

Policy Analysis Prompts 2019:

Group 1: Immigration/Public Charge

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You are a small business advocacy organization in central California who relies on undocumented workers to sustain your businesses. In the current political climate, you've noticed increased anxiety amongst workers, a reluctance to seek medical care, and a reluctance to take advantage of social support services in the area for fear of deportation by local law enforcement. As a group, you're concerned about the wellness of your workers and the sustainability of your businesses. You have the opportunity to present your concerns to the local police department and develop a policy to protect the safety of your workers. In your policy, include some proposed guidelines for the local police to protect undocumented workers including a review of mandatory federal policies vs local policies.

Group 2: Physician wellness/physician burnout

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As a steering committee within the hospital administrator group of a public hospital in Oakland, you've been tasked to develop a physician wellness plan which considers the financial impact on the hospital system. In the last year, 4 physicians have left the group citing poor work-life balance, 50% of your physicians have noted that the administrative burden of their workload exceeds their capability, and 8 physicians are contemplating leaving for more diverse work profiles (ability to do community-based work, advocacy, etc.) as part of their job. You need to develop a policy that considers the operating budget of the hospital, patient access issues, and physician wellness. You need to make a business case for instituting new policies that support physician wellness and prevent burnout. You will be presenting to the board of directors at their upcoming meeting.

Group 3: Climate change

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As a nonprofit organization dedicated to reversing climate change trends, you have an opportunity to present a new policy to the state legislature about developing a strategy for reducing the carbon footprint of public schools. School budgets will be cut by 10% in the next year, but the governor has made policies to reduce climate change a priority across all public institutions. The California state legislature is looking for creative solutions to help schools increase efficiency, decrease waste, and become more ecologically-conscious. A parent advocacy group is more concerned with keeping arts, sports, and extra-curricular activities in the schools than reducing their carbon footprint. You need to come up with a policy that addresses the climate change concerns and the parental concerns about cuts to school activities.

Group 4: Transition from prison to community

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Due to overcrowding, prisoners with minor offenses (i.e. petty theft, drug possession, prostitution) will be released within the next 6 months from Folsom State Prison. Anticipating that many of these recently paroled persons will stay in the area, the mayor has created a task force to determine the economic opportunities for these paroles and create a strategy for integrating them into society including addressing their health needs. There's an organization of retirees who have voiced concerns about the parolees and are attempting to create ordinances to limit where the parolees can live and work. In addition to developing a plan for the economic and social integration of the recent parolees you also need to proactively address the concerns of the protesting group.

Group 5: Opioid crisis

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In a rural Iowa town, the city council is considering legislation to reduce the number of opioid prescriptions in the city. They've decided to focus efforts on decreasing post-operative and post-dental procedure opioid prescriptions. They have asked a multi-disciplinary group of surgeons, physicians, dentists, nurses and hospital administrators to develop a strategy to help reduce the number of prescriptions by 25% over the next two years and develop alternative treatment options for these patients. They would like to consider the fiscal impact of this policy and ensure that the recommendations given reflect evidence-based policies that have demonstrated success in similar communities.