

State of Connecticut  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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

Athletic Trainer Task Force

Meeting Summary

Friday, April 11, 2025

12:00 PM on Zoom and YouTube Live

I. Convene Meeting

- The meeting was convened by Gary Morin at 12:05 PM.
- Attendance: Gary Morin, Eleni Diakogeorgiou, Jennifer Tirillo, Andrew Abraham, Robert McKee, Jessica Testani, Dr. Stephanie Arlis-Mayor, Sara Montauti, Anna Knechtel

II. Updates

- Jessica Testani gave an overview of what happened at Hit the Hill Day.
- Robert McKee stated that the Athletic Director's Association will convene a task force regarding athletic trainers.
- Gary Morin asked how many members are on the committee.
- Robert McKee responded that it is between five to ten members.
- Gary Morin asked if there is interest to coordinate the activities between the two.

- Robert McKee responded that there could be ways where they could coordinate.
- Gary Morin asked if the task force is just beginning.
- Robert McKee responded affirmatively.
- Jennifer Tirillo asked which athletic director is leading the task force.
- Robert McKee responded that it was a board member of the association of athletic directors.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou asked if there is a way for the Association of Athletic Trainers to get involved with the task force for the Association of Athletic Directors.
- Robert McKee responded that he wouldn't know and but there could be a possibility.
- Jessica Testani gave a summary of the survey.
- Gary Morin suggested asking the survey respondents to identify their home state.
- Jessica Testani continued giving a summary of the survey.
- Jennifer Tirillo suggested adding a does not apply option.
- Jessica Testani responded that not all of the questions had to be answered and continued giving a summary of the survey.
- Jennifer Tirillo suggested adding inclusive language regarding the emergent setting.
- Jessica Testani continued giving a summary of the survey.
- Gary Morin suggested adding language about the state association of athletic trainers to promote the association and inquired about a yearly salary.
- Jessica Testani asked members if she should add salary ranges.
- Gary Morin asked if the survey would be anonymous.
- Jessica Testani answered that they could make it anonymous.

- Gary Morin believes that it should be anonymous, and the issue is the debt-to-income ratio.
- Jessica Testani cautioned about making it anonymous as they might be able to infer who is who by how respondents answer the questions.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou suggested asking if the respondents feel like their salary is adequate to their cost-of-living expenses.
- Stephanie Arlis-Mayor commented that she believes asking for such information is going to bring bias to the survey. She added that salary ranges could be a reasonable question as it would be anonymous.
- The group discussed adding in a question about salary and debt.
- Jessica Testani stated that she would add in a question about salary ranges and if their salary provides adequate support for living expenses.
- Gary Morin asked if another link could be added to the survey to let respondents have a chance to give a full anonymous response.
- Jessica Testani continued giving a summary of the survey.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou suggested that they can make being part of a recruitment effort part of a continuing education requirement. She and Jessica Testani discussed this recommendation.
- Gary Morin suggested adding language about the state association for athletic trainers to increase visibility.
- Sara Montauti believes that this survey is an opportunity to collect data through a qualitative process. She added that this would be a great project for a student or group of students to complete.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou believes that is a great idea and might be a way to further raise awareness.
- Sara Montauti suggested adding a question asking the respondent if he or she would be interested in participating in further activities.
- Jessica Testani believes that having focus groups to analyze data would be a huge piece to the puzzle.
- Sara Montauti asked if employers are asking staff why they are leaving and suggested having a flow pool of per diem employees who could potentially cover this gap.

- Eleni Diakogeorgiou suggested that the survey ask respondents why they are leaving their employer. She suggested that the survey could have respondents sign off to allowing their responses to be used for research purposes. She asked if any other members had gotten exit interviews when they left their job.
- Andrew Abraham stated that he always offers the option of an exit interview.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou suggested that they reach out to employers requesting that they start doing exit interviews to begin collecting this data.
- Andrew Abraham suggested including the association of athletic directors as they are involved in the process as well.
- Gary Morin believes that the information would be helpful to the association of athletic directors as well.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou gave an overview of SB 1450. She added that they would like the bill amended to pass with additional changes and they have been engaged in talks to address their concerns. She also shared that they voiced suggestions regarding a bill to reduce licensing fees as well as support for another bill regarding heat related illnesses with recommended changes.
- Gary Morin gave an overview of the process for HB 5570 and stated that SB 1450 is in the Appropriations Committee.
- Sara Montauti commented about federal funding cuts and cautioned about the fiscal environment as they don't know if further cuts will come.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou cautioned about the process as an ask could take several sessions to pass and the bright side is that they are organized and have data to help enhance the ask next session if need be.
- Gary Morin asked when the survey will be sent out.
- Jessica Testani responded that it could be sent out next week and it would depend on all the breaks that are coming up.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou asked if they could set up devices at a symposium to allow athletic trainers to take the survey without having to check their email.
- Jessica Testani responded affirmatively and stated that the symposium is May 20<sup>th</sup>. She believes that sending out the survey around May 20<sup>th</sup> will give better data since that is when people are deciding if they are leaving their employer or going back.

- Gary Morin asked if they will get the survey results before next month.
- Jessica Testani suggested sending out the survey after the symposium.
- Gary Morin asked how long before the association of athletic directors will have some information.
- Robert McKee commented that he is unsure and would ask the leader of the task force for further information.
- Gary Morin asked if a member of that task force would be willing to join the group for discussion.
- Robert McKee responded that he would ask.
- Jessica Testani suggested coordinating the survey with the association of athletic directors.
- Anna Knechtel believes that it would be useful to dig into the data after the symposium.
- Jessica Testani asked Anna Knechtel if her association could help with the survey.
- Anna Knechtel responded affirmatively.
- Gary Morin thanked members for attending.
- Eleni Diakogeorgiou stated that they will send out the legislative call to action to members.

### III.

#### a. Review of Preview Meeting on Life Balance

- i. Need to promote the role of athletic trainers.
- ii. Need for enhanced communication between athletic trainers and athletic directors.
- iii. CATA events for dealing with athletic trainer burnout.
- iv. Master spreadsheet of HS Staff / Athletic Trainers (Rob McKee)

### IV. Survey Review (Jessica Testani)

## V. Legislative Bills Status

- a. SB 1450: An Act Concerning Recruitment and Retention of the HealthCare Workforce
- b. HB 5570 An Act Establishing a Maximum Occupational and Professional License Fee

## V. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.