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## Healthcare Sub Committee Minutes

December 1, 2021

### Attendance:

Sherwood Taylor	Erik Ditizio	Myrna Keklak
Fran F. Kuhn	Dan Kelly	Michael Hall
Paul McClellan	Dr. Sheila Quinn	Lillian Smith

Absent: Philip Guenther      Gina DeMaio

The meeting came to order at 3:03pm.

Fran asked for any corrections to the minutes from the previous meeting. Dr. Quinn stated her name was spelled wrong and Stockton’s nursing program provides a BSN. Fran agreed to make the correction prior to posting to the website. Motioned to accept minutes by Paul M. and seconded by Dr. Quinn.

Fran began with the status of health care job openings. Sherwood Taylor indicated that while there has been discussion to establish a medical assistant program with Shore Medical, that program is not yet in place. There was additional discussion about the possibility of implementing a 600 hour registered apprenticeship program for CNAs. The issue raised by Sherwood was that the hospital did not require certified nursing assistants. Fran reported that we have referred several candidates for Shore Medical Center CNA employment. The candidates are being referred to unit supervisors who do not appear to be interested in the candidate.

Sherwood shared that Atlanticare is developing a program to train unskilled CNA’S or Patient Care Techs to address the staffing needs. Such a program might eliminate the problem Erik is having with referrals to the hospital.

Lillian Smith of Atlanticare reported continuing needs with Mas, lab techs, respiratory therapists and nurses.

Myrna Keklak reported 8 Atlantic Cape students who were accepted to a second year at Mercer County Community College for their Medical Laboratory Technician Class. There is hope that they will complete the course in May of 2022 and be ready. She also reported that Atlantic Cape is the training program for respiratory therapy as Rowan has not yet established its bachelor’s level program.

Sherwood reported that Atlantic Cape has 17 medical assistants starting today (12.10.21). He confirmed that 12 students are through the apprenticeship program and confirmed that they are Atlanticare employees. Sherwood confirmed Cape Maytech is starting an MA program, confirmation as to whether it is student or adult training will be known at the next meeting.

Fran inquired about career exploration with Perkins. Myra confirmed that Perkins requires CTE enrollment.



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Lillian confirmed Atlanticare's preference, to hire from Atlantic Cape's MA training program because their program addresses all of her business's needs for that position.

Sherwood confirmed that Atlantic Cape is working with Egg Harbor Township High School to develop the program for the exploration of health care pre-apprenticeship program. From this training, the students can move to the accelerated medical assistant program and get the students certified as medical assistants within a shorter period. He confirmed 15 students starting today (12.10.21). The projection is that Atlantic Cape will have 45 medical assistants ready and trained within a year. Finally, he mentioned the shortage of qualified instructors for Atlantic Cape.

Myrna confirmed students have been in preparation to continue their education for a BSN. She confirmed 102 students in their last semester. Lillian Smith stated that she is pleased that the associate degree RN has a better opportunity for employment now as she believes that many quality nurses can be developed through the Associate program. Not too long ago, Atlanticare would only accept BSNs. Lillian confirmed Atlanticare pays for continued education and expects associate nurses to pursue their BSN. Myrna Keklak stated that they currently had 224 students enrolled in their nursing program.

Dr. Quinn explained credentialing and referred to a system called Viviant? that models residency programs for specialty nursing. Lillian and Dr. Quinn discussed the specialty nursing training programs as both clinical residencies with added continuing education overseen by a mentor. There was extensive discussion regarding the similarity between a clinical residency with continuing education and a registered apprenticeship program.

Fran stated he would like to recruit someone from U.S. DOL Office of Apprenticeship to come to the next meeting in February to further explore registered apprenticeship possibilities.

Erik questioned Atlanticare COVID guidelines. Lillian responded with exemption information and their current policy. Dr. Quinn also explained Stockton's current policy.

Fran confirmed WDB's concentration on OJT. Working with ACUA for the CDL component and the hospitality, retail and tourism is set at 50% wage reimbursement for up to \$6,000 which is the cap to pay the employer. WDB has accepted anywhere from 50 to 70 percent of those training costs. Erik Ditzio inquired about the benefit to Atlanticare in developing an OJT program for a patient care tech as the online program for education was only eight hours. This possibility will be further explored in the coming weeks.

Fran confirmed that Atlantic County is the only Workforce Development Board that is certified as a sponsor for registered apprenticeship. Therefore, acting as broker to help in development of registered apprenticeship programs locally using WIOA funds.

Erik confirmed 12 referrals to Shore Medical Center, but they were not immediately hired.

Lillian confirmed a need for respiratory therapists, nursing specialties, patient care tech and sterile processing.

Motioned to conclude meeting by Erik D. and second by Myrna at 4:17pm.