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Four State Organizations Awarded \$300,000 by Medical College of Wisconsin to Address Health Care Workforce Shortages

MADISON – A unique collaborative of major Wisconsin health organizations has been awarded a \$300,000 three-year Impact Award to address the state's health care labor shortages and related data analysis needs, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced today.

The grant to DWD, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and two other health organizations is being provided by the Medical College of Wisconsin's Healthier Partnership Program. The collaboration was spearheaded by DWD's Select Committee on Health Care Workforce, which is comprised of over 30 top regional and statewide educational, labor, employer and government organizations committed to growing Wisconsin's skilled health care labor force.

"One of Governor Doyle's top priorities is ensuring that we address labor shortages, especially in high-need fields such as health care," DWD Secretary Gassman said. "Our thanks to the Medical College of Wisconsin for funding this excellent collaboration that will enable all of us to better project and address our future health care labor force needs in Wisconsin. Special thanks also to Tim Size, Executive Director of the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, for his leadership on the successful grant application."

"Wisconsin faces shortages in most health care occupations," DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake said. "This funding will help us analyze our workforce and ensure Wisconsin residents continue to have access to health care providers."

Effective health care workforce planning and policy development require ongoing collection and analysis of labor force supply, demand and distribution data. State health care training programs work to determine numbers of prospective students to admit based on future workforce projections. Health care employers and students seek workforce data and labor market projections for business and career planning purposes.

The grant will provide:

- **\$108,000** to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development to expand data collection and analysis of Wisconsin's registered nursing workforce and improve the Department's forecasting tool for nursing shortage projections;
- **\$106,000** to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to analyze the state's public health workforce and ensure continued access to Wisconsin health care providers;
- **\$46,000** to the Wisconsin Center for Nursing to assist in expanded data collection and analysis of the state's nursing workforce; and
- **\$40,000** to the Department of Population Health at the Medical College of Wisconsin to advise on the assessment of the current and projected public health workforce in Wisconsin.

The grant will be administered by the Wisconsin Medical Society in coordination with the Select Committee.

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“The health of Wisconsin’s citizens depends upon an adequate supply of personnel in all health settings,” said Dr. Peter Layde of the Medical College of Wisconsin. “With increasingly limited resources for education and training, effective planning and development is critical to gain needed private and public sector support. To achieve this requires ongoing collection and analysis of health care workforce data. The Medical College of Wisconsin is pleased to contribute to this unique collaborative that will move us in the right direction.”

Leaders of the following organizations are included on the Select Committee’s health care workforce collaborative: Wisconsin Center for Nursing; UW-System; Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development; Wisconsin Nurses Association; Wisconsin Department of Health Services; Center on Wisconsin Strategies; Wisconsin Office of Rural Health and Center for Urban Population Health, School of Medicine and Public Health, UW-Madison; School of Pharmacy, UW-Madison; Wisconsin Primary Healthcare Association; Wisconsin Technical College System; UW-Milwaukee; Medical College of Wisconsin; Wisconsin Health Care Association; Wisconsin Medical Society; Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative; Wisconsin Association of Homes & Services for the Aging; Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin; Wisconsin Area Health Education Centers; Wisconsin Public Health Association; Wisconsin Hospital Association; and Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges & Universities.

This project is funded in part by the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program, a component of the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin endowment at the Medical College of Wisconsin.