Forum Tackles NW GME Challenges

On October 29 in Chippewa Falls, WRPRAP and WCRGME staff joined with the Wisconsin Hospital Association, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative and MCW Affiliated Hospitals at a forum for leaders of stakeholder organizations to consider GME challenges in Northwest Wisconsin and ways to address them. The forum was sponsored by the Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce (WCMEW) for the purpose of exploring with chief decision-makers from health care organizations and academic institutions the feasibility of developing GME training opportunities and leveraging new resources in that area.

A thoughtful discussion was led by WCMEW Chair and WHA Medical Director Chuck Shabino, MD; George Quinn, WCMEW Executive Director; and Ken Simons, MD, Senior Associate Dean for GME and Executive Director, MCW Affiliated Hospitals. After a brief review of current resources, discussion surfaced a host of familiar issues for Northwest Wisconsin (funding; faculty recruitment, development, retention, support; resident recruitment; academic/sponsoring institution, accreditation). Participants also offered ideas for potential solutions. More importantly, conversation led to consensus that this group should pursue next steps to determine whether any form of joint effort would be feasible and productive.

Among the steps agreed to were to:

- Conduct initial research into faculty development resources which will be translated into a draft options paper (WCMEW, DHS…)
- Conduct initial research to identify models of regional GME consortia, also resulting in a draft options paper (WCMEW, DHS…)
- Explore opportunities to use existing funds to address known challenges (WRPRAP, DHS)
- Meet again in a few months to consider the implications of the research

At this exploratory stage, there are no presumptions about the ultimate outcome of this meeting, but it is one more instance of leading health care providers and educators recognizing that the quality of and access to health care for rural and underserved populations depends on concrete engagement now. The attraction to collaborative action despite considerable barriers is growing.

Family Medicine Program Directors to Reconvene

WRPRAP is planning a gathering of Family Medicine Program Directors for late January of 2015 at the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative in Sauk City. This meeting is follow-up to a similar event February 17, 2014 in Madison at which directors from around the state had a rare opportunity to meet in person around issues specific to their residency leadership roles and consider how the rapid changes in GME will impact the status and direction of their programs. At this year’s meeting, the intended focus will be educational training capacity, faculty development and funding for same. A date will be confirmed shortly when Mother Nature agrees to treat us better than last year!
Activities Update for GMEC
Kara Traxler (WCRGME) and Wilda Nilsestuen (WRPRAP) have been invited to present an overview of current and cumulative activities of their respective organizations to the November videoconference meeting of the UW GMEC committee. Such occasions are regarded as real opportunities to make increasing audiences aware of the excellent resources WRPRAP and WCRGME can provide individually or in tandem to both existing and prospective GME providers in rural communities.

WRPRAP Welcomes New Program Associate
We are delighted to welcome Kim Bruksch to the WRPRAP team! Kim currently works part time as medical program assistant at the Waisman Center on campus. She brings a variety of interests and a variety of skills to this position including mastery of a range of administrative tasks acquired in different settings. She has a BA in English from the University of Colorado-Boulder and a teaching certificate from the University of Denver. She has taught fifth graders with special needs in classrooms with multiple languages in high-risk neighborhoods.

Kim also has an active volunteer life and a taste for international travel and outdoor adventure – from farm work to ski mountaineering to backpacking to rock climbing. Since she moved to Madison two years ago, she has created and managed a rock-climbing program for youth with disabilities. She begins her adventure with WRPRAP on November 21st and we look forward to getting to know her and benefiting from her talents.

WRPRAP Grant Applications
We remind you that applications for grants are accepted on a rolling basis – until April 1, 2015. At that point, we can no longer accept current fiscal year applications in order to ensure that there will be sufficient time to process FY2015 requests. We encourage you to plan for submissions to support your GME development ideas well before the April 1st deadline when WRPRAP resources are most likely available.

Team-Based Care Learning Opportunity
On November 12th WCMEW provided a unique learning opportunity for medical professionals across multiple disciplines. The event at the Wisconsin Dells showcased a dozen health care teams from across Wisconsin who demonstrated the patient-centered team-based work in which they participate. Keynoted by Dr. Maureen Smith, professor in departments of population health sciences, family medicine and surgery at UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, and by Dr. Andy Anderson, senior VP of academic affairs for Aurora Health Care, president of Aurora UW Medical Group and associate dean of Milwaukee campus of UW SMPH, the agenda allowed for exploration of the increasing role of teams in population health and the cultures that predict successful teams. Interactions with panels and other participants representing disciplines as diverse as a hospitalist program in a critical access hospital, geriatrics clinic, mental health services, palliative care, ambulatory pharmacy department and more provided a comprehensive look at the many ways and many settings in which teams will alter the way we work.
MEAC a Resounding Success!
In early October, thirty-one Medical Education Administrators and Coordinators (MEAC) from around the state convened in Wisconsin Rapids to receive training, share best practices and network. WCRGME coordinated the event with a goal to bring together those who work with medical students and residents; and to include those who are employed at both the academic programs and the community sites which host their learners. It was anticipated that the conference would help each group better understand the other’s roles, responsibilities, and accreditation rules.

One of the highest evaluated segments was the question and answer time with Paul Stevens, 4th Year Medical Student, UW School of Medicine & Public Health and Rachel Hartline, MD, PGY-3, Resident, UW Department of Family Medicine - Baraboo Residency Program. Coordinators heard first hand why these learners chose the field of medicine and who inspired them along the way. They learned about the application, recruiting, orientation, and scheduling process. They discovered how the resident and medical student handle being under constant supervision and evaluation mode. “What do you look forward to after completing this stage of your education?” was another question fielded by the panel. The attendees found it helpful to hear the learners’ perspectives on medical training first-hand.

Another highlight occurred during the planning process when it was suggested that this become a regular event coordinated by administrators and coordinators statewide. This led to a professional development round table at the conference where attendees were asked about their current professional development opportunities and what they would like to see in the future. Suggestions for planning, meeting, and location logistics were solicited along with topic and speaker recommendations. As a result, bi-yearly meetings are being planned with the next meeting being scheduled for July of 2015.

A Big Thanks to these WCRGME members who were part of the planning committee and presented at MEAC! Tania Anderson (Divine Savior Healthcare), Carrie Ballweg (WCRGME), Jennifer Crubel (WCRGME), Kim Goffard (UW DFM - Fox Valley), Michelle Grossch (UW DFM - Madison), Lori Rodefeld (Monroe Clinic), Kara Traxler (WCRGME), and Angie Womble (UW DFM – Baraboo)
In Their Words.....What Makes a Great Rotation Site

At a recent Rural GME Coordinators Roundtable meeting, Rachel Hartline and Rebecca Pfaff, PGY3 residents of the Baraboo RTT Family Medicine Residency, shared with the group their thoughts about what makes a great rotation.

What makes a great training site?
- The opportunity to become immersed in the culture of the rural area
- Exposure to a comprehensive atmosphere
- Feeling welcomed in a new hospital
- Knowing the expectations of the rotation site
- Knowing when, where, and who to meet upon arrival

What makes a great preceptor at an elective site?
- Lets you have hands-on experiences rather than just watching
- Someone who wants to teach and takes the time to “tell me what you’re thinking”
- Specialists who are supportive of Family Medicine

How should feedback be given?
- Feedback with a conversation is more helpful than a checklist
- Have student-learner begin the dialogue and ask how things went and how it can be improved

“The best rural rotation is one where you are welcomed, engaged, and your horizons, knowledge base, and skills are expanded.” Rachel Hartline, MD, Baraboo RTT PGY3 resident