

## MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee  
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services  
From: Hugh H Tilson, Jr, JD, MPH, Director, NC AHEC  
Date: August 29, 2024  
Subj: Report on Progress - SECTION 8.4.(b) of SL 2023-134

This memorandum serves as the Report required in SECTION 8.4.(b) of SL 2023-134 hereafter referred to as the Preceptor Study. SECTION 8.4.(b) envisions a final report. We are continuing the work and anticipate submission of a final report in January 2025.

We are grateful for the General Assembly's commitment to the education of our future healthcare workforce and to entrusting NC AHEC with studying the current challenges, opportunities, and best practices around precepting for medical students, nursing students, Physician's Assistant students, and prelicensure nursing students.

After seeking external partners and consultants to conduct this study, we decided in March to conduct the preceptor study with mostly resources internal to AHEC. Since then, we have made steady progress. We have hired 2 part-time and 1 full-time temporary staff to help conduct the study. We have established and met three times with our Practice Advisory Committee and twice with our Scientific Advisory Committee to engage the partners as specified in the legislation and other expertise as needed. These meetings have provided tremendous value as we seek to conduct the study and answer the questions posed by the General Assembly. We plan to have one more meeting with the Practice Advisory Committee (October) and two with the Scientific Advisory Committee (September and November).

We have completed a review of the research literature on precepting and reviewed all state legislation on precepting as well as collected and reviewed the reports/evaluations of those legislative efforts.

We plan to address the study questions with 4 closely related efforts.

- 1) We will conduct a key informant interview of national experts and experts from nearby states (estimate 10-20 interviews) to identify and describe best innovative and effective practices to address preceptor shortages. We have finalized an interview guide and have identified 6 experts so far. We plan to start the interviews in September and finish in October.
- 2) We will conduct an electronic survey of schools to assess current approaches to identifying, engaging, evaluating, and financing clinical training sites. We have identified rotation coordinators and emails at schools of medicine, NP programs, PA programs, and 4 year schools of nursing. We will make use of a listserv for clinical program coordinators at our community college nursing programs to distribute the survey to those programs. The survey is in a well-developed draft form and will be distributed in late September and closed by the end of October.
- 3) We will conduct a survey of primary care practices using a list of practices developed by the Sheps Center on Health Services Research early in the Covid 19 pandemic known as NC Responds. The list includes over 4800 primary care practices and includes email addresses for

about 1/4 of the practices. The survey is finalized and will be distributed in late September and closed by the end of October. This survey will help us understand the number and percent of practices currently precepting as well as the barriers and facilitators of precepting.

- 4) We will conduct a survey of known preceptors in nursing, medicine (Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, and ObGyn), nurse practitioner students, and PA students. The survey is in draft form. We will ask our state membership associations to distribute this survey to 10 members each (70 total in North Carolina) and ask them to ask their colleague chapters in VA, SC, TN, and GA to do the same. This study will help us understand the impact on efficiency and finances of a practice when they choose to precept.

We are nearly complete in the design of our data collection tools and will be in the field collecting data by the end of September. We will complete data collection in October and conduct analysis and reported writing in November and December to file a final report with the General Assembly by January 2025.

Thank you, again, for your commitment to the education of future healthcare workforce and for the opportunity to conduct this study to help advance that education.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

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