

**SLO Healthcare Workforce Partnership  
Funding & Advocacy Development Committee, March 20, 2024**

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**Attendees:**

**Team Leader:** Michelle Shoresman (Public Health)

**Members:** Lisa Fraser (CFS), Citlaly Santos (CenCal Health), Tom Buckley (Aspire Counseling Service)

**Partnership Coordinator:** Susan McGraw

**Discussion Results:**

- **Potential Grant via Workforce Development Board:**
  - There is a possible grant of \$500,000/county for a 2-county grant to support workforce professions in healthcare. The local workforce development boards in SLO and Ventura Counties are applying for a total of \$1 million in grant funding to support the training of entry level positions in healthcare.
- **Partnership Letters of Support:** We need to develop a process for providing letters of support for grant applications from the Partnership.
- **SLO County Board of Supervisors Support:** There is interest on the part of the Board of Supervisors to do advocacy at the federal level to address the local reimbursement rates for Medi-Cal and Medicare.
  - As soon as we can pull together talking points, we should share them with Dr. Borenstein.
- **Funding Opportunities Online Database Review & Feedback:**
  - This is an awesome benefit for organizations in the community. Great start!
  - Susan McGraw will be populating the database that supports the page on the website now and on an ongoing basis. Anyone with funding information to be included on the webpage, can send that info to her by email at: [Info@SLOHealthcareWorkforce.org](mailto:Info@SLOHealthcareWorkforce.org).
  - Consider adding a field to search by occupation/job title(i.e., "CHW")
  - There is an excel spreadsheet compiled by Santa Barbara County Public Health and the Santa Barbara Foundation, which includes contact information on foundations providing funding for CHW programs in SLO, Ventura, and Santa Barbara Counties. Lisa Fraser will connect Susan McGraw with the appropriate contact person so that we can collaborate about this.
- **Advocacy:**
  - Start with Jessica's initial excel sheet, which lists the professional associations that are advocating for healthcare related legislation, and add:
    - NAMI at the state level
    - CA Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CA CAPP): working with Cuesta College to fund people in the addiction specialists programs (i.e., certified drug & alcohol counselors, etc.)
  - We need to think through how to use this information and whether it is appropriate to be posted publicly on the website since these organizations are member-based professional associations and are not public-facing. So, it is likely this information will be for Committee use only. Instead focus on making talking points to provide to the appropriate audiences.
  - Strategic Engagement: We need to be cautious about how to support pending legislation, which changes frequently on the way to the bill getting approved. CenCal Health doesn't put pending legislation on the radar for employees until it is highly likely that it will become law.
- **Next steps:**
  - Susan to add the organizations and information listed above to this spreadsheet and research the legislation more to assess who is the appropriate audience for advocacy.
  - Committee Members: Forward any information on bills/orgs. to Susan and she will add to the list.