

NEWS

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HARI

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CENTER FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONS RECOGNIZED IN STATE STATUTE

Providence, RI – Legislation establishing the Center for Health Professions as the facilitator and coordinator of statewide efforts to meet supply and demand needs of Rhode Island’s health care workforce has been approved by the Rhode Island General Assembly and took effect June 24.

Health care employment continues to increase despite an economic downturn. Further, health care workforce shortages persist with the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (DLT) predicting the health care and social assistance industry sector will add more than 15,000 jobs from 2006-2016. This increase will account for nearly 30 percent of the state’s job growth during this time.

The Center for Health Professions has been established to help ensure an adequate supply of health care professionals to meet patient needs by:

- Serving as a repository for health care workforce supply and demand data
- Providing professional development opportunities and training
- Serving as a resource for health care workers seeking to reenter the workforce
- Providing industry-based nurses with an opportunity to explore the nursing faculty role
- Overseeing the Centralized Clinical Placement Registry to expand nursing students’ opportunities to use skills and classroom applications in health care settings
- Coordinating statewide healthcare workforce initiatives

The Health Partnership Council (HPC) serves as the advisory board for The Center. The HPC, established in 1998 and housed at HARI, provides opportunity for labor, higher education, employers and state agencies to collaborate and strengthen our workforce through retention and recruitment strategies.

“The establishment of The Center for Health Professions in legislation will strengthen its role in building a strong and diverse homegrown workforce through coordination and collaboration with other stakeholders,” stated Ruth E. Ricciarelli, executive director of The Center.

Rhode Island is now one of 33 states that have developed similar centers, which have been successful in leveraging resources to complement existing initiatives and reduce duplicative efforts.

Sponsors of the legislation included Senators Juan Pichardo, Joshua Miller, Harold Metts, Rhoda Perry, and Paul Jabour and Representatives Thomas Slater, Grace Diaz, Anastasia Williams, Joseph Almeida, and Charlene Lima.

Founded over a half century ago, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island is a statewide trade organization that assists member hospitals in effectively meeting the health care needs of Rhode Island, through advocacy, representation, education and services. HARI members work collaboratively to improve the quality of care delivered and address issues threatening access to health care including increasing health costs, workforce shortages and decreasing reimbursement. HARI members work together to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high quality health care.

Established in 1998, the Health Partnership Council (HPC), which operates under the auspices of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island, is a coalition of healthcare providers, labor, healthcare professional organizations, postsecondary institutions, policy makers and other stakeholders. The Center for Health Professions was launched in 2007 by the Health Partnership Council to promote quality healthcare for individuals who live, work and seek care in Rhode Island by advancing workforce development initiatives designed to grow and enhance the state's professional healthcare workforce.