Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Beaudin, CT Hospital Association; Joseph Cappa, Hartford Hospital; Patricia Fennessey, CT Technical High Schools; Tricia Harrity, NW ACHEC; Sherry Ostrout, CT Community Care, Inc.; Frances Padilla, Universal Health Care (co-convener); and Stuart Rosenberg, St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center (co-convener); Kristin Sullivan, Department of Public Health

Guests: Shirley Adams, Charter Oak State College; Michele Barnett, Connecticut Health & Life Sciences Career Initiative; Gayle Barrett, CT Community Colleges; Alex Citurs, Eastern CT State University; Nancy LaRoche, Manchester Community College; Erika Lynch, Gateway Community College; Linda Perfetto, CTCC Nursing Program; Marcia Proto, CT League for Nursing; Virginia Sampietro, Eastern Workforce Investment Board; Sheila Solernou, Gateway Community College; Marie Spivey, CT Hospital Association

Staff: Kelly Fitzgerald, Alice Pritchard, Matt Ross

Welcome and Introductions:
Stuart Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 2:12pm. He welcomed the group, and conducted introductions.

Minutes:
Stuart Rosenberg reported that the minutes were distributed by email and asked for a motion to accept. Patricia Fennessey raised motion to accept, Liz Beaudin seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Recap of Action Steps:
At the March AHWPB meeting, we discussed apprenticeships as recommended by the CETC. Committee staff attended a follow up meeting with Department of Labor to discuss next steps. The Committee would like to have a smaller group discussion to explore occupations that might work for an apprenticeship and then invite Vinny Valente back in to discuss. Staff will send out an email to members and guests to see who is interested in participating.

Employers commented that the most prominent barrier for them to start an apprenticeship is lack of resources.

Please note that the June 27th CETC meeting, at 9am, will replace the AHWPB meeting. The Committee strongly encourages members and guests to attend. The Committee staff and chairs will work on scheduling a presentation to the CETC with an update and clarification of the healthcare sector.
Presentations:

Michele Barnett, Connecticut Health & Life Sciences Career Initiative: (Please see presentation for more details)

This is a $12.1 million, 3 year grant that will target TAA eligible, veterans and un or underemployed individuals. Members include the Capital Community College, Gateway Community College, Manchester Community College, Middlesex Community College, Norwalk Community College, Charter Oak State College and ECSU. Partners include the Project Advisory board, Health and Life Sciences organization and associations and the local Workforce Investment Boards.

The purpose of the program is to accelerate students through curriculum and into a job. Program includes curriculum innovation, prior learning assessments, enhanced internships and placement services and sustainability. The goals of the program are the accelerate students through programs; improve retention and achievement rates; build programs that meet industry needs; and strengthen online and technology enabled learning.

Program staff is putting together a list of programs and will send out survey to employers to capture their needs and the relevance of the occupations in the job market. The Advisory Board is tasked to look at internship development in the near future. Enrollment date is to be determined and information will be shared with the AHWPB.

Marcia Proto, CT League for Nursing

CT Nursing Collaborative Action Coalition received a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, $150,000 two year grant called “Future of Nursing”. The grant is allowing CLN to look at data and create seamless pathways. CLN is also working on a SIF grant with the five local WIBs. Two will be implementing a gap analysis by December that will inform the development of a new model of RN to BSN and create supports. The three other WIBs will do various projects that are needed in their region. RFP for that project is due out mid-May.

Connecticut Community Care Inc. is working on a care transition program in which the model is focused on nurse/social workers. This would be a skill set that most nurses currently do not have.

Linda Perfetto asked if the Board and CLN should be discussing the possibility of a post grad nurse apprenticeship program.

Marie Spivey, CT Hospital Association

CHA is working to stay informed and address the disparities issue in health care. In 2011, CHA launched the Diversity Collaborative with three main goals:

1. Increase diversity on boards and senior management.
2. Improve cultural competence.
3. Increase supplier diversity.

Every hospital in CT has a diversity team working on a plan to assess disparity issues. Each team has the opportunity to interact with each other through monthly webinars. Clinical leaders are on the teams but it is up to the hospital to identify team members.

In June, there will be a launch for national strategies to enhance class standards. There seems to be no resistance from hospitals because they are looking for more information. Teams want to improve services to entire community and they want to reflect the communities that they serve. Each team will be asked to submit data on metrics from their hospital.

Please visit CHA’s website for more information and resources: http://www.cthosp.org/diversity/

Discussion

Members commented that no one is currently collecting patient experiences but should be. Also, members mentioned that this is a business issue and should be an important issue for all employers.

CCCI added that they have an internal expert on disability piece and can connect CHA to that person.

DPH mentioned that their health assessment will highlight disparities. There are seven workgroups and one of them is focused on health systems.

Next Steps:
With no further business, Stuart asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was proposed by Frances Padilla and seconded by Stuart Rosenberg. The motion passed unanimously.