***Healthcare Sub-committee Minutes***

November 14, 2023

**Attendees**: Alan Beatty, Fran Kuhn, Sherwood Taylor, Gina DeMaio, Sherwood Taylor, Carol Braff

Sheila Quinn, Dan Kelly, Samuel Wear, Dan Kelly

**Absent**: Curtis Still , Paul McClellan Patti, Laychock Myrna Morales- Keklak,

The meeting was called to order by the Chair Mr. Beatty at 3:00pm.

Mr. Kuhn began the discussion on healthcare needs. Mr. Beaty shared that Shore Medical Center has begun a process to recruitment through immigration. To date they have hired six qualified nurses. They also expect to hire Medial Technologists. He also shared the staffing is adequate with support from agency staff, and lots of double shifts due to shortages from the current staff.

Mr. Kuhn inquired about the medical assistant program. Mr. Taylor is deciding on  having the medical assistance program and hosting the technical portion of the program. He stated any medical care provider can take advantage of their program, but only provider is AtlantiCare.

Ms. Braff discussed communicating with AtlantiCare (Christian Ragland) for an ITA contract with AtlantiCare. The idea is to identify another area for the employer and customer. Mr. Kuhn mentioned patient care tech positions were the priority within previous discussions. Mr. Taylor confirmed that  AtlantiCare is taking CRS’s and moving them into the medical assistance program then back fill the CRS program. He thinks the CRS position is not a position they have problem filling.

Ms. DeMaio confirmed that Shore Medical has been out to the schools providing a presentation for the students. Mr. Beatty partnered with shore physician group . They would like to get them started before  they go to college.

Mr. Kuhn questioned having a grant to fund programs for someone to go to schools and organizations talking about healthcare careers. Mr. Beauty stated it was a DOL grant, several years ago. The individual worked for the Workforce Development focused on healthcare in the community about 10-15 years ago. It was confirmed that it was a Robert Wood Johnson Grant. Mr. Kuhn will do some research on pending grants.

School Internship and pre-apprenticeship was discussed with a weeklong seminar in Atlantic City High. No feedback to date. Mr. Kuhn wants to work on the connection to the junior and seniors. He mentioned the Librarian at the high school as the post of contact.

Mr. Kuhn wants to set up a meeting with the CTE membership in the high schools. Hamilton school district is area that hasn’t been touch. We can focus on vocational and health educational components.

Mr. Kuhn discussed the pursuit of a pre apprenticeship program and the difficulty to connect with a registered apprenticeship. Mr. Taylor explained the challenges and how programs are supposed to connect to an existing pre apprenticeship program.

Mr. Taylor discussed the collaboration of the grant with Gloucester and Atlantic Cape for a grant submission will not take place. He did not have all the elements in place to write a successful grant application.

Mr. Beatty confirmed that they do not work with nursing homes. Mr. Kuhn stated the numbers are down where customer are not requesting training as a CNA.

Mr. Taylor provided Ms. Morales-Keklak program update: RN Program NCLEX pass rate is improving 74 of 77 have completed the exam. Current pass rate 93.24%. NJ Community Colleges Pathways Patient care Year initiative project proposal was received by the Governor’s office. This proposal includes a request for Academic coaching and nursing 1 course . The LPN nursing program update included the following: The program received 26 eligible admission applications with 20 students offered conditional acceptances. Due to financial aid delays 4 students were unable to attend this year and have been offered the opportunity to attend in fall 2024. LPN student will complete their program in August. The health science report is as follows:

**Health Sciences**

* 100% (18) of the June 2023 Shore Medical Center Radiology Program graduates have passed their credentialing exams and are employed in the field.
* Health Science AS degree to Thomas Jefferson’s BSRT (Respiratory Therapy) articulation agreement signing is now scheduled for 11/30.
* Three new Health Sciences courses HESC105 (Intro to Public Health), HESC132 (Basic Pharmacology), and HESC100 (Intro to Health Professions) will be offered in spring 2024.

Mr. Kelly was concerned about the keeping the graduates in the area and not moving to Philadelphia. He stated we can’t compete with the salaries with other positions. We need to improve our area. Mr. Beatty discussed clinical rotations could be a draw and offering fellowships/scholarships opportunities. This could continue to be successful. He was interested in the Jefferson partnership with ACCC.

Ms. Quinn concerned about students moving from RN to BSN program, but Stockton doesn’t have program. She stated they have an accelerated program which is a 15-month program, then be eligible to set for the board program. Stockton accepts all of the credits.

Mr. Kuhn ended to meeting with the pending contract with AtlantiCare is a positive and credited the Job Developers with staying in tune with the efforts.

Motion to adjourn Dan Kelly and seconded by Alan Beatty, meeting concluded at 3:45pm

Submitted By, Sherrise A. Moten, Board Liaison