

Health Workforce Advisory Council (HWAC)

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 | 10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

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

Legislative Meeting 2 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, Michelle Hofmann, Kendra Muir and Vic Hockett

Council Members Absent: Igor Limansky and Francis Gibson

Staff Present: Marc Watterson, Kendyl Brockman and Holly Uphold.

This meeting was recorded per the Open Public Meetings Act.

Welcome- Heather Borski

Heather welcomed the group to the 2nd legislative review meeting for the HWAC and turned the time over to Teresa Garrett for a bill read out.

Bill Read Out- Teresa Garrett or Carrie Torgersen

Heather shared that the “SSA Budget Reduction Options” related to the Medical Education Council and Primary Care and Rural Health have been removed from the list. Teresa then presented the following bills and Legislative Review Subcommittee comments on those bills:

- [S.B. 150 Healthcare Providers Scope of Practice Amendments](#)
- [H.B. 374 Speech, Language, and Hearing Occupations Licensing Amendments](#)
- [H.B. 383 Department of Health and Human Services Amendments](#)
- [H.B. 270 Healthcare Worker Post-Employment Amendments](#)
- [H.B. 380 Hospital Workplace Violence Reporting Requirements](#)
- [H.B. 414 Dental Hygienist Amendments](#)
- [H.B. 359 Health Care Preceptor Amendments](#)

Limited Discussion and Preparing HWAC Comments- All

Teresa shared that the Legislative Review Subcommittee approved all of the bills above but had a few recommendations on some of the bills. H.B. 380 “Hospital Workplace Violence Reporting Requirements”, Teresa shared that Representative Hall has been working with various stakeholder groups throughout the healthcare industry. The Legislative Review Subcommittee recommended adding in some kind of language around giving the Health Workforce Information Center (HWIC) access to the data so they can do reporting on it. This is important for retention and health and safety of the health workforce.

Marc Watterson shared that he and the HWIC team reached out to the Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Licensing, who would be responsible for receiving the data, and feel like the language is sufficient that we should actually be able to get that data to the HWIC team with some sort of agreement in place. Marc also shared that the Division of Licensing did include reporting in their fiscal note.

Teresa shared that H.B. 359 “Health Care Preceptor Amendments” is a result of the work that the HWAC and their Preceptorship Subcommittee did last year. The Preceptorship Subcommittee created and the HWAC adopted the recommendation of the Utah Clinical Preceptorship Stipend Program. Members have now taken that information and have worked with Representative Monson on creating this bill.

Mark Steinagel shared that the Utah Department of Commerce, Division of Professional Licensing (DOPL) is working to update their licensing system and hope to have it in place within 2 years. He explained that while immediate implementation of the H.B. 359 preceptorship program would incur costs, waiting until the new system is fully integrated would allow for a cost-free implementation. DOPL requested that a 2 year implementation date be added to the bill language.

Vic Hockett shared that unless the program goes through some sort of scholarship fund, that it would not go through the Utah System of Higher Education. Sarah Woolsey noted that it would be nice to have it housed within the DHHS, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health because they already administer similar programs, like loan repayment.

Sarah Woolsey proposed bypassing the wait for the new system and potentially using Rural Health Transformation Program funds to launch a pilot program. She noted that the benefit of immediate revenue collection outweighs the later need to adapt the process to DOPL’s upgraded infrastructure.

Mark Steinagel addressed the fiscal note for H.B. 359, noting that while the standard low-cost programming estimate is \$5,000, he is willing to maintain that figure and collaborate with DHHS to cover any additional manual or programming costs. He cited the existing psychiatrist/psychologist tax credit data collection as a successful model for inter-agency data sharing.

Marc Watterson and Kendyl Brockman outlined a proposed framework where payments would be based on the number of students and a minimum requirement of 160 preceptorship hours (which may be aggregated across multiple students), potentially capped at \$5,000 per preceptor. Sarah Woolsey clarified that while this framework exists in the current recommendation document, the final distribution formula and specific criteria will be finalized during the DHHS rulemaking process, which remains open for committee input and further refinement.

Teresa made a **motion** to communicate to the Bill Sponsors the HWAC’s support for these bills as currently written and with the recommendations discussed. Motion passing with all in favor.

Mark Steinagel provided a high-level update on a recent Utah Supreme Court ruling involving a scope-of-practice dispute over cosmetic medical procedures. He noted that the ruling has created some uncertainty for PAs and APRNs regarding independent practice boundaries. While a group is currently working on legislative language to resolve these concerns, likely within SB31, the specifics remain under development.

Regarding SB150, Dr. Teresa Garrett clarified that a pending amendment is focused on "closing the loop" for the Innovation Committees. This amendment would allow each DOPL Professional Advisory Board to appoint a designee to the committees. This change ensures that professional boards remain connected to and accountable for the legislative process while maintaining the bill's intended structure.

Motion passed with all in favor.

Heather and Marc Watterson provided an update on the legislative budget reduction process, noting that the four previously identified funding issues have been stricken from the cut list and are not expected to be forwarded to the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC). Michelle Hofmann noted that the current recommendations total approximately \$21 million in one-time and \$24 million in ongoing cuts—falling significantly short of the 5% (\$82 million) target originally requested. The team will continue to monitor the budget sheet as it moves through the process.

Closure/ Questions/ Comments- Heather Borski, All

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 24th at 9:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Kendyl Brockman