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Jack Rustico, Director of Programs
Community Health Center Association of Connecticut

CT State Loan Repayment Program (CSLRP)

The CSLRP program when it was in our office at any point in time had between 8-14 "loan repayers" scattered throughout the health centers. In most cases the number was between 10 and 12 and they were pretty evenly divided between MDs, Dentists and Nurse Practitioners/Physician Assistants. In the time towards the end of the program the RN's became eligible and a few of the loan repayers were RN's. We never had any Mental Health Loan Repayers to my knowledge because at that time only the Charter Oak service area (South End of Hartford) in all of CT had the designation to present Mental Health Clinicians for the program.

The contracts were for a maximum of \$45,000 (\$20,000 in year one and \$25,000 year two) and probably 70-75% of the participants received the maximum level of funding based on approved school debt. If the person signed on for years three and four, they could receive an additional \$30,000 per year; therefore a four year commitment for the maximum level of funding was \$105,000. The four year commitment, maximum contract recipient was not common in the program and approximately 15 or 20% of all participants that we dealt with fell into that category. On a related note, somewhere near 40% of all year one/two participants signed on for a year three/four contract and that was generally considered a disappointment for the health centers because the program is intended to allow good providers to stay at health centers for longer than two years to create stability in staffing.

The last thing that was always an issue with DPH was whether or not any of the loan repayers left employment with the health center before the end of a contract because they (the loan repayer not the health center) had pretty significant penalties to pay. I can't remember any cases where loan repayers left the contract early and had to pay the penalty although in a few cases loan repayers moved from one health center to another and they were able to complete the contract in the new health center although it did leave some bad feelings when it happened.

Urban Service Track

In terms of the Urban Service Track (UST) project through UCONN, the two largest collaborations between CHCACT and the Urban Service Track have been on creating and conducting a curriculum survey through current health center clinical employees and assisting the students at the NACHC event this Spring to participate in legislative visits on Capitol Hill.

The curriculum survey was created throughout the first half of 2007 and Lisa Rau at the time was our main representative. The goal of the project was to get input from health center clinical staff across Connecticut on the types of courses and clinical experiences Nursing, Medical and Dental students would need if they were to pursue a career in a health center or public health clinical setting. The CHCACT Clinical Issues Committee took on the project and the health centers completed an on-line survey in the Spring,

2007. In June, 2007 at the Institute of Community Research (ICR) Annual Conference in Hartford, I was on a panel with Petra Clark-Dufner from the UST Project and Devra Dang from the UCONN Pharmacy School to share the survey and project results on what clinicians in Connecticut felt was important learning opportunities for clinical students.

In the 2007-08 school year CHCACT also participated as a member of the UST Advisory Committee which met two times during the academic year and also by virtue of our membership on the AHEC Advisory Committee we also have a second opportunity to contribute input on the project. For the Washington, DC, legislative visit component in March, 2008, the students were assigned in small teams to shadow various administrators from health centers on legislative visits to Capitol Hill

The AHEC Advisory group has met three times since August of 2007 and is set to meet again in July, 2008 when I will attend along with E. Barnum and most likely part of the meeting will be dedicated to explaining the 2008-09 plans for the UST project and students. If a more definitive update on plans for the 2008-09 school year before the July AHEC meeting is needed, we can contact Petra and ask her if she can send something along to us through email.