

Health Professions Network – Advocacy Team

Fall Meeting, Louisville
September 22-5, 2005

Advocacy Team Summary
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Team Members:

Barbara Jones, Mattie Tabron, Dan Rode, Bernie Bekken, Deb Stock, Young Song

The Advocacy Team of the Health Professions Network discussed several ways to promote allied health at the federal level and ways to help with the legislative needs of our membership. The team meeting began with a discussion about how best to do federal advocacy and it was decided that the Allied Health Reinvestment Act should be our primary focus for the upcoming 6-months. Congress will not be focused on health care for the end of this session; however there is a window of opportunity from January – March (when appropriations discussions begin) where the allied health community can potentially get the attention of leadership.

From October – December the Advocacy Team will be preparing for a strong, organized grass roots effort to convince congress to examine the Allied Health Reinvestment Act. This will involve preparing tools for advocacy:

- Fact Sheet – the draft fact sheet was distributed during the team meeting and all members voiced approval of the format and content. A few minor changes will be made and then the fact sheets will be printed.
- Talking Points – Dan Rode offered to share the American health Information Management Associations talking points on the AHReAct. These will be distributed to Advocacy and modified appropriately for HPN's use.
- Tips for lobbying and Sample letters will be drafted and made available to HPN members before January
- The possibility of purchasing a Web Tool such as CapWiz will be discussed at the next HPN Coordinating Team meeting.
- A complete network of members, including the name and contact info for the designated lobbyist of each organization.

In January, the tools should be in place and HPN will lead the efforts in encouraging the membership of all member organizations to write to their congressmen and women. In addition to grassroots lobbying, Advocacy will continue its relationship with Carla Luggiero, lobbyist for AHA and will coordinate efforts. In addition, Advocacy will do what we can to assist member organizations in their lobbying efforts.

Other projects for consideration during the 6-month interim:

- Send recommendations for HPN members to join the HRSA Interdisciplinary Community Based Linkages Committee for Allied Health
- Meet with Gina King (DOL) to discuss ways in which HPN can build relationships here
- Draft a letter to the Secretary of the Bureau of Labor Statistics from HPN members to discuss problems with the SOC definitions, and the exclusion of several professions.
- Links to AHECs, Local clinics and the Department of Education

To do list:

- Finalize Fact Sheet – T. Green
- Review Talking Points – D. Rode
- Compile tips for lobbying and sample letters – T. Green, but send me your samples
- Research CapWiz – T. Green (next HPN Coordinating Meeting)
- Distribute survey of member organizations to find key lobbyist - ???
- Send recommendation for HRSA committee - ????
- Meet with Gina King – T. Green
- Draft a letter to BLS - ????
- Invitation letter to next HPN meeting to key members of DHHS - ????