

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING HARTFORD,
CT 06106-1591

Task Force to Study Methods to Address the Shortage of Radiologic Technologists,
Nuclear Medicine Technologists and Respiratory Care Practitioners in the State

Meeting Summary

Thursday, June 13, 2024

10:00 AM on Zoom and YouTube Live

Attendance: Bernadette Mele, Matthew Green, Paul Kidwell, Raza Sajjad, Adam Kaye,
Rep. Cristin McCarthy-Vahey, Karen Griffiths and James Pope.

I. Convene Meeting

- Bernadette Mele convened the meeting at 10:00 AM and introduced herself and stated that she along with Matthew Green are the Co-Chairs of the Task Force. She announced that she would send out a poll to see the best times to schedule meetings.

II. Welcome and Introductions

- Task Force members introduced themselves.

III. Planning Meeting

- Matthew Green asked members to create a slide for the modality that they are representing with some background information about the profession
- To utilize the resources, they must mine the data that the Task Force needs and
- To bring other information that they acquire in the field as they have knowledge that other members do not have in the specific field

- Bernadette Mele suggested Rep. McCarthy-Vahey and Paul Kidwell to acquire vacancy rates.
- Paul Kidwell commented that he can get vacancy rates from acute care hospitals and suggested getting vacancy rates from last year and the year prior.
- Bernadette Mele asked Adam Kaye if he can provide information from his role in private practice.
- Adam Kaye commented that he can talk to his CEO and shared that the vacancy rate is high for his hospital. He offered to reach out to the Radiologic Society to acquire more information.
- Rep. McCarthy-Vahey announced that she can submit a request to the Office of Legislative Research (OLR) and asked members to help frame the question.
- Bernadette Mele commented that she has connections due to her profession and announced that she can reach out.
- Adam Kaye suggested that getting data from the time you would like an exam scheduled to when the next appointment is available to show a trendline prior to the pandemic to emphasize the shortage. He added that this data is more protected, and that he might not be able to get access, but he will try.
- Rep. McCarthy-Vahey stated that Adam Kaye's point is well taken, and that different members individual experiences will be helpful to the conversation.
- Paul Kidwell agreed with Adam Kaye that the data will be harder to get and will be happy to get anecdotes.
- Bernadette Mele suggested it is a great idea to get the data and thinks that the story around the shortage is good to tell.
- Paul Kidwell asked about getting data on the current capacity for teaching individuals on an annual basis.
- Bernadette Mele agreed and stated that there is a capacity problem at her university.
- Adam Kaye suggested that getting data about graduates staying in the state is helpful as well.
- Paul Kidwell asked if the universities conduct alumni surveys as it will be a

helpful data point.

- Bernadette Mele stated that her university and other schools send out alumni surveys for their accreditation requirement.
- Matthew Green agreed it's a great discussion and that this will be what they dig into in their first meeting. The charge now is to go back to their profession and get data that they think is pertinent to the discussion.
- Members discussed logistics for future meetings
- Rep. McCarthy-Vahey suggested it would be helpful to know what data is being collected and who is collecting it to make sure that efforts are not being duplicated.
- Bernadette Mele and Adam Kaye listed their specific data for collection.
- Bernadette Mele asked if they should cover all modalities in radiologic tech or only x-rays.
- Adam Kaye suggested covering all modalities and asked Bernadette Mele if she can get ultrasound data.
- Bernadette Mele answered that she can get that data and suggested that the different modalities are kept in mind when Rep. McCarthy-Vahey submits the request to OLR for the data.
- Karen Griffiths informed the group that she has been collecting data and that the issues for respiratory are different than radiological.
- Bernadette Mele suggested that Raza help Karen Griffiths with the collection of data.
- Karen Griffiths stated that she has been working with Raza and stated that the July meeting may be too late for tuition reimbursement for respiratory care therapists.
- Bernadette Mele stated that her society spoke with senators and representatives and suggested that Karen Griffiths society do the same.
- Karen Griffiths stated what she was told to ask in the meeting and believes that the issue is more urgent and will be a big help for respiratory care therapists
- Bernadette Mele does not think that it can be addressed right now.

- Rep. McCarthy-Vahey suggested having an offline discussion with Karen and Raza about the tuition reimbursement.
- Bernadette Mele commented that it might be difficult getting all the data for the first meeting and mentioned that they could do an update on some of the data.
- Members agreed that they will be able to get some of that data.
- Paul Kidwell asked when the July meeting will be held and added that a later date will be better for him to get the data.
- Bernadette Mele stated that the meeting will be planned for mid to late July and that meetings will be spaced out monthly. She reminded members that a poll will be sent out to see what times are best for members.

IV. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM.