

Meeting Minutes: Health Care Workforce & Education

AUGUST 2, 2023

Committee Member Attendance

- David Dahlen – Mayo Clinic
- Roger Dearth – Mayo Clinic
- Kelly Frisch— HealthPartners
- Miranda Gilmore – Fraser Integrated Healthcare
- Kimberly Lakhan – College of St. Scholastica
- Deborah Mayland-Poyzer – Fairview Health System
- Rebecca McGill – St. Catherine University
- Robert Miner – Allina Health/Abbott Northwestern
- Nate Mussell – Fairview
- Peter Nalin – University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus
- Michelle Noltmier, Chair – HealthPartners Institute
- Sheila Riggs – University of Minnesota
- Thomas Satre – Vice Chair – CentraCare Health
- Troy Taubenheim – Chair - Metro Minnesota Council on GME
- Lynda Welage – University of Minnesota
- David Dahlen – Mayo Clinic

Not in attendance:

- Bradley Benson – M Health-Fairview
- Susan Culican – University of Minnesota
- Badrinath Konety - Allina
- Kathleen Macken – Allina Health
- Christine Mueller – University of Minnesota
- Meghan Walsh – Hennepin County Medical Center
- David Dahlen – Mayo Clinic

Health Department Staff: Cirrie Byrnes, Susan Castellano, Teri Fritsma, Zora Radosevich, Diane Reger, Diane Rydrych

Department of Human Services Staff: Patrick Hultman

Agenda Items

- Welcome – Troy Taubenheim, Chair
- Workforce Preceptor Presentation – Teri Fritsma, MDH
- CMS Approval Process/Legislative Update – Patrick Hultman, DHS & Zora Radosevich, MDH
- Grant Updates
 - ORHPC Grants – Zora Radosevich
 - Medical Education & Research Costs (MERC) Grant –Diane Reger
- Future Meetings
 - November 1, 2023, web-based teleconference, 1 – 3 p.m.
 - 2024 dates – February 7, May 1, August 7, November 6 – all web-based teleconferences, 1 – 3 p.m.
 - Submit topics to committee chairs or health.merc@state.mn.us.

Meeting Notes

Welcome and Membership

Troy Taubenheim, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Workforce Preceptor Presentation - Teri Fritsma, MDH

Dr. Fritsma shared a PowerPoint presentation on her early findings from a survey conducted on factors why staff provide clinical training. She pointed out that initial data reveals two key factors for those staff serving as preceptors. They include that providers enjoy it and there is personal motivation to serve the profession. Of those not currently serving as preceptors, key factors include staff not having enough time and that they are not paid enough to provide that extra training. Dr. Fritsma pointed out that she would like to specifically survey mental health providers, study the data across different regions of the state, and prepare statistical models to tease out these factors more fully. She also added that data is reviewed quarterly and updated as needed. Slides will be made available to the full committee. Raw data containing identifiable information is considered private information, though, and will not be available to committee members. Dr. Fritsma challenged members to consider how this data can be used to make a case when developing more preceptorships across the state.

Several comments and questions were raised. Kate Dean wished to emphasize that time is a major factor in providing quality preceptorships. Dr. Satre brought up that some states (such as Georgia) offer a tax incentive to provide clinical training. Some attendees commented that it

would have been interesting to have asked about the number of hours sites are actually conducting these trainings.

CMS Approval Process – Patrick Hultman, MN Department of Human Services (DHS)

Mr. Hultman reported that DHS met with the Minnesota Hospital Association on the new process. He stated that the legislation was passed to add in the increment to hospital rates and that it will now go into the State Plan. Payments and will begin January 2024.

Questions were asked about the six-month gap in funding (July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023) and where those monies went (if anywhere). Mr. Hultman explained that this portion of FY23 monies were not funded as of the November 2022 forecast and were, therefore, dropped. Authority to move forward with the current hospital rate increase was received this July. He acknowledged the impact of this action and the unfortunate loss of money from the budget.

A question was asked regarding calendar year versus fiscal year. Mr. Hultman will investigate and report back to the committee on findings. He admitted that with DHS not having a dedicated MERC person in contact with CMS, this has really made this MERC funding change a major challenge. There have been many complications with identifying exactly how MERC funding moves around along with what exactly constituted the setting of the rate.

Several members asked about what will now be used to base funding on. Diane Reger reported that she is currently looking at 2020/2021 sites to see what DHS would pay on. Then that can potentially be averaged to determine a proxy for the first two years.

Legislative Update/ORHPC Grant Updates – Zora Radosevich, MDH

Ms. Radosevich reported on the overall successful legislative session and spotlighted several proposals that passed. Of special notice was The Revitalize the Health Care Workforce legislation that includes an increase in funding for research focusing on provider shortages and maldistribution of providers across the state. Also, funding for rural training tracks, rural clinical rotations, and training for primary care providers, including oral health providers all passed. Additional funding was obtained for the International Medical Graduate (IMG) Program which serves as an entry point to secure employment for health care providers medically trained outside the country along with site based clinical training. It was noted that surgery has now been included in the residency increase. It will continue to be explored on how clinical sites can possibly offer more clinical training experiences across the state to increase providers.

- Additional funding of \$1 million for two more years has been added to fund the new Mental Health for Health Care Providers program, and added language to encourage addressing systemic changes to improve mental health and alleviate burnout.

- Support for BIPOC supervisors was included in the mental health provisions, to encourage BIPOC providers to become supervisors, address the need for more concordant care and encourage hiring and retention of workers in the mental health field.
- The Loan Forgiveness program also received funding to expand loan forgiveness for mental health providers and to include hospital nurses in the program.
- Funding for the Dental Innovations grant had been removed, due to the changes in the MERC legislation resulting from CMS not renewing the 1115 Waiver. This grant program received approval for new funding that will replace the prior mechanism.
- Legislation passed for the expansion of the Loan Forgiveness Program. It will now include all psychiatrists.
- Pediatric Mental Health Training legislation is in place to support pediatricians across the state.
- Primary Care Residency grants funding is now in place and will begin in 2024. This should allow adequate lead time for a July 2024 residency. RFPs are expected to open shortly, with reviews occurring in October, allowing for grant recipients to be announced in November with contracts in place by the start of the new year.

Medical Education and Research Cost (MERC) Grant Update—Diane Reger

Diane Reger reported that for the MERC 2024 Funding/ FY2022 Training cycle, all training sites will be eligible for Tobacco Funds and the Cigarette Tax/Match totaling \$7,575,000. General Funds and Health Care Access Funds totaling \$2 million will be available for eligible applicants, except hospitals or affiliates of a hospital system. Both Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers will no longer be able to apply for funding through the MERC program. The Medical Education component will now be determined through the Department of Human Services only.

- Ms. Reger reported on the current grant cycle stating that she is now working on grant closeout. With all GVRs submitted, the MERC Grant Portal is closed.
- She reviewed the MERC process and went over all deadlines for the upcoming MERC grant application cycle which will open by August 15. The same deadlines apply this year with training sites needing to submit step one to the teaching programs by September 30. The teaching programs will approve the site applications and submit to the sponsoring institutions by October 20 for the sponsoring institution's review and submission to MDH by October 31.

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- Training Site expenditures must be submitted by December 15 again this grant cycle. There is continued interest by the committee to develop a template for accurate comparisons for these expenditures.
- Please submit any questions to MERC staff at health.merc@state.mn.us.

With no further business, Chair Troy Taubenheim adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

Next Meeting

November 1, 2023, 1 – 3 p.m., via Teams.

- Agenda and call-in information will be posted on the [committee website](#) a week before the meeting. Submit possible agenda items to the Committee Chair and/or MERC staff.
- Please note 2024 Health Care Workforce & Education meeting dates: February 7, May 1, August 7 and November 6 “List Bullet”

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08/28/23

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-3838.