

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

2023 was another eventful year, with WCMEW involved in many workforce activities, as outlined below.

Created a Healthcare Workforce Strategic Plan – during 2023, WCMEW formed 5 work groups to create a healthcare workforce strategic plan. The five groups each had a broad area to address:

- Promote Healthcare Careers and Recruit Healthcare Professionals
- Invest in Our Physician Pathways
- Invest in Our Nursing Pathways
- Retain Workers
- Redesign Healthcare

The work groups outlined the issues needing to be addressed, suggested recommendations, developed strategies, and created Key Performance Indicators to accomplishing the goals. A PowerPoint summarizing the plan can be found [here](#).

Sponsored the WCMEW Summit – In October, WCMEW held its statewide workforce Summit. Healthcare stakeholders from across Wisconsin attended, heard presentations, and participated in the following topics:

- WCMEW's Workforce Strategic Plan
- UW's Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine
- Greater Green Bay Health Care Alliance: Building Academic-Practice Partnerships
- Thedacare's Community Action Teams
- Career Ladders and Learning Opportunities in Healthcare
- Wisconsin's Graduate Medical Education Grant Programs
- Tech Advances in Healthcare
- Wisconsin RN Workforce Supply and Demand Forecast
- DPI Patient Care Career Pathways
- Primary Care Pharmacy Practice
- Physician Assistant Education in Southwest Wisconsin

Attendees gave high marks to the Summit content and speakers and provided suggestions for future programs. A summary of the Summit can be found [here](#).

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 is also on the Division of Public Health’s Health Access Advisory Committee, and the Department of Public Instruction Patient Care Career Pathways Advisory Committee.

WCMEW continues its advisory role on the Wisconsin Northern and Central GME consortium (WiNC), serving on their Workforce Committee.

WCMEW serves on an advisory panel to the DHS GME and APC grant programs, which makes recommendations to DHS on grant applications. It also serves on an advisory panel evaluating grant proposals from Free and Charitable Clinics.

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 a number of groups, including Competitive Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural GME, and the Data Collaborative.

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 health professions, and current WCMEW activities. WCMEW’s quarterly Council 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. Monthly newsletters can be found [here](#).

In addition, WCMEW held over 20 Task Force and work group meetings throughout the year, keeping projects on track and seeking input from members and stakeholders.

WORKFORCE IN THE NEWS

[Housing Shortages Are Making Recruitment and Retention Even More Challenging for Some Rural Healthcare Providers](#) – **RHIhub**

As the pandemic receded, many rural healthcare providers began to feel the acute effects of another crisis affecting communities across the country: a severe local housing shortage. In response, some organizations are forming unique partnerships and implementing creative solutions.

[Genesis, New Lexington Schools Partner to Empower Students in Healthcare Careers](#) – **Whiznews**

Genesis Healthcare System has partnered up with a local school to help students tear down barriers in the healthcare field.