

SLO Healthcare Workforce Partnership
Funding & Advocacy Committee
October 16, 2024

ATTENDEES: Michelle Shoresman (Public Health), Lisa Fraser (CFS), Adam Butler (CenCal Health), Susan McGraw (Partnership Coordinator)

Discussion Results:

- ***Finalizing plans for the October 30th Forum:***
 - Yessenia from Congressman Carbajal's Office will be the panelist talking about advocacy and funding opportunities at the federal level.
 - Jeff Oxendine will address state-level issues including changes to HCAI healthcare workforce development funding due to state budget cuts with an emphasis on the activities that are still being funded, the CA Healthcare Professions Consortium state-wide effort to build a career pathway and training eco-system, and potential funding to sustain coalitions and partnerships in this work.
 - Lady Freire will share information on the UPLIFT regional grant opportunity that is currently open.
- ***HCAI session on the CHW certification process:*** Lisa reported that a meeting was held in Santa Barbara on October 15th with HCAI and the regional coalition, Central Coast CHW/P. There is still a lot of confusion about the certification process for CHWs, but the Central Coast collaborative is moving forward with the plans to develop local/regional training/certification options.
- ***Future focus for this Committee:*** The group discussed various possibilities to consider for the 2025/2026 updated Strategic Action Plan which could include: continued work to influence the local primary care shortage data (which is linked to state funding opportunities), exploring other types of funding opportunities for healthcare workforce development initiatives, considering the feasibility of advocating to address the more significant local recruitment and retention challenges related to cost of living, housing, childcare, etc. as barriers to attracting healthcare professionals to the area, etc.
- ***Upcoming meetings for this Committee:***
 - The Committee will meet in November, but cancel December due to the holidays.
 - November meeting: Begin updating the Committee's strategic action plan for 2025/26.