



Idaho Nursing Advisory Council

Some of Idaho's top health care practitioners, academics and policymakers make up the Governor's Nursing Workforce Advisory Council. Established by the Legislature last spring, the council oversees the work of the Idaho Nursing Workforce Center, which was established three years ago under a federal grant and was assigned to the Idaho Department of Labor under the council when the state took over the project this year. Unless extended by the Legislature, the council and its center will complete their work by mid-2009.

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NEWS RELEASE

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New Council to Guide Research on Nursing Shortage

Idaho's top health care practitioners, academics and policymakers on the new Nursing Workforce Advisory Council meet Nov. 14 in Boise to begin work on a strategy to deal with the state's severe shortage of nurses.

The 22-member council is headed by B.J. Swanson of Moscow, whose expertise in both finances and health care could be crucial as the panel weighs options for increasing the state's capacity to train nurses, its ability to attract nurses and the wherewithal to retain nurses.

The meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Hampton Inn & Suites in downtown Boise.

Swanson is the vice president of AmericanWest Bank in Moscow and chairman of the Gritman Medical Center Board of Trustees. She was the 2005 recipient of the Idaho Hospital Association Trustee of the Year award, the former chairman of the Idaho Economic Advisory Council and the current vice chairman of the Idaho Workforce Development Council.

The council, established by the Legislature last spring, will oversee the work of the Idaho Nursing Workforce Center, which was established three years ago under a federal grant and was assigned to the Idaho Department of Labor under the council when the state took over the project this year. Unless extended by the Legislature, the council and its center will complete their work by mid-2009.

Serving on the council are:

- Associate Dean Carol Ashton of the Idaho State University School of Nursing
- Executive Director Susan Ault of the Idaho Alliance of Leaders in Nursing
- College of Southern Idaho Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer Clauden Buettner
- Director Manuelita Burns of North Idaho College's Health Professions and Nursing program
- Vice President of Nursing and Patient Care Services Noreen Davis of St. Luke's Regional Medical Center
- Executive Director Sandra Evans of the Idaho State Board of Nursing
- Provost and Academic Affairs Vice President Tony Fernandez of Lewis-Clark State College
- Idaho County Coroner and Chief Nursing Officer Steve Frei of Syringa General Hospital
- Karen Hodge, director of women's and children's services at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
- Idaho Department of Labor Director Roger B. Madsen
- Idaho Hospital Association President Steve Millard
- Health Professions Division Manager Kathleen Nelson of Eastern Idaho Technical College
- Interim State Board of Education Executive Director Mike Rush
- President David Schmitz of the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians
- Associate Dean and Nursing Department Chair Pamela Springer of Boise State University
- Idaho Health Care Association Executive Director Robert Vande Merwe
- Tammy Perkins, aide to Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter
- State Sen. John McGee, R-Caldwell
- State Sen. Diane Bilyeu, D-Pocatello
- State Rep. Margaret Henbest, D-Boise, a nurse practitioner
- State Rep. Fred Wood, R-Burley, physician and medical director of the Cassia Regional Medical Center.

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