

**SLO Healthcare Workforce Partnership
Funding & Advocacy Committee
February 21, 2024**

Attendees: Lisa Fraser, Jessica Peckham, Michelle Shoresman, Susan McGraw

Discussion Results:

- Jessica provided an overview of her research on potential advocacy issues (see below):
 - Equity 24 ballot measure: uses MCO tax revenue
 - CAIMed Force Program/ potential funding opportunity:
 - SLO County has not received any funding in the past.
 - Supporting expanded physician workforce and growing diversity in the workforce.
 - CA Med. Association: Loan repayment programs could support recruitment efforts.
 - CA State Association of Psychiatrists:
 - AB815 (looking at CA Dept. of Social Services taking over central repository of credentialing for insurance plans). Would make it easier to get credentialed with various insurance plans; applies to all specialties. Reduces time from hiring to seeing patients.
 - Central Coast NP/PA:
 - AB890 (already passed): supports independent practice for NPs in CA. As of last year, NPs can apply for a certificate so they would not need to have physician overseers. Not limited to one MD for every 4 NPs. Within 3 years of independent practice, NPs can apply to have own private practice.
 - Sharon Girard (PA-C, President), has history and background in doing advocacy and policy work and could be a good resource.
 - CC Medical Association: Branch of Cal Medical Association; physician group but may not do advocacy. Dana Goba (Michelle contacted her on 2/8/24 regarding her ability to provide more information on the MCO Tax).
 - No central coast chapter for psychologists.

Professional Organization	Profession	Legislation Being Followed	Work Team Partner
California Dental Hygienist Association	Dental Hygienist		
California Dental Association	DDS	Medical and Health Equity 24 Ballot Measure	
CC Dental Association			Laurie Torgerson
California Medical Association	Physicians	Coalition to protect access to care, CalMed Force Program, CalHealth Cares Program, Steven Thompson Loan Repayment Program	

CC Medical Association			Dana Goba
California Psychological Association	Psychologists		Paul Yoder
California State Association of Psychiatrists		AB815- centralized credentialing through the CHHS	
Central Coast NP/PA	NP/PA		Sharon Girard, PA-C (President)
California Association of Nurse Practitioners	NP	AB890- Independent Practice	Emily Stone, NP and Ron Ordon, NP Chairs of the Health Policy and Practice Committee (HPPC)

- Next steps:
 - Meet with local officials to make sure that they are aware of the Partnership:
 - No outreach yet to elected officials since advocacy slated for later in the year.
 - Immediate term focus is on funding options and possibilities. Then work on what areas to advocate on.
 - We should put together talking points on issue areas based on what other organizations are advocating for and develop advocacy plan around that. Who will talk to who? Talking points?
 - A lot of the bills/ballot measures take a long time to get approved and implemented.
 - Need elected officials to get on board to vote for relevant bills.
 - Sept/Oct event: Opportunity to invite local elected officials.
 - Create a one-page briefing with bills that have passed or that we want to keep an eye on.
 - One on funding issues?
 - One on logistical issues (insurance credentialing; physician credentialing)?
 - One on specific tax issues (MCO)?
 - Add to the website. Provide QR code so people can scan to go to webpage.
 - Susan to do: Look at the links Jessica provided for briefs already created. Put into one document and then provide links to more detailed information.
 - Issues for advocacy specific to SLO County:
 - Rural vs. urban designation.
 - Medi-Cal/Medicare reimbursement rates.
 - Physician shortage areas:
 - Not due to NP/PA filling in the need
 - More likely retired licenses.

- ASH, CMC, VA
 - Concierge medicine (small impact; keep about 500 to 800 patient panel; half of normal panel; ¼ of what Jessica sees for most primary care provider panels)
 - Only 1 FQHC = CHC; they get all the FQHC money for the County with the exception of one small FQHC clinic in north county that takes Medi-Cal.
- At funding level:
 - Create a table detailing funding opportunities to include:
 - Organization/agency providing the funding
 - What area is the funding to focus on (Physical, Behavioral Health, Oral Health, Educational/pathways/professional development, etc.)
 - Short summary of who is eligible
 - Deadlines/timeframe; when do they usually come out
 - Amount of funding available
 - Webpage/link for more information.
 - Make it a shared document so we can keep adding things to it.
 - Lisa provided a shared Excel sheet that was developed for the CHW Collaborative