarily to sustain the residency slot. The forensic psychiatry fellowship grant, created the first forensic psychiatry fellowship in Utah and supports 1-2 fellows in this program. Finally, the family medicine residency program funds four residents in Utah across three hospitals.

The funding that was cut during the 2024 General Session, was funding from the Utah Medicaid office. It was initially proposed to be cut during the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee on 1/24/24 but was ultimately removed from their "Budget Reduction List" due to public and stakeholder feedback. On 2/23/24, the Executive Appropriations Committee included the "Eliminate State Funding for Graduate Medical Education" on their reduction list and ultimately cut the funding. This funding cut has become a major concern for many across the industry and we are working with stakeholders to determine the best next steps. On July 17, we will be holding a stakeholders meeting to discuss the consequences of the funding cut, GME funding options, the role for the HWAC/ UMEC and potential next steps. We have invited various members throughout the health industry and a team from the National Governors Association will be in town and there to facilitate the discussion.

**Proxima: A collaborative healthcare workforce initiative: Rich Saunders, Cameron Wright and Kevin Nguyen**

Finally, Rich Saunder, Cameron Wright and Kevin Nguyen presented on Proxima: A collaborative healthcare workforce initiative. This initiative takes a collaborative approach and works with many partners throughout the health industry, including state partners. This program helps individuals who are interested in the healthcare profession, navigate the career process.

This program aims to address the barriers many face when trying to pursue a healthcare profession. This program provides holistic, end-to-end support and assists students from the very beginning of exploring professions to the end when they receive employment. Proxima will be a great partner for the HWAC and we hope to collaborate with them in the future. The group asked how rural communities might fit into the Proxima plan. Rich said that this is a primary focus for their team and there will be more to come on rural efforts.

**Q and A Session/ Wrap Up: Liz Klc, All**

Liz closed the meeting by providing final announcements and thanking everyone for the participation and attendance. She also reminded the HWAC of the next quarterly meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

**Motion passed** to adjourn the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned by 9:48 AM**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kendyl Brockman