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Affiliation, if applicable

Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association

Topic

Other

Comment

The Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association (VNPA) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the Health Care Workforce Development Strategic Plan. VNPA's mission is to promote the value and support the efforts of Vermont nurse practitioners in providing accessible, high quality health care and to engage nurse practitioners to actively participate in health policy and policy making.

VNPA recognizes the work of the advisory group in developing the recommendations included in the report and the acknowledgement that the plan will rely on coordination to implement solutions across a broad array of stakeholders.

VNPA generally supports many of the recommendations included in the report and respectfully submits that the report reflect the role that the University of Vermont College of Nursing and Health Sciences plays in educating the primary care workforce through its Doctor of Nursing Practice. Designed for registered nurses with a bachelor's degree or higher in nursing or another field, the program prepares graduates to provide primary care as advanced practice registered nurses in two tracks: adult gerontology nurse practitioner (AGNP), or family nurse practitioner (FNP).

VNPA recommends that the paragraph below be updated to reflect UVM's DNP program:

(Page 15) Strengthen incentives for preceptors for all professions. The University of Vermont College of Medicine and College of Nursing and Health Sciences, in collaboration with primary care providers, shall identify and implement appropriate incentives for preceptors such as payments for teaching, access to training and career advancement, faculty appointments, or a preceptor income tax exemption (referenced earlier in the report).

Additionally, in the Section Summary: Education and Training (found on page 16), the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences should be added to the list of entities that would need to act, particularly for the following recommendations:

- 1) Strengthen incentives for preceptors for all professions
- 2) Explore opportunities to expand primary care practice residency programs

Any funding/tuition reimbursement should include Critical Access hospitals and employees of FQHC's. Some programs that AHEC administers today exclude both types of entities, and by extension a large number of potential covered providers.

Finally, it is worth noting that the faculty shortage noted on page 13 of the report also impacts the APRN

community. A lack of APRN preceptors creates barriers to increasing enrollment and places a greater burden on the existing preceptors to take on more students.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.