

**SLO Healthcare Workforce Partnership  
Funding & Advocacy Committee  
July 17, 2024**

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**Attendees:** Jessica Peckham (NP, North County), Adam Butler (CenCal Health), Michelle Shoresman (Public Health), Lisa Fraser (CFS), Susan McGraw (Partnership Coordinator)

**Discussion Results:**

- **Data on potential topics for advocacy:**
  - HPSA data/potential advocacy areas:
    - Population ratios: Some national healthcare trends may suggest the need to use a lower number of residents to physician ratio. How is that population number (3,500/primary care) determined?
    - The percentage of older adults/seniors only taken into consideration for dental health shortage areas, not primary care shortage areas in the HPSA calculations.
    - CA has been a leader in quality care. Perhaps there is influence at the state level? But, we pay our Medi-Cal physicians less than nationally.
    - Medically underserved populations and HPSA: There is some variation on how states rank. CA ranked #1 as being the worst in medically underserved populations. MUP areas take more factors into consideration including older people.
      - **ACTION:** Susan McGraw will research Medically Underserved Population rankings.
    - How does this relate to CHIP/CHA? The perception that people have in SLO County about the shortage of healthcare providers doesn't match the federal/state data. Does the general population of people care about this comparison data is if you can't get into a local provider, regardless of what the data says?
    - Santa Barbara County access to care: The timely access to care data is just as bad as SLO County.
- **Planning for the Fall Community Event:**
  - Panel with 3 speakers: 1 federal speaker (Congressman Carbajal?); 1 state speaker (MCO Tax/prop. 35?); 1 speaker (state CHW certification/funding?)
  - Congressman Carbajal: Federal legislation/advocacy opportunities? Various topics or Medicare only?
    - **ACTION:** Michelle Shoresman and Susan McGraw will work on making this connection.
  - MCO Tax/Prop 35, used to match federal funds: This is already in place but has to be voted on to renew every 2 years (and to determine how the money will be allocated). Potential advocacy opportunity to support permanent funding & the determination on how the allocation is made.
    - **ACTION:** Susan McGraw will contact Dana Goba regarding being a speaker for CC Medical Association (advocacy person?) or to get a referral to someone else.
  - CHW: Advocacy is occurring at the state level for funding/certification; is anything happening at the federal level (Bill 3892, CHW Health Access Act)?
    - **ACTION:** Lisa Fraser will do some homework on the legislation related to CHW.