

**NURSING WORKFORCE ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the September 15, 2008 Meeting**

Welcome and Introductions

Council Chair B.J. Swanson called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. The Chair was presiding via teleconference from Moscow. Other council members attended the meeting via the conference call; nine members were present at the Boise meeting site. Cheryl Brush called the roll of members and alternates and guests introduced themselves. The Chair reviewed the agenda and asked for approval of the August 4, 2008 meeting minutes. Robert Vande Merwe moved to approve the minutes as written. Susan Ault seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Status Reports

Idaho Department of Labor Director Roger Madsen reported on his meeting with the higher education Presidents Council. He said that council was receptive, supportive, but was concerned about the potential costs of proposals that might come from the Nursing Workforce Advisory Council. He also reported the Presidents Council recommends that the nursing council continue to focus on nursing issues and not expand to other health occupations at this time. Director Madsen concluded by saying he planned to meet with Senator Dean Cameron soon and attend the Board of Education's October 4 meeting in Lewiston.

Chair Swanson reported on the Idaho Workforce Development Council September 10 meeting. She stated that it was one of the best council meetings she has attended in that the meeting's focus was on health care workforce needs. The council also voted to contribute \$50,000 toward the nursing educator scholarship fund. Susan Ault mentioned she has received 15-20 applications to date for the scholarship funds.

Rep. Margaret Henbest reported on the Governor's Health Care Task Force meeting in August. She said she provided that council with an overview of the Nursing Workforce Advisory Council's activities, identified concerns, general strategies and recommendations being considered. Rep. Henbest said the governor's task force asked if we had kept the Governor's Office informed, which we have, and if the Department of Labor is willing to continue its research. She said this council wanted to complete its current tasks before looking to the future. Finally she indicated the task force expressed its support of this council.

Chair Swanson remarked that there is a need for these other councils and the task force to complete their original assignments but then we might want to consider a merger when we consider the workforce issues of other health occupations. The Department of Labor could extend its research to the other occupations if funding were provided. Rep. Henbest suggested that our three year plan include the need to expand to other occupations which brought the response from some other council members that we need to complete the nursing study and hopefully achieve some success before expanding our focus. She said it still would be wise to look at what might be involved in studying the other occupations and Director Madsen said the department would draw up a business plan for the council's consideration.

During the discussion of future research the issue of obtaining student and nurses SSNs arose. Having that identifier is critical for tracking and analyzing the flow of the nursing workforce. Some of the data providers will provide SSNs if confidentiality is assured while others have not responded. Some of the schools have been rather slow in responding to requests for SSNs. Susan Ault moved that the council write a letter to each college/university president and nursing dean detailing the importance of receiving student SSNs for research purposes. Margaret Henbest made the second and the motion passed.

#### Budget Request

Cheryl Brush reported she is prepared to present a budget for the council's continuation and research. She estimates \$90,000 or the status quo would be adequate. She cautioned that she has not heard back from the Governor's Office if the council would be included in the Governor's Budget Request. She will report back at the council's next meeting.

Rep. Henbest inquired if we had communicated our concern about faculty salaries and the need to increase them if the state is going to be able to recruit qualified nursing educators. Chair Swanson indicated that request needs to come from the Board of Education but that we have indicated our support of a salary increase request.

#### Data Collection and Research

Sara Scudder provided an update on the research plan. She said data for all levels of nursing and sub-state geographical areas is available now. Regional supply/demand projections should be available by the November council meeting as will a draft final report. Ms. Scudder said future research plans are for updating the research database, conducting a vacancy survey and a survey on hospitals and other facilities expansion plans that might affect the demand for labor. In response to Rep. Henbest's question, Ms. Scudder said the department currently makes some labor force projections of some of the allied health occupations but these are a part of the larger Occupational Employment and Wage Survey and do not go to the depth and detail as the separate nursing workforce research.

Georgia Smith presented a set of talking points concerning Idaho's nursing workforce and future needs. She said these will be finalized to accompany their final research report.

Robert Vande Merwe stated he had some examples of other supply and demand models he would like the council to review but there was not enough meeting time remaining to fully discuss them.

#### Next Meeting

The date for the next council meeting was set for Monday, November 17, and will be a morning session. As with today's meeting, members can participate via conference call or video conferencing available at the Department of Labor local offices. The location for the November meeting will be announced later.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Members:

Via Live Meeting from Moscow:

Ms BJ Swanson, Chair

In Person:

Ms. Susan Ault

Ms. Noreen Davis

Rep. Margaret Henbest

Mr. Roger Madsen

Ms. Tammy Perkins

Ms. Patty Sanchez for Dr. Mike Rush

Dr. David Schmitz

Mr. Robert Vande Merwe

Via Telephone:

Dr. Carol Ashton

Dr. Claudeen Buettner

Dr. Manuelita Burns

Dr. Tony Fernandez

Ms. Karen Hodge

Ms. Amber Miller for Sen. John Mcgee

Ms. Kathleen Nelson

Dr. Pamela Springer

Staff:

Jim Adams

Cheryl Brush

Sara Scudder

Georgia Smith

Alice Taylor

Bob Uhlenkott