



FOCUS GROUP OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 139 (Chapter 522, Statutes of 2007), directs the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) to develop the California Healthcare Workforce Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse). The Clearinghouse will collect health workforce and educational data in California. Data collection includes supply, demand, geographical distribution and diversity of health workers by occupation, and education capacity. Statutory data host providers include the California Employment Development Department Labor Market Information Division, state health licensing boards, and state education systems: California Community Colleges, California State University and University of California.

OSHPD is convening six regional focus group sessions from April through July 2008 (cities of Los Angeles, Fresno, Redding, Oakland, Sacramento and Rancho Cucamonga). Each focus group will accommodate 30 to 35 stakeholder participants. Overall, focus group participants will represent the following constituencies: health industry employers, education, advocacy, health licensing, consumers, government, economic and workforce development, professional association membership, funding, labor and other community based entities.

OSHPD created a 35-member an Advisory Team to assist in coordination efforts to develop a user-friendly and functional Clearinghouse. The Advisory Team includes the statutory data host providers and representatives of the aforementioned constituencies. The Advisory Team will meet three times in 2008: March 6, May 22, and September 25.

PURPOSE OF FOCUS GROUPS

The intent of the focus groups is to elicit information that helps OSHPD build a user-friendly, comprehensive and integrated data warehouse infrastructure that meets customer and data hosts expectations and needs, as it relates to criteria outlined in the statute. Additionally, the focus groups will:

- Identify and inform potential users of the Clearinghouse,
- Form potential partnerships to facilitate data collection/distribution activities, and
- Assist in addressing systemic issues associated with collecting fragmented health workforce and education data, where feasible.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

OSHPD staff will record information provided by focus group participants. Each focus group will discuss the following information:

- Available statutory data collection efforts
- Potential use of collected data
- Suggested distribution mechanisms
- Trends
- Potential data challenges
- Data summaries and reporting formats
- Issues in data retrieval
- Data sharing
- Partnership linkages
- Data validation
- Specific data needs
- Timetables
- Clearinghouse benefits

FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

OSHPD plans to present a compilation of focus group results to the Clearinghouse Advisory Team and focus group participants upon completion.