

Draft Health Care Group Minutes

July 12th, 2006

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7am.

Introduction:

Members in attendance:

Brandon Maitlen
Torie Foote
Brian Slocum
Matt O'Keefe
Robert Gould
Anna Huntington-Kriska
Lisa Giannusa
Karen Parr
Murray Richmond
Dan Winfree

Discussion:

Recruitment/Retention

Rob Gould spoke of the need for a broad range of medical professionals in the Fairbanks community. He indicated that specialists, such as urologists, cardiologists and psychiatrists, as well as general practitioners are needed. The group discussed recruitment needs and strategies for meeting these needs. The need for comprehensive marketing efforts to physicians and their families was discussed. The topic of student debt repayment was discussed as a means of attracting physicians. Members of the group also discussed the role military deployments have had upon efforts to retain military health care professionals. Brandon Maitlen spoke of the importance of including local high school graduates in training and recruitment strategies.

Professional Training and Licensing

Tori Foote spoke of the University's efforts to address demand for healthcare professionals through education and training programs. These programs have been successful but are primarily grant funded. Ms. Foote also noted that the State's licensing requirements for health care professionals are overly rigorous and potential prohibitive for individuals interested in practicing health care in Alaska.

Medicare Reform

Brian Slocum spoke of Medicare reimbursement formulas. The current reimbursement rates do not adequately cover the costs of providing health care services. He spoke of a trial program that attempted to remedy this issue and the involvement of Senator Ted Stevens office with the program.

Legislative Information

Karen Parr spoke of the opportunity to brief the Interior delegation upon the community's demand for health care services and professionals.

Next Steps:

Meet again 8/8 @ 7am Porter Conference Room, 5th floor FMH.

Agenda items for next meeting:

Discussion:

Mental Health topics

Committee Organization:

Nominate chairperson

Meeting adjourned @ 8:05am