

2008 Action Items

Education & Training

- Pass SB 1687 to increase funding needed to expand Oklahoma's health care educational pipeline as follows:
 - Provide scholarships to cover individuals' costs of gaining the advanced degrees necessary to serve as faculty members in nursing and allied health;
 - Provide matching grants to educational institutions to make more use of online and distance learning, simulations, expansion of clinical opportunities and other innovative methods to maximize current faculty resources; and
 - Provide scholarships to cover the costs for individuals to pursue degrees in nursing and allied health occupations experiencing shortages.

The proposed FY 2009 cost is \$7.8 million, with an addition of approximately \$5.1 million in both FY 2010 and FY 2011. In 2011, \$18 million will have been phased in and annualized thereafter. (Note: Increasing the health care educational pipeline is the Center's number one priority).

- Develop and launch a two-year demonstration of a Web-based clinical scheduling product which will be used by Oklahoma health care organizations and schools of nursing and allied health to identify and schedule training opportunities for students;
- Conduct a Phase II Best Practices workshop to share how the use of clinical simulation can be used to enhance the training of nursing and allied health students and health care professionals;
- Work with nursing and allied health educators to gather information on common general educational courses for health care education to determine where opportunities for curriculum alignment exist across educational institutions;
- Create a Web-based resource and links so that individuals can identify non-traditional course options (i.e. online, distance, etc.) for nursing and allied health education;
- Develop content for online nursing preceptor training courses.

Retention

- Share successful mentoring, coaching and orientation programs and tools with health care organizations; optimize Web-based and distance training opportunities;

- Support efforts to assist health care workers in advancing their careers by offering leadership and management training;
- Increase the availability of leadership and management training for health care workers via online and distance education;
- Increase awareness of career advancement and funding assistance available to current health care workers.

Careers Marketing/Recruitment

- Increase awareness and information provided to students, teachers, counselors, parents and other adults on career opportunities available in health care as follows:
 - Expand and update www.okhealthcareers.com;
 - Promote and increase career exploration and classroom presentations in K-12;
 - Increase presence at statewide career fairs and conferences for K-12 school administrators, teachers, counselors, etc.;
 - Update and distribute health careers speakers' kits to middle schools, high schools and technology centers throughout Oklahoma.

Public Awareness/Advocacy

- Increase public awareness of Oklahoma's health care worker shortages and what is being done by the Center and its partners to address these challenges;
 - Develop a dynamic, content-rich Web site as a resource for building awareness, providing information, data and tools pertaining to health care worker shortages;
- Grow opportunities to build support and involvement from other stakeholders;
- Serve as a resource and support for regional strategic planning aimed at alleviating health care worker shortages at the local level.

Data

- Identify existing data and resources, and other data necessary to support the Center's strategic initiatives and to benchmark and measure progress over time.

Funding

- Seek diverse funding opportunities to support the Center's strategic initiatives, infrastructure and operations.