

POLICIES AND PRIORITIES FOR HEALTH-RELATED PROGRAMS

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: On June 3, 2003, the Illinois Board of Higher Education appointed the Committee to Review Health Professions Education Programs. This Committee held two meetings, conducted a public hearing, and solicited additional input from both the higher education community and health program professionals. This report offers the Committee's findings and recommendations.

The Committee was asked to conclude its work prior to the end of the year, and thus established an aggressive schedule to advance its work. The schedule assumes that any adjustments recommended to the Health Services Education Grants Act program that do not require statutory changes can be implemented in fiscal year 2004. The schedule assumes that in tandem with Board approval of such recommendations, proposed revisions to the administrative rules will be filed with the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules as necessary to allow for immediate implementation.

The Committee held two meetings, conducted a public hearing, and solicited additional input from the higher education community as well as health program professionals through the Board's website. The Committee's findings and recommendations are offered in this report. All materials concerning the Committee's deliberations and the input it received are available on the Board's website (www.ibhe.org).

Action Requested: That the Board receive the Report of the Committee to Review Health Professions Education Programs; direct the staff to distribute the report and invite commentary for the Committee's consideration from representatives from Illinois colleges and universities, students, faculty, and other interested persons; ask the Committee to report back to the Board at the October 2003 meeting. The Committee is asked to direct staff to proceed with amendments to the Administrative Rules in order to meet the calendar set forth by the Committee and to effect fiscal year 2004 grant rates.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

POLICIES AND PRIORITIES FOR HEALTH-RELATED PROGRAMS

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education appointed the Committee to Review Health Professions Education Programs on June 3, 2003. The Committee held two meetings, conducted a public hearing, and solicited additional input from the higher education community as well as health program professionals through the Board's website. The Committee's findings and recommendations are offered in this report. All materials concerning the Committee's deliberations and the input it received are available on the Board's website (www.ibhe.org).

The Committee concluded that, overall, the policies currently in place are adequate and should be maintained. The priorities and guidelines, however, require adjustment to reflect current statewide needs in the health professions. Adjustments to these policies will necessitate changes to the programs currently supported under the Health Services Education Grants Act (HSEGA) program, ensuring that state resources are targeted to those areas of highest need. The Board is vested with the responsibility to ensure that these funds are used most effectively in meeting the state's needs, and therefore the Committee recommends that health professions programs needs be reviewed every four years to ensure that state resources are used most effectively on the basis of available supply and demand data for health occupations. In addition, the Committee recommends new grant categories to address emerging needs for doctoral programs in nursing and physical therapy. To supplement those accountability measures currently in place, the Committee recommends an annual expenditure report from recipients of HSEGA grants and reports on persistence, degree completion, and job placement of graduates from health-related programs. The Committee also encourages moving toward basing HSEGA awards on degrees granted, rather than enrollments, only after further study is conducted to determine the effect this change would have on institutions and student persistence.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby accepts this draft report of the Committee to Review Health Professions Education Programs and directs the staff to distribute the draft report through the website to representatives from Illinois colleges and universities, students, faculty, and other interested persons for the purpose of inviting commentary about the report and recommendations for consideration by the Committee. The Committee may make revisions to the report, if appropriate, and report back to the Board at the October 2003 meeting. The Committee is asked to direct staff to proceed with amendments to the Administrative Rules in order to meet the calendar set forth by the Committee and to effect fiscal year 2004 grant rates.

