

# WCMEW

Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce

## November 2021 Newsletter

### WCMEW Data Collaborative Meeting

At the November 29 WCMEW Data Collaborative meeting, Dr. Luis Padilla presented the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Healthcare Workforce Strategic Plan. Dr Padilla is the associate administrator for health workforce at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and director of the National Health Service Corps.

Dr. Padilla outlined the HHS Workforce Plan's four main goals:

1. Expand the workforce supply to meet evolving community needs
2. Improve the distribution of the workforce to reduce shortages
3. Enhance healthcare quality through professional development, collaboration, and evidence-based practice
4. Develop and apply data and evidence to strengthen the healthcare workforce

Some of the activities that will be used to accomplish the goals include:

- ***investing broadly in health occupation education and training;***
- ***using evidence-based and innovative techniques to retain the existing workforce;***
- ***improving the geographic distribution of healthcare workers;***
- ***encouraging integrated, collaborative healthcare; and***
- ***using data to monitor and forecast healthcare workforce needs.***

Takeaways from the discussion following Dr. Padilla's presentation include:

- agreement on the importance of having a coherent plan that addresses long-term problems
- the need to ensure that equitable distribution of the workforce is pursued
- the healthcare workforce pipeline needs to be strengthened across a broad spectrum of professionals
- funding needs to flow from the stated goals and activities

Dr. Padilla's presentation can be found [here](#). A full copy of the Strategic Plan can be found [here](#).

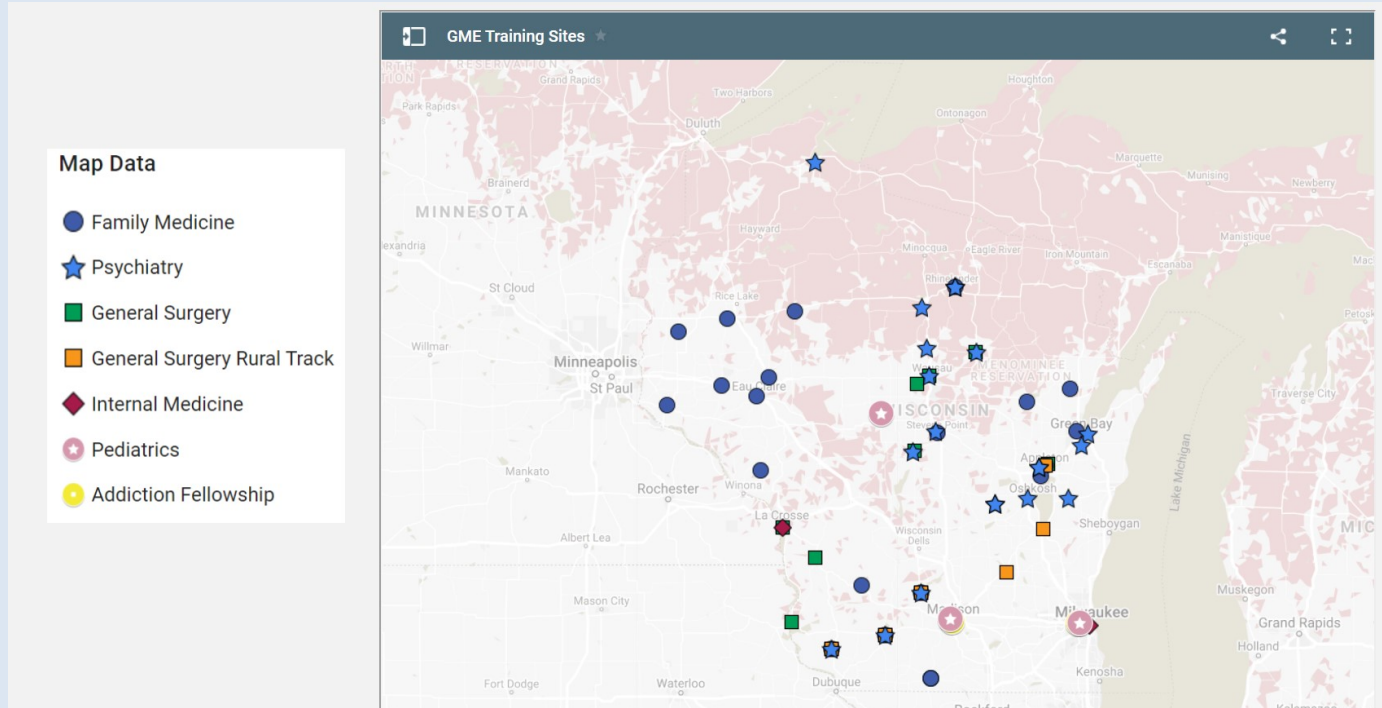
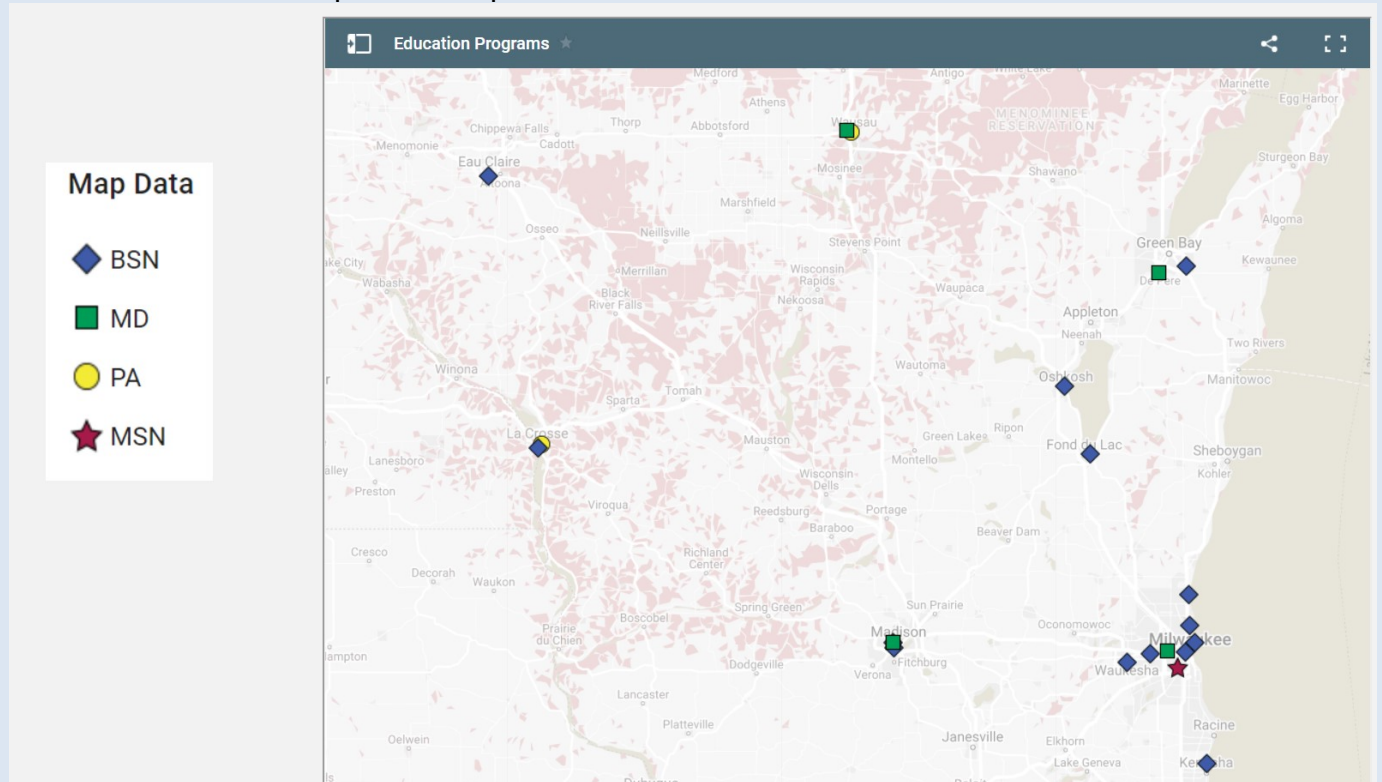
Members also discussed the current crisis across all healthcare settings in Wisconsin involving:

- capacity shortages in hospitals and long-term care facilities leading to back-ups in transfers and admissions;
- burnout and morale issues among front-line workers;
- current worker shortages together with lack of new applicants entering the healthcare workforce.

Regulatory/policy flexibility and increased focus on resiliency were mentioned as ways to address the problem.

## Continuing Website Enhancements

Our website has some new and updated pages. We encourage you to do go to [wcmew.org](http://wcmew.org) and check them out. Here are a couple of examples:



The website also includes updates and enhancements to the newsletter, news archive, and reports pages.

As always, WCMEW will welcome any comments and suggestions you may have.

## Workforce in the News

### [ATA to assess telemedicine's role in addressing U.S. healthcare disparities](#) – **Healthcare IT News**

The American Telemedicine Association announced this week that it was launching a new initiative aimed at evaluating telehealth's potential as a tool to address and eliminate health disparities in the United States.

### [House Includes Historic Increase in GME Slots in Updated Build Back Better Act](#) – **AAMC**

The House Committee on Rules passed a manager's amendment to the Build Back Better Act ([BBBA, H.R. 5376](#)) on Nov. 4 that reflects a number of changes to the version released one week earlier [refer to [Washington Highlights, Oct. 29](#)]. While the \$1.75 trillion package is still subject to change, the updated measure includes a number of provisions that affect academic medicine.

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