

Physician Recruitment and Retention Working Group

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 | 7:30-8:30am

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Anton Alerte, Anton Alerte, Steven Angus, Emily Byrne, Katie Cullinan, Steven Huot, Andrew Lim, Liz Mahan, Traci Marquis-Eydman, Krishnan Narasimhan, Rémy Sirken.

Members absent: Khuram Ghumman, Mariam Hakim-Zargar, Amy Kohn, Liz Mahan.

Introduction

- Krishnan Narasimhan called the meeting to order at 7:32am.
- Jill Banatoski motioned to approve the August meeting minutes; Traci Marquis-Eydman seconded. The meeting minutes passed without discussion.
- Krishnan walked through the schedule of remaining months of the working group timeline.
- Krishnan asked members to think about whether they would want to hold an in-person meeting.

Presentation and Discussion: The Current Policy Environment in Connecticut

- Emily Byrne introduced Kate Robinson, of Gallo & Robinson, LLC, who presented on the Connecticut legislative process. Kate spoke about the leaders in CT state government, the structure of legislative committees, how a bill becomes a law, and the state budgetary context.
- Kate emphasized the tension between the projected budgetary surplus and Connecticut's fiscal guardrails.
- Anton asked about what would qualify as an emergency to access the rainy-day fund. Kate explained that the Governor must declare an emergency, and 3/5s of each chamber must affirm this emergency. Bill Petit also brought up the importance of paying down the pension debts, as not to saddle future generations with long-term debt obligations.

Discussion of Recommendations To Date

- Krishnan framed the conversation on draft recommendations, and how the group wants to approach the report.

- Margaret Gradie shared five buckets of recommendations:
 - Develop a proactive, comprehensive, statewide healthcare workforce recruitment and retention plan
 - Improve the practice environment in Connecticut to support retention of primary care physicians
 - Create a rural-specific workforce program
 - Recruit 400 new primary care physicians by 2030
 - Study why physicians who complete their residency in Connecticut decide to leave the state and practice elsewhere
- Between now and the next session, Krishnan asked members to send their recommendations to Melia and Margaret.
- Kate Robinson let the group know that there are ways the group can advocate for their recommendations during legislative session.
- The group discussed balancing recommendations with a fiscal note, with making a meaningful policy change that could impact recruitment and retention.

Closing

- The meeting closed at 8:37am.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2025, at 7:30am.