

Legislative Health Care Workforce Commission

Meeting 3

October 15, 2015

10:00-12:00

10 State Office Building

Draft Minutes:

Participants: Greg Clausen, Melissa Wiklund, Michelle Benson, Tara Mack, Laurie Halverson, Joe Schomacker, Jennifer Schultz, Mary Kiffmeyer, Tony Albright

1. Call to Order

2. Long Term Care Imperative (Care Providers and Leading Age) –

Schultz moves the minutes from September 17th – Motion Prevails (voice vote).

Mark Shoenbaum (MDH) provided an update on the work plan. Research underway on commissions work plan.

Representative Tara Mack passes the gavel to Representative Joe Schomacker

3. Health Care Work Force Financial Assistance –

Bob Held, DHS presented nursing scholarship statistics and their impact on the healthcare field. All nursing home scholarship facilities are eligible to participate. All nursing home staff are eligible, except for the administrator, if they work 10 hours per week or more.

Chair Schomacker change agenda moving Home and Community Based Scholarships to the end of the agenda moving onto Long Term Care Imperative testifiers. (no objection)

4. Long Term Care Imperative (Care Providers and Leading Age) –

Adam Suomala, Vice President of Membership and Strategic Affiliations, LeadingAge Minnesota. Mentioned the toughest part in all of Minnesota is recruiting and retaining an adequate supply of compassionate caregivers. Mr. Suomala testified to support the Minnesota PIPELINE (Private Investment, Public Education, Labor and Industry Experience) program. Spoke in favor of nursing scholarship expansion.

Arlan Swanson, Administrator/CEO, Maple Lawn Senior Care, Fulda. Maple Lawn provided 10% wage increase after passing of nursing home reform. Mr. Swanson testified to labor shortages in the care giving industry. Testified that Maple Lawn has been an active participant to the scholarship program and appreciates it immensely.

Shelly Wiggin, Administrator, Minnesota Masonic Home Care Center, Bloomington. Shelly Wiggin testified to the positive impacts from recent nursing home payment reform. Testified that staffing shortages are the worse she has seen, shortages are in all areas of care giving. Scholarship has been very helpful in developing young nurses who stick to the nursing facility, great to see expansion of scholarship to RNs.

Sharon St. Mary, Executive Director for Metro Minnesota, Good Samaritan Society. Sharon St. Mary testified to the positive impact made by the recent nursing home payment reform legislation. The scholarship program has led to long-term employees.

Carol Raw, Vice President, Senior Services, St. Francis Health Services. Carol Raw testified to the gratitude for the nursing home payment reform. Overtime has become the fastest growing cost at St. Francis Health Services. Recruitment and retention are difficult aspects in the community and home based services industry.

Mark Anderson, President/CEO, Knute Nelson, Alexandria. Mark Anderson testified the reform of reimbursement would have made the long-term viability of nursing homes very difficult to sustain. Locations have had to limit admissions due to staffing issues. Enhancements in scholarships allow Knute Nelson to retain and recruit quality employees.

5. Adult Basic Education –

Pat Thomas, ABE (Adult Basic Education), Marshall Minnesota. Pat Thomas testified there is a lack of people in Greater Minnesota to recruit for these positions. Pat recommended enhancing the workforce through development in high schools and the immigrant population. ABE is predominately active in developing CNAs for nursing home facilities. Recommended creation of online content to raise literacy relating it to CNA and healthcare development.

Michael Donahue, Associate Director, Medical Career Pathways, International Institute. Testified regarding International Institutes job training innovations to address work force challenges. Explained how they train those needing additional education to become CNAs. Estimated 135 individuals become CNAs each year.

Valerie DeFor, Executive Director, Healthforce. So far 9 of 24 objectives of the Mental Health Workforce Plan have been implemented in whole or in part. Healthforce hosts Scrubs Camp which allows students to explore careers in health sciences. Healthforce is involved with the Ecumen Project aimed at recruiting and retaining nurses in Greater Minnesota.

Senator Kiffmeyer had several questions questions, do they offer CEUs without charge to employees? Ms. Raw is your HSA able to be carried over? Mr. Anderson, do you have a requirement for nurses staying at your location who accept nursing home scholarships?

6. Adjourn 12:24pm