



Healthcare Workforce Development Plan Update May 24, 2011

On September 28, 2010 the AWIB, in partnership with the Employment Security Division, was awarded a planning grant in the amount of \$150,000 as part of the State Health Care Workforce Development grant program authorized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA). The AWIB application proposes to complete the comprehensive health care workforce development planning begun in 2009 by the Alaska Health Workforce Coalition, which led to the development of the Alaska Health Workforce Plan adopted by the AWIB as a model for health care training in Alaska at the board meeting held on May 3, 2010 under Resolution No. 10-02. The AWIB proposes to continue this planning effort through to final action planning. In order to satisfy membership requirements and to carry out grant-funded planning activities, the members from the AWIB required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) statute will engage with the Alaska Health Workforce Coalition, Laborer's Local 341, and the Alaska AFL-CIO to further develop the Alaska Health Workforce Plan.

The steering committee for the grant has met on a regular basis since receiving the grant award and has been working on the six HRSA grant benchmarks. The six benchmarks are;

1. Completion of analysis of state health care labor market information.
2. Identification of current and projected high demand health care occupations within state.
3. Identification of existing federal, state, and private resources to recruit, education or train, and retain a skilled health care workforce and strengthen partnerships.
4. Completion of a description of the academic and health care industry skill standards for high school graduation, for entry into post-secondary education and for various credentials and licensure.
5. Completion of a description of the state secondary and postsecondary education and training policies, models and practices for the health care sector, including career information and guidance counseling.
6. Identification of Federal or State policies that act as barriers for developing a coherent and comprehensive health care workforce development strategy and a plan to resolve those barriers.

Individual leads for each of the benchmarks have been identified and meet on a monthly basis for progress updates. The grant ends September 30, 2011 and the project report is due within 90 days after the end date.