

DIVISION OF HEALTH SCIENCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Division of Health Sciences at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission is seeking nominations of qualified individuals to participate in its Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will provide guidance to the Division on various matters related to its initiatives.

About the Division of Health Sciences

The Division of Health Sciences leads by leveraging expertise, fostering collaboration, and supporting innovation to improve the health of West Virginians, particularly rural and underserved populations. Our initiatives are designed to grow and strengthen the healthcare workforce of the future through promoting equitable access to and support of health and behavioral health sciences education, research, practice, and policy. The Division coordinates programs, policies and collaborative activities among the state's health sciences degree granting institutions and other stakeholders. The Division oversees the Rural Health Initiative, a statewide program directed at improving the recruitment and retention of healthcare providers to underserved areas of the state. In addition, the Division administers loan repayment and scholarship programs which offer a recruitment incentive to West Virginia students in health professions programs in exchange for a commitment to practice in an underserved area of the state. The Division also regularly provides information on health sciences education, research and workforce development to the Legislature and other state agencies. Additional areas of special interest for the division are behavioral health, integrated care, practice-based research, and nursing workforce.

Purpose of the Advisory Committee

The Division seeks to assemble a diverse and dynamic group of individuals to provide advice and creative insight into increasing the impact of the activities of the Division of Health Sciences. Members of the Advisory Committee will:

1. Act as an advisory group for discussion and review of both ongoing and proposed Division initiatives.
2. Expand the knowledge base of the Division, particularly in the areas of access to health and behavioral health care and the needs of underserved communities in West Virginia.
3. Serve as "ambassadors" for the work of the Division of Health Sciences.
4. Participate in division initiatives as reviewers and experts.

Composition

Membership will include up to 20 members, each serving three-year terms on a staggered basis. The Division is particularly interested in recruiting membership interested in primary care, behavioral health, and access to care in underserved areas, but also seeks to assemble members from across different professional sectors. Ideally, the Advisory Committee membership will reflect (but not be limited to) many of the following constituency groups:

1. Community members interested in the health education process and improving recruitment and retention of healthcare providers to their communities
2. Higher Education System (both public and private)
 - a. WV's three medical schools
 - b. Four-year colleges offering mid-level health professions degrees
 - c. Four-year colleges offering undergraduate health professions degrees
 - d. Community and Technical College System institutions offering health professions degrees
 - e. Career and Technical Education System institutions offering health professions programs
3. Healthcare System (providers, administrators, or other staff)
 - a. Primary care
 - b. Hospitals
 - c. Long-term care
 - d. Behavioral health care
 - e. Hospice, palliative, and home care
 - f. Substance use disorder treatment
 - g. Public health
4. Community Focused Agencies
 - a. Extension services
 - b. Libraries
 - c. Community-based nonprofits
 - d. Faith community
 - e. Law enforcement
 - f. Local school systems
 - g. Senior centers
 - h. Other individuals whose work and interest aligns with healthcare and workforce development at the community level
5. Affiliated Stakeholders
 - a. Representatives of other state agencies
 - b. Healthcare, community, and workforce development focused nonprofits
 - c. Health, community development, and workforce policy, program and compliance experts

Advisory Member Responsibilities

1. Make a good faith effort to attend the three meetings each year in person or virtually.
2. Commit to providing advice and counsel to the Division of Health Sciences, both during regular meetings and at the specific request of the Division.
3. Serve on at least one subcommittee per term to, for example, develop or review whitepapers around specific topics, review grant applications, participate in selection of loan repayment/scholarship recipients, and other initiatives as needed.

Time Commitment

Three meetings will be held annually (April, September, January). Meeting locations rotate and include locations such as healthcare facilities and education institutions to expose Advisory Committee members to different offerings across the state. Virtual meetings will be used as needed. Meetings are typically scheduled virtually for 1.5 to 2 hours, or in person for 3 to 3.5 hours. Meeting materials are sent out in advance and will typically require 1 hour of review prior to each meeting. Service on subcommittee time commitments vary based on the scope of work and may range from reviewing 3-4 small grant opportunities per year to participation in ongoing workgroups and creation of products from the workgroups.

The Division is only able to reimburse travel expenses related to attending the meetings for members appointed under the community member category.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted until October 18th. The Division will accept both nominations and applications to the Advisory Committee. Individuals interested in nominating someone should use the attached nomination form and submit it to the Division using the contact information listed below. Once the nomination is received, the Division will provide the nominee with application materials.

To apply, please complete the application form attached to this document and email it no later than October 18th at 5pm to Cynthia Persily PhD, Senior Director of Health Sciences at cynthia.persily@wvhepc.edu.