

Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (IACA)

Healthcare Subcommittee (HSC)

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Committee Attendees:

Jessica Pitt, Hellan Dowden, Loretta Melby, Ronald Phillips, Don Simonich, Kelcie Wong, Judy Kornell, Melina Winterton, Janna King, Kenijean Addison

Committee Attendees Absent:

Barbara Barney Knox

Roll Call:

Linda Mount conducted roll call and quorum was met. This meeting was chaired by Jessica Pitt who welcomed everyone to the Q2 IACA Healthcare Subcommittee meeting and noted it was National Apprenticeship Week. The meeting started at 10:31 am.

Review of Minutes for February 10, 2026:

The February 10th meeting minutes were approved via roll call vote with one correction noted by Don Simonich under DAS updates. The registered occupation was corrected from Community Health Worker to Therapeutic Riding Instructor.

DAS Updates:

Linda reviewed staffing changes and the following;

Caleb van Docto is the new Deputy Chief of AWI, and he is out of our Oakland office.

Abigail Mendez has been promoted from Strategic Business Advisor to Partnership Development Branch Chief, leading Partnership Development efforts for the AWI team out of Oakland.

Andrew Merenda has taken a new role as a Strategic Business Advisor on the AWI Youth and Pre-Apprenticeship Team to the Apprenticeship Workforce and Innovation Partnerships side.

Housekeeping:

If you haven't signed and sent back the Commitment letter that Jessica has sent out previously, please do as soon as possible. Please send it to both Jessica and Linda.

Please forward any materials or slides that you might want to use if presenting for this committee ahead of time for ADA'ing.

Posted and Approved Healthcare Programs:

Currently posted is the Health Education Council for the Community Health Worker occupation. This came from our Youth team headed by Kelenia Olsen.

The Circle of Horses with a Therapeutic Riding Instructor occupation is now fully registered.

We are working toward releasing a rulemaking draft by Q3 to bring more clarity and consistency to program development.

Our Apprenticeship Program Look-Up Tool continues to be updated including a new feedback feature that reflects what's happening in the field.

Employer Ambassador Program:

This statewide initiative is designed to recognize and elevate employers who are already doing the work, and it opened in the first quarter of this year. This program will launch in the Fall. Please check the DIR website under DAS Employer Ambassador Program where it will guide you to the full list of requirements and how to nominate an employer.

Committee Business:

There was discussion around what a regular DAS update should look like for the IACA Healthcare committee.

Hellan Dowden requested a list of Apprenticeships being applied for but not approved. She would also like a list of occupations that are creating standards for their programs to allow others that may be interested in adopting an apprenticeship for the same profession.

Don Simonich wanted to know what might be forthcoming in the Healthcare arena.

Melina Winterton said she gets questions from employers on a reasonable timeline for processing standards. Adele Burnes stated that getting backlog down is top priority for DAS. Adele said she is working on a process to help create a dashboard which could be about a year out.

Hellan mentioned putting DAS document templates on the website so programs can refer to them as necessary in the context of what does a standards document look like.

Paul Giacomotto mentioned that we can bring common issues, "sticking points" that occur during registration to the committee versus bringing every issue that comes up.

Program Spotlight:

Presentation on California Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) Grants

Presenters: Dalbir Singh and Sabrina Aguillar, CA Community Colleges Chancellor's Office

60 Grants were funded across 8 regions, totaling a \$26.4 million investment. Los Angeles and the Bay Area regions received the highest amount of funding.

2026 Funding Round was highly competitive. Out of 177 received across all the sectors only 14% were funded due to budget constraints. Healthcare specifically saw 18 applications with 5 selected for funding.

Future outlook includes the Chancellor's office requesting an augmented budget line item (\$150 million) for the next cycle. If more funding becomes available, they will continue funding high-scoring applications down the current list rather than issuing a new solicitation right away.

Judy Kornell asked who determines the awardees. Dalbir answered that DAS scores them and then provides the data. They average the scores and then provide the data.

Expanding Apprenticeship Opportunity in Licensed Healthcare Occupations

Panel Discussion:

Rehman Attar, Director of Healthcare Workforce Development at the California State University CSU Chancellor's Office

Loretta Melby, Executive Officer of the California Board of Registered Nursing

Dr. Tammy Vant Hul, Dean, School of Nursing, Riverside City College

To the question of "What are you seeing in apprenticeship models and requirements?"

Rehman Attar pointed out that traditional apprenticeships utilize an "employment first" model, whereas advanced healthcare degrees are strictly "education first" and heavily dictated by state licensing and university accreditation rules. Supervision, outside of nursing, is very restrictive and not always available with one employer to meet clinical competencies.

Dr. Tammy Vant Hul mentioned that Riverside City College received grant funding which enabled their program to grow to over 300 apprentices. She mentioned that there are many bachelor's degree students in Apprenticeship so why not onboard them into their field?

Loretta Melby offered that there are misconceptions about how clinical can be fit into an apprenticeship model. The CCCCCO decided that the CA boards can be more restrictive

than the state Board of Registered Nurses (BRN) and is making the Standards set higher than the state's minimum standards. Rather the BRN regulations are actually quite flexible.

Another question; What financial models would make apprenticeships more fundable?

Four-year universities do not benefit from the Related and Supplemental Instruction (RSI) hourly reimbursement funding that is used by K-12, Community Colleges, ROP, Adult Education and County Office of Education. Panelists expressed a need to look at legislative/regulatory/adjustments or braided funding models to make baccalaureate-level apprenticeship financially sustainable at scale.

Loretta Melby said conversations similar to what Dr. Tammy Vant Hul had with Senator Ross help to break down what can be done within frameworks. Competency needs to be earned at school but can be used at institutions without licensure. Loretta also mentioned that front-loaded RSI loses a lot of students. There needs to be more in place to ensure they are working for a job and not just a degree.

Public Comment/Questions:

None

Next Steps / Action Items:

Jessica is interested in the committee's Input regarding a standing DAS update template. She would like it to circulate for everyone to add input.

Jessica is interested in receiving feedback from the committee to share topics for the upcoming meetings. Jessica suggested a panel to discuss Youth Healthcare Space for next time.

The next IACA Healthcare Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for August 18 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Adjournment:

11:58 am