

Health Workforce Advisory Council (HWAC)

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 | 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting | Anchor Location: Multi-Agency State Office Building (MASOB)

Legislative Meeting 1 of 3

Council Members Present (virtual): Heather Borski, Chris Williams, Sue Jackson, Carrie Torgersen, Teresa Garrett, Sarah Woolsey, Mia Nafziger, Kristina Callis Duffin, Mark Steinagel, and Vic Hockett,

Council Members Absent: Kendra Muir, Igor Limansky, Francis Gibson and Michelle Hofmann.

Staff Present: Ashley Moretz, Marc Watterson, and Kendyl Brockman

This meeting was recorded per the Open Public Meetings Act.

Welcome- Heather Borski

Bill Read Out- Teresa Garrett or Carrie Torgersen

Teresa provided a brief summary of the following bills that were reviewed and discussed by the Legislative Review Subcommittee. The subcommittee supports the following bills as currently written:

- [S.B. 31 Office of Professional Licensure Review Amendments](#)
- [H.B. 159 First Responder Volunteer Tax Credit](#)

The group agreed that these bills will help to strengthen the health workforce and also expressed their support.

- **Motion** to communicate to the Bill Sponsors the HWAC's support for these bills as currently written. Motion passing with all in favor.

Teresa then provided a brief overview of the following items that were included in the "[SSA Budget Reduction Options](#)" list.

- [Medical Education Council](#),
- [Forensic Psychiatry Grant Program Reduction](#),
- [Medical Residency Grant Program](#),
- [Primary Care and Rural Health Reduction](#)

The Legislative Review Subcommittee reviewed and discussed these budget reduction options and does not support these reductions. These impacts will result in disruptions to Utah's primary care infrastructure and health workforce. Teresa shared that the Legislative Review Subcommittee tasked the staff with drafting a letter on behalf of the HWAC detailing their concerns about these particular budget reduction options. This letter has been drafted and shared with the Legislative Review Subcommittee for their review and consideration.

Limited Discussion and Preparing HWAC Comments- All

Heather shared that the Executive Appropriation Committee asked every appropriations subcommittee to consider a 5% budget cut across the board. For the Social Services Appropriations

(SSA) Subcommittee, the Legislative Fiscal Analyst has also offered some of their own recommendations.

Teresa made the **motion** to distribute this letter, on behalf of the Health Workforce Advisory Council, to the members of the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee. Kendyl presented the draft to the HWAC, who approved it and requested that the final letter be signed by the committee as a whole.

-Motion passed with 2 abstentions, to distribute the draft letter on the “SSA Budget Reduction Options” under the broad name of the Health Workforce Advisory Council.

Heather shared that the agency will have the opportunity to speak to these reductions and many others on the list during a Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee meeting on Friday, January 30th.

Teresa shared that a bill has been filed, H.B. 359, for a preceptorship incentive program. This is a result of the study and recommendation of HWAC on a preceptorship stipend program. This bill is being sponsored by Representative Logan Monson. Many shared their appreciation and support for these efforts.

Closure/ Questions/ Comments- Heather Borski, All

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th at 10:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Kendyl Brockman