

## Over 100 WI Health Care Leaders Unite to Plan for Tomorrow's Health Care Workforce

*WCMEW Hosts Statewide Health Workforce Summit*

*Press Release dated September 28, 2017*

**Wisconsin Dells** – The Wisconsin Council on Medical Education & Workforce (WCMEW) organized a statewide summit tackling health workforce issues on September 27. Over 100 stakeholders, including medical education directors, HR administrators, private sector collaborators, state policymakers, and health system leadership converged to address health workforce issues from a comprehensive, collaborative perspective.

Dr. Chuck Shabino, WCMEW Chair, and George Quinn, Executive Director, kicked off the meeting by emphasizing the need to prepare now for future workforce demands and outlined WCMEW's role in that effort. During the panel discussion, *Public Policy That Bolsters Our Workforce*, moderated by Kyle O'Brien of the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA), Robert Van Meeteren, CEO, Reedsburg Area Medical Center, encouraged system leadership to put competition aside, and instead focus on building up the health care industry cooperatively. He suggested that direct interaction and trust-building with legislators is key to making policy.

In his presentation *Designing and Implementing Workforce Models for the Future*, Pete Sanderson of Ascension Health suggested that it is dangerous to make predictions, emphasizing the need to create our own futures, including decreasing the reliance on brick and mortar settings, increasing care in the home, and accelerating training reforms like Inter-Professional Education. Afternoon keynote Jim Wood of Competitive Wisconsin presenting *Be Bold III: Wisconsin Healthcare Workforce*, urged both employers and educators to focus on systemic changes, not just isolated programs that fail to create enduring reform to pipeline and practice issues.

Nancy Nankivil of the American Medical Association commented that physicians consistently report feeling a low level of autonomy, presenting a risk factor for patient care – also exacerbating workforce issues. During the panel discussion *Preparing Health Care Professionals for a Changing Delivery Landscape*, Dr. Marylyn Frenn, Marquette University, added that students can't be educated in towers and then expected to work in teams. Dr. Jose Franco, Medical College of WI, insisted that "we must change the paradigms on education that are over 80 years old." The final panel of the day focused on community leadership and partnership, where Charisse Oland, CEO, Rusk County Memorial Hospital, made a case for creativity, citing her efforts in filling clinician shortages by overcoming regulatory and cultural barriers, plus highlighting the strengths of our state's rural communities.

Event materials, including videos and presentations, will be available on WCMEW's [website](http://www.wcmew.org), along with WCMEW's 2016 health workforce [report](#). WCMEW is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization whose purpose is to facilitate strategies to assure an adequate supply of health care providers to meet the needs of Wisconsin citizens today and in the future.

Contact WCMEW Executive Director, George Quinn, [gquinn@wcmew.org](mailto:gquinn@wcmew.org) or 608-516-5189 with media inquiries.

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*Gina Dennik Champion (Executive Director, Wisconsin Nurses Association), Rep. Mike Rohrkaste (Former VP of Human Resources, Oshkosh Truck), Ted Neitzke, (Agency Administrator/CEO, CESA 6), and Charisse Oland (CEO, Rusk County Memorial Hospital) discuss community engagement for health care systems. Photo courtesy of Studio Sweers.*