

WCMEW

Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce

January 2022 Newsletter

WCMEW PRESENTS 2021 WORKFORCE REPORT TO RWHC

At the January 7 Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC) Board meeting, George Quinn, WCMEW Executive Director presented WCMEW's 2021 Workforce Report "**THE FUTURE OF WISCONSIN'S HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE**". The goals of the report were to take more comprehensive look at Wisconsin's healthcare workforce. It is the first from WCMEW to include physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, and nursing professionals.

The report forecasted demand for those professions for the year 2035, using current utilization by Wisconsin patients across major patient care settings and place of work for each profession, and then applied those data to the future population. Future supply includes new entrants, retirements and other departures, and lifestyle changes across professions. These calculations result in a "status quo" forecast. However, the status quo was further refined to reflect potential changes in care delivery. The final forecast, incorporating these changes, showed supply deficits for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and physicians.

Mr. Quinn provided the following set of findings and recommendations:

FINDINGS

1. Our current education and training pipelines for these professions is not sufficient to fill the shortages.
2. The projected static working age population, at the state and national levels, will diminish the number of potential students in Wisconsin and available workers from other states.
3. *There will be a significant shortage of nurses unless the pipeline is dramatically expanded.* While shortages for any of the healthcare professions will have an adverse impact, the projected nursing shortage will have a far-reaching effect on healthcare delivery.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Education and training resources for all of the professions in our study need to be expanded or modified, including the number of available openings, faculty, and clinical sites.
2. Continue to expand the Department of Health Services grants for Graduate Medical Education and Advanced Practice Clinicians.



3. Inventory the number and capacity of clinical training sites; identify and help disseminate best practices in clinical experiences, including, for example, enhancing partnerships with communities.
4. Explore in greater depth the impact that telemedicine is having on care delivery; ensure incorporation of telemedicine in healthcare education and training.
5. Gain a better understanding of the nature and extent of care delivery changes.
6. Carry out a retrospective study of the long-term effects of the pandemic.

The discussion that followed centered on how to make the training pipelines more flexible and responsive to current and future needs. Mr. Quinn indicated that the report will be widely disseminated to the public and policy makers. The presentation can be found [here](#), and the full report, [here](#).

WORKFORCE IN THE NEWS

[Nurse concerned over COVID staffing: 'How can we take care of our patients?'](#) – **FOX6 News Milwaukee**

The latest surge of COVID-19 is taking a massive toll on healthcare workers. One nurse who works for Ascension is sounding alarms – concerned about staffing levels system-wide because of COVID infections.

[See where your state ranks on telemedicine](#) – **Healthcare IT News**

A new report digs into policies around the country through the lens of patient access and ease of providing care; the study assesses different approaches to telehealth in all 50 states.

[Colquitt Regional holds annual interprofessional development training](#) – **Yahoo News**

For the second consecutive year, Colquitt Regional held its interprofessional development training exercise for participants in the hospital's Nurse Residency Program and the Georgia South Family Medicine Residency Program.

[Graduate Medical Education Final Rules Published for FY 2022 IPPS](#) – **AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges)**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued final rules for the graduate medical education (GME) portions of the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) final rule on Dec. 24, 2021.