



Arkansas Health Workforce

Strategic Planning Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

4:00 – 6:00p.m.

Conveners: Dan Rahn, Paul Halverson, Joe Thompson
Attendees: Mike Moody, Mike Kennedy, David Wroten, Ed Franklin, Omar Atiq, Billy Thomas, Suzanne McCarthy, Darlene Byrd (for Linda McIntosh), Drew Ramey (for Billy Tarpley), Scott Pace (for Mark Riley)
ACHI Staff: Hannah Vogler, Arlo Kahn, Craig Wilson, Shenoa Miller, Pat Russell
Not Present: Billy Tarpley, Linda McIntosh, Jean Zehler, Ann Bynum, Susan Hanrahan, Mark Riley

I. Arkansas Health Workforce Strategic Plan Revisions

- Minor revisions/corrections were recorded and will be changed without noting in this document.
- Topics requiring discussion and changes that were agreed upon:
 - Recommendation/Goal 4/ *Increase Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care.*
 - One issue is the differential between primary care and specialist care reimbursement – concern over targeting only primary care for rate increases but at the same time desire to incentivize primary care
 - Suggestion to remove recommendation
 - Suggestion to remove “primary care” from recommendation and insert “normalize rates nationally”
 - Suggestion to “make Arkansas rates competitive with other states”
 - Suggestion to move this goal down in the document
 - Decision: Want Congressional delegation to address inequities in Medicare payment to providers.
 - Recommendation/Goal 4/ *Suggest increase in geography-based Medicare payments to Arkansas providers. Streamline state’s application process for Health Professional Shortage Area Designation.*
 - Suggestion to move this goal up in the document
 - Associating with GPCI places Arkansas at a disadvantage for access and limits impact
 - Decision - move this goal ahead of the one before and make it permanent/not temporary

- Goal 3.5 : *Create a required longitudinal clinical experience in primary care for medical students in the first one or two years of study and enhance incentives and recognition for teaching primary care in higher educational institutions for all health care professions.*
 - Objection to this goal since UAMS does not have the capacity to carry it out, the financial costs it would generate and the time taken from the other course requirements.
 - Decision: Think of strategies for long-term clinical experiences
 - Recommendation 3-9: *Expand the recruitment of international medical graduates into rural and primary care residency position.*
 - Discussion : Define IMG, distinguish from J-1s,
 - Decision: Content is right but recommendation needs changing. Arkansas Department of Health needs to be an Implementation Partner.
 - Recommendation 3-13: *Establish processes and strategies for a centralized health workforce data warehouse, responsible for gathering and reporting information to inform future workforce supply, distribution, recruitment, and retention.*
 - Issue with requiring Boards to collect data elements that they are not currently collecting on their licensure renewal forms – cost and difficulty factors
 - Decision: Issue statement that this project was made more difficult by lack of data on current practice patterns, FTE status, etc. This plan recommends that Boards develop strategies to provide accurate, up-to-date information in these areas.
 - Implementation Partners Correction –:
 - Change Department of Workforce Services to Arkansas Workforce Investment Board on Recommendations 3-1, 3-7, 3-14
 - Delete from Recommendation 4-7
 - Change terminology from “health care provider” to “ health care professional”
 - Decision to leave it as “health care provider”
 - Dr. Halverson requested that the document be retooled to bring the system and the workforce around to focusing more on preventive services and keeping people healthy.
 - Dr. Halverson will work with Hannah to implement this change
- Hannah Vogler and Pat Russell made notes of all the suggested, agreed upon changes to the plan. Hannah will incorporate the revisions into the plan.

II. Next Steps

- Changes to the Strategic Plan
 - There are a minimal amount of changes to make in the plan
 - Review entire plan to remove any non-objective comments and scrutinize it to insure that there are no statements that blame the participants in the system.
 - Biggest change will be adding the public health focus as suggested by Dr. Halverson
 - Joe will ask Paula Card-Higginson to review the document and make editorial changes
 - Dr. Rahn will get the UAMS deans to review it.
 - For efficiency, the group agreed to allow Drs. Thompson, Rahn and Halverson to sign-off on the final version. This will negate the need for another Workgroup meeting.

- Dissemination of the plan
 - The final version will be emailed to the group
 - Discussion of how best to roll out the plan to the Stakeholders
 - Timing considerations
 - Mechanism for Stakeholder feedback
 - Ed Franklin made a suggestion that was favored by the group.
 - Do a PowerPoint presentation that would include the background for the plan, the plan process, the Executive Summary and the Recommendations on a one-way Webinar that could be downloaded in advance. The plan would be distributed in draft form to the Stakeholders and they would be given information about posting comments to the ACHI Website.
- Presentation of the plan to Governor Beebe
 - Joe anticipates trying to set up a time for the Workgroup to present the Arkansas Health Care Workforce Strategic Plan to the Governor.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: None Scheduled