

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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

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

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, December 18,

2024

9:30 AM on Zoom and YouTube Live

I. Convene Meeting and Review of the Charge

- Bernadette Mele convened the meeting at 9:31 AM.
- Attendance: Bernadette Mele, Matthew Green, and Karen Griffiths

II. Discussion on Recommendations

- Bernadette Mele stated that she shared the draft report changes with the subgroup members. She commented that Sajjad Raza will share further edits about the draft report.
- Karen Griffiths commented that the report looked good.
- Bernadette Mele started going over the draft report and asked members if their credentials need to be changed. She credited Karen Griffiths and Sajjad Raza for reviewing the draft report and making edits.
- Karen Griffiths credited Sajjad Raza for helping in the wordsmithing of the

draft report.

- Bernadette Mele commented that there were organizational changes to the draft report and asked Karen Griffiths to make sure that the footnotes match properly.
- Karen Griffiths mentioned that in the section titled Main Findings that there was one footnote for respiratory and doesn't believe that she needs to change the reference.
- Bernadette Mele stated that she didn't change anything in the section titled Main Findings and that they changed some portions of the section titled Task Force Recommendations.
- Karen Griffiths commented that they revised the flow of the sentences and not the substance in the section titled Task Force Recommendations.
- Bernadette Mele commented that she further defined HOSA.
- Karen Griffiths suggested an edit to the fourth item in the section titled Task Force Recommendations.
- Bernadette Mele asked Matthew Green about the change.
- Matthew Green agreed with Karen Griffiths about broadening the fourth item.
- Bernadette Mele moved onto the section titled Introduction and mentioned that she added references to this section.
- Karen Griffiths asked what the changes to this section were.
- Bernadette Mele answered that the changes were a date when the Task Force first convened and adding additional references.
- Karen Griffiths asked that they have all the references in the back of the report and that these noted references are to communicate that they are the main references.
- Bernadette Mele answered affirmatively and commented on a format change.
- Karen Griffiths has concerns with section three titled Guiding Principles and suggested this section could either be moved into the section titled Introductions or before it for better format purposes. She asked if the suggested changes would have a better flow and stated that their guiding principles should be at the forefront of the report.

- Bernadette Mele commented that she thought of moving that section as well and was waiting to discuss with members.
- Karen Griffiths mentioned that section three is a small section and doesn't necessarily need to be its own section.
- Bernadette Mele asked Matthew Green for his thoughts.
- Matthew Green agrees with the changes as they are leading with their principles followed by their content.
- Bernadette Mele stated that she will make that change. She then moved onto the section titled Background Information, Including Current Status and Profession-Specific Staffing Challenges.
- The Subgroup agreed to a format change in the title.
- Karen Griffiths commented that she likes the title.
- Bernadette Mele moved onto the section titled Current Status of the Professions and stated that she added Adam Kaye's data to this section as well as the national data. She stated that she talked about the shortage in all their professions and that she further delved into the specifics of the three.
- Karen Griffiths suggested various wording revisions and format changes. She asked if they should include the CHA poll data in this section.
- Bernadette Mele believes that the CHA poll data is fine to put into this section and commented that she couldn't download the reference that CHA provided and that the reference was not rigorous enough.
- Karen Griffiths agreed that the survey poll didn't have enough information and it appeared that they weren't aware of the specifics of the survey.
- Bernadette Mele asked Matthew Green for his thoughts.
- Matthew Green asked how much they have zeroed in on their specific data and believes that Karen Griffiths is stating that they would be underreporting the vacancy rate of what they think they are by including in the poll.
- She stated that they discussed this poll with the Task Force, but they also discussed the uncertainty of the poll information. She believes the question should be if they should include this data at all if they are unsure of the data.
- Matthew Green commented that it reads nicely as the data might not be the best, but it communicates what they are seeing from other sources. He

stated that he can go either way. He believes that it communicates that all members have done their due diligence, and it shows that there is a significant shortage since the larger vacancy rate is better, but the CHA results are still significant.

- Karen Griffiths agrees that the data shows that there is a significant shortage even though the data seems drastically low. She commented that her concern is having this data at the forefront.
- Bernadette Mele believes that it is important to have this data at the forefront to communicate what is being seen and what is being felt at the forefront. She then moved onto the section titled Profession-Specific Staffing Challenges. She commented that she talked about radiologic and nuclear medicine technologists together because they are similar. She was thinking of the audience and how they are not familiar with the field.
- Karen Griffiths believes this is important to include as they are not sure who is the audience but if they would like additional information, they should include it. She added that they should explain what the consequences will be for the general population if they don't address these shortages.
- Bernadette Mele agreed with Karen Griffiths and answered that it is included in the report. She believes that it is important to note that staff in this field must be qualified, credentialed and licensed in the state of Connecticut because there is a push for limited X-ray operators.
- Karen Griffiths asked how that process works and if that process is allowed in Connecticut currently.
- Bernadette Mele stated that is not allowed in Connecticut currently.
- Karen Griffiths asked if there is data that talks about the consequences of not having a certified licensed radiologic technologist performing these services.
- Bernadette Mele responded that there is, but she has not included it in the report.
- Karen Griffiths doesn't believe that it is necessary because that is not currently being discussed.
- Bernadette Mele asked Matthew Green for his thoughts.
- Matthew Green asked about the ARRT reference in the section titled Profession-Specific Staffing Challenges and if they should take out the word may in all the descriptions.

- Karen Griffiths agreed with Matthew Green as the wording sounds stronger.
- Bernadette Mele agreed with the change.
- Karen Griffiths and Bernadette Mele revised the wording of degree offerings within the state.
- Karen Griffiths suggested adding the results data for respiratory board exams.
- Bernadette Mele believes that data would be helpful as it could show what type of support the profession needs.
- Karen Griffiths asked if they are fine with adding additional charts for respiratory.
- Bernadette Mele answered affirmatively.
- Karen Griffiths stated that she will add an additional chart but is good with that section and explained they have moved a paragraph for formatting purposes.
- Bernadette Mele moved onto the section titled Scope of Problem and believes that it should hit hard.
- Karen Griffiths stated that Sajjad Raza revised this section, and he was able to use Bernadette Mele's draft to strengthen the section.
- Bernadette Mele asked what they thought of this section.
- Karen Griffiths and Matthew Green believe that the section looks good.
- Bernadette Mele moved onto the section titled Guiding Principles and stated the changes they agreed to do with this section.
- Karen Griffiths suggested formatting changes to the section.
- Bernadette Mele moved onto the section titled Connecticut's Current System and stated changes that Sajjad Raza has made to this section where he moved Shared Continuing Problems and Issues as well as Inequalities in Access before credentialing requirements due to these items being more critical.
- Karen Griffiths added that the sections after credentialing requirements make it easy to skip over. She stated that she agrees with the change.

- Bernadette Mele added that there is an additional board for nuclear medicine and will include it.
- Matthew Green stated that he will share that information.
- Bernadette Mele moved onto the section titled Recommendations.
- Karen Griffiths commented that the draft should include the accurate number of meetings that the Task Force has held.
- Bernadette Mele asked if they made any changes to the four recommendations of the Task Force.
- Karen Griffiths answered that she made a grammatical change to recommendation two. She also changed recommendation four to make sure that it isn't just about HOSA but high schools as well.
- Bernadette Mele moved onto the section titled Conclusion and asked Karen Griffiths if she has data about documented workforce shortage that exceeds more than twenty years for respiratory.
- Karen Griffiths responded that she has that data and that they can use similar language that they used at the beginning of the report. She suggested an additional sentence and asked Bernadette Mele if that is what she is looking for.
- Bernadette Mele responded that is what she was looking for and stated that she included data that Karen Griffiths and Sajjad Raza provided.
- Karen Griffiths believes that the included data looks good.
- Bernadette Mele moved onto references then appendices. She stated that the CHA survey results are in references under Kidwell. She doesn't believe that they should include the presentations that they have done because it will make the report too long.
- Karen Griffiths agrees with Bernadette Mele that it will make the report too long.
- Bernadette Mele included the suggested additional sentence from Karen Griffiths into the report.
- Karen Griffiths commented that she has additional credentials, and that she will share those.
- Bernadette Mele asked Matthew Green if he has any additional credentials

to add.

- Matthew Green responded that he does not.
- Bernadette Mele asked if they have any further questions or changes to the report.
- Karen Griffiths and Matthew Green believe that it looks good.
- Bernadette Mele asked Matthew Green if he will get back with the Nuclear Medicine Technologists Credentialing board information.
- Matthew Green responded that he will.
- Bernadette Mele stated that she will include information about the nuclear medicine program and any additional information about the program will be placed in the section titled Background.
- Bernadette Mele stated that she is going to share what they have to the full Task Force so that they can prepare in advance.
- Karen Griffiths commented that would make the most sense.

III. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM.