

# WCMEW

Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce

## December 2022 Newsletter

### 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 was a busy year, with WCMEW involved in both new and continuing activities, as outlined below.

**Created a Healthcare Workforce Strategic Plan** – during 2022, WCMEW developed a healthcare workforce strategic plan. In early 2022, the Council Created a task force and directed it to create a plan to address the issues outlined in the 2021 workforce study. The task force outlined five goals:

- Create Awareness and Engage Other Stakeholders
- Promote Healthcare Careers and Recruit Healthcare Professionals
- Invest in Our Workforce Pathways
- Retain Workers
- Sustain Efforts Over the Long Term

As part of implementing the plan, the WCMEW Council formed several work groups to outline the issues needing to be addressed, develop strategies, and carry out specific tasks for 2023.

**Sponsored the WCMEW Summit** – In October, WCMEW held its statewide workforce Summit. Over 100 healthcare stakeholders attended, heard presentations, and participated in the following topics:

- Promoting Healthcare Careers
- Creating and Expanding Clinical Training Sites
- Innovations in Training and Care Delivery
- Addressing the Nurse Shortage Crisis
- Unique Perspectives on Workforce Issues
- Enhancing the Workforce in North Central Wisconsin
- Building and Enhancing the Physician Workforce in Wisconsin

Attendees gave high marks to the Summit content and speakers, and the conference showed a positive financial margin.

**Engaged with Other Workforce Stakeholders** – WCMEW meets bi-monthly with the Steering Committee of the University of Wisconsin Center for Interprofessional



Practice and Education (UW-CIPE), which is responsible for strategic planning for the Center. In addition, WCMEW meets on a quarterly basis with the Advisory Council for the UW Interprofessional Continuing Education Partnership (UW-ICEP). WCMEW continues its advisory role on the Wisconsin Northern and Central GME consortium (WiNC), serving on their Workforce Committee.

Finally, WCMEW is involved in a group referred to as “Alphabet Soup”, where representatives from *the Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine, Wisconsin AHEC, Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural GME, Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians, Wisconsin Northern and Central GME Consortium, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and Wisconsin Rural Physician Residency Assistance Program* share developments within their organizations. Summaries of these calls are reported in the WCMEW newsletter.

**Spoke and Presented** – WCMEW presented to numerous groups, including the Board of the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, a Competitive Wisconsin event, the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health, the U. S. Health Resources and Services Administration, the Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural GME, the Retired Physicians Conference, the Data Collaborative, and the Michigan Health Council.

**Consistently Communicated with Stakeholders** – Our monthly newsletter – *which reaches over 600 individuals* – informs stakeholders in Wisconsin’s health care workforce about workforce issues, including for example, changes in health care delivery, forces impacting on health professions, and current WCMEW activities.

WCMEW’s quarterly Council and various work group meetings continue to be a valuable vehicle for sharing staff and work group initiatives, receiving input and guidance from members, and giving members an opportunity to share updates on their activities. Summaries of these meetings are shared in the monthly newsletters.

## **WARM STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION**



WCMEW Executive Director George Quinn was invited to participate in a strategic planning session conducted by the UW Medical School’s Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM).

In existence for over 14 years, WARM is one example of Wisconsin’s innovative approaches to dealing with workforce shortages in areas of need. It was created to address current and future shortages of physicians in rural

areas of Wisconsin. Since 2008, more than 250 medical students have graduated from WARM, more than half in primary care with over 80% are practicing in Wisconsin. 50% are practicing in rural areas of Wisconsin and 1/3 of graduates return to their hometowns.

The goal of the strategic planning session was to focus on setting the future direction of recruitment to the WARM program (pathway programs, k-12 connections, social media outreach, etc.). Held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells and facilitated by Dean Christine Seibert, 27 stakeholders – **including 11 current and former WARM students, 10 faculty and staff, and 4 WARM partners** – started with a brainstorming session. They then broke into groups to look at ways to engage at the pre-college and college levels, and other means to posture WARM for the future.

A summary of the session will be available early next year.

## ALPHABET SOUP



Following are December updates from Alphabet Soup members.

### WiNC – Joseph Kilsdonk and Julie Richards

- The new (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 3-year program) Green Bay MCW Prevea Family Medicine Residency Program has received continued accreditation in good standing from ACGME.
- WiNC will be sponsoring its first fellowship in partnership with Ashland Memorial Medical Center. This will be a primary care ER Fellowship. The fellow is set to start in August.
- WiNC is in the process of retaining a GME CMS Consultant to assist WINC members and area hospitals in obtaining or maximizing CMS funding support for residency programs.
- WiNC and WCRGME have formed a Curriculum Committee to advance the GME Leadership Academy programming (Series 2 set to start next month).
- WiNC and WCRGME are working on a consensus statement with state stakeholders around Medicaid GME funding recommendations for consideration with new biennium budget.

## WAFP – Larry Pheifer

- WAFP be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in August. It is planning a statewide event and will keep everyone posted.
- Volunteer leadership changes will be taking place in January: Current president Rod Erickson, MD (Tomah) will move on to Board Chair and Eric Stader, MD (Lancaster) will assume the role of President.
- WAFP is continuing to monitor the MEB chaperone rule development and its impact on physicians

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact George Quinn, at [gquinn@wcmew.org](mailto:gquinn@wcmew.org), or use the information provided below.

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## WORKFORCE IN THE NEWS

### [A staffing expert shows how telehealth is stepping in to fill the staffing shortage](#) - **Healthcare IT News**

The staffing shortage is a huge challenge in healthcare today. Another challenge is finding a solution to this vexing problem. But telehealth may be becoming an emerging strategy to help fill in gaps within hospitals and health systems

### [University of Minnesota to add new undergraduate program to address public health workforce woes](#) – **CBS Minnesota**

The pandemic has put pressure on public health and the U.S. doesn't have enough

workers to fill those jobs, according to researchers at the University of Minnesota. But the school plans to open enrollment in a new undergraduate program aimed at training the future public health workforce to meet growing demands.