

Executive Summary of Presentations by Presidents of Allied Health Association
May 7, 2008

The Executive summary aim is provide a concise overview of the presentations by Presidents of Allied Health Associations on May 7, 2008 during the Council for Allied Health in North Carolina (CAHNC) Annual Meeting.

Karen Lukin, Chair, CAHNC, provided opening remarks and guidelines for presentations. Wayne Foster, Executive Board Member, CAHNC, began the presentations by providing the history and background of the council.

The presentations provided an overview of each association (to include background), education, and employment and legislative issues. This information was gathered through a knowledge-sharing exercise. The following representatives of the listed associations provided presentations:

Mike Borden, Executive Director, NC Academy of Physician Assistants
Carol Siebert, President, NC Occupational Therapy Association
Dee Dailey, President, NC Physical Therapy Association
Lisa McDonald, President, NC Speech, Hearing and Language Association
Linda Braddy, President, NC Association of Blood Bankers
Betsy Hardin, President, NC Dental Hygiene Association
Robert Lockamy, President, NC State Assembly of Surgical Technologists
Carroll Wood, Immediate Past President, NC State Society of American Medical Technologists
Laura Pait, President, NC Health Information Management Association
Karen Sullivan, President, NC Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Bill Kiger, President, NC Society for Respiratory Care
Charyl Allison, President, NC Dental Assistant Association
Patty Henry, President, NC Society of Medical Assistants
Wendy Barnhardt, Vice-President, Ultrasound Society
Jane Overran, President, NC Association of Deans & Chairs of Allied Health Sciences in Community Colleges
Ralph Maxwell, American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians
Uma Sakhare, President-Elect, NC Society for Radiologic Technologists
Allen Rinas, President, NC Society of Cytology
Kim Harrer, President-Elect, Music Therapy Association of North Carolina
Martha Dyer, President, Art Therapy Association of North Carolina
Carl Sipe, President, NC Recreational Therapy Association
Nancy Easterling, American Horticultural Therapy Association

Some key common themes that evolved from the presentations were:

- Struggle to recruit and retain a quality workforce – Employers struggle to recruit, retain and promote a skilled workforce. At all levels, employers are having a

difficult times attracting workers with the appropriate skill set. There are shortages in many allied health professions as a result of the aging workforce and salaries.

- Regulatory and Oversight Inconsistency – Out-of –date standards do not reflect modern day care delivery. Reimbursement continues to decrease. A number of the associations had some type of legislation going through the general assembly.
- A widening gap between education and needs of industry – Some of the reasons identified are: the ability to attract qualified students for rigorous programs, transforming to graduate level programs, and lack of training programs in certain disciplines/areas. Having appropriate curriculums at all levels of education is critical.

From the presentations, it is evident that our state is confronted by an increasingly complex array of issues as it relates to allied health and creating a well-prepared workforce. The council respects the specific scope of each discipline and is committed to working collaboratively to create a well-prepared workforce for the state. Over the years, a community of collaboration has evolved through the work of the council. Through these presentations, it has been reaffirmed that there is an ever-pressing need for continued collaboration through the council.