

**Work Group:** Health and Human Services (Health)  
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**Goal 1, Objective A: Establish a UC Merced medical school within 10 years.**

*Action: Work with UC Merced to identify and engage key leaders to champion effort.*

**Description of Quarter's Activity/Impact on Partnership**

- In January 2009, consultants with the Washington Advisory Group (WAG), who were retained by UC Merced, submitted a final report to Chancellor Steve Kang after reviewing background materials and meeting with numerous individuals on campus, at sister campuses, at the UC Office of the President, representatives from potential clinical affiliates in the San Joaquin Valley (Valley), academic planning partners at UC Davis and UCSF Fresno and leaders of Valley Coalition for UC Merced Medical School.
- The principal recommendation contained in the report suggests planning for a fully independent medical school in three stages:
  1. Establish an undergraduate program in biomedical education to attract exceptional students to pursue a BS degree that emphasizes the health needs of the Valley and prepares students for advanced study in all of the health sciences, medicine included.
  2. Start as a "branch campus" in conjunction with the UC Davis School of Medicine as early as 2012 provided key milestones are met (e.g., 16-24 students would be admitted into a UC Merced-specific program of medical study with learning experiences on the Davis campus and at UC Merced and in the Valley).
  3. Establish a fully independent UC Merced medical school after having functioned as a successful branch campus after a period of time and seek Regent approval when the economy is more favorable, ideally no later than 2020.
- In early February 2009, the simultaneous development of phases one and two as recommended by WAG was encouraged by UC President Mark Yudof.
- Valley Coalition for UC Merced Medical School and California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley expressed support for the WAG report's phased approach to establishing a medical school, and passed resolutions in support of an expedited time line whereby the independently accredited UC Merced medical school is established by 2015.

**Planned Activities for the next 3-6 months**

**Next Steps**

- Valley Coalition for UC Merced Medical School, whose leadership consists of several Partnership board members, will initiate an outreach campaign in spring 2009 designed to educate and develop support among Valley community members (at a grassroots level) about the need for a UC Merced medical school in the Valley and engage them in the planning process.
- Continue advocacy and fundraising activities
- Planning – driven by faculty – will continue at UC Merced in collaboration with academic partners primarily at UC Davis and UCSF Fresno and with the UC Office of the President.

**Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback**

- Securing state funding to help establish the planned medical school at a time when California is experiencing a deficit more than \$40 billion continues to be a challenge.

## **Goal 1, Objective B: Establish Central Valley Nursing Education Consortium**

### **Description of Quarter's Activity**

- The San Joaquin Valley Nursing Education Consortium was not funded in 2009 so, at this time, there will be no further activity.

## **Goal 2, Objective A: Provide incentives for difficult-to-recruit health and medical professionals.**

*Action: Develop regionwide strategic plan for enterprise zones and financial incentives (Health Enterprise Zone project).*

- Refer to Health Enterprise Zone Interim Report

## **Goal 2, Objective B: Enhance public health capabilities**

### **Description of Quarter's Activity/Impact on Partnership**

- Data collection in the eight-county region that includes assessment and development of products specific to epidemiology resources and staff time, as well as a regional template for reporting (data matrix) is done.
- Presentation of the data matrix was reported to the Public Health Partnership in April 2009.

#### **Next Steps**

- An SJV data warehouse demonstration is scheduled for May 15. This presentation will include SJV epidemiologists and data staff in the eight county health departments. The goal is to develop a system for staff to use the data warehouse.

### **Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback**

- This project is moving along smoothly. Developing a data warehouse "user friendly system" is the key priority at this time.

## **Goal 2, Objective C: Develop a regional plan to address the needs of the uninsured**

### **Description of Quarter's Activity/Impact on Partnership**

- **No changes since the last report. Highlights of last report are repeated below.**
- Since California's failed health reform effort, this objective has been "on hold." However, we continue to monitor President Obama's interests/efforts related to national health reform and look for opportunities to align the Central Valley with national interests in health reform.
- Complete work through the Health Enterprise Zone (HEZ) project that includes preliminary regional stakeholder interests to increase FMAP rates in the Central Valley. Although FMAP rates do not assume coverage of the uninsured, there is regional conversation and interest in developing new strategies to address the needs of the uninsured.

### **Planned Activities for next 3-6 months**

- Continue participating in the Children's Health Initiative efforts, both local and regional
- Participate in local farm worker expansion initiative
- Participate in and provide technical assistance to Specialty Care Access Initiatives
- Monitor political environment specific to health reform

#### **Next Steps:**

- Continue participation in regional health expansion initiatives
- Monitor political environment and opportunities to address the objective

### **Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback**

- Dramatic external and political changes result in uncertainty about the future
- Limited to no resources to support the Partnership work beyond current commitments
- Need time to monitor current political activity before implementing further actions specific to this objective

**Goal 2, Objective D: Improve delivery of health care services through the use of information technology infrastructure and services.**

*Action: Assess e-health readiness*

**Description of Quarter's Activity/Impact on Partnership**

Draft report continues to be under review

**Planned Activities for the next 3-6 months**

- Complete final report
- Make report available through the Partnership

**Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback**

Delays in final review have occurred