Federal Issues Affecting Rural Health Care Delivery

Oregon Rural Health Conference
September 23-25th, Salem, Oregon

Tom Morris
Associate Administrator
Office of Rural Health Policy
Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration
HHS Update

- Access to High-Quality Health Services
- CHIP
- Recovery Act
- Health Care Reform Implementation
HRSA Rural Health Update

- A Focus on …

- Public Health
  - Assessing current public health investments
  - Reaching out to key stakeholders
  - Partnering with CDC

- Primary Care

- Workforce

HRSA Administrator Mary Wakefield
HRSA Programs: Key Parts of the Rural Safety Net

In Fiscal Year 2009, the most recent year for which complete data are available, HRSA awarded 9477 grants totalling $7.76 billion dollars.

FY 2009 Grant Dollars by Major Program
- Health Facilities
- Health Professions
- Healthcare Systems
- HIV/AIDS
- Maternal and Child ...
- Office of Health In...
- Office of the Admin...
- Organ Transplantati...
- Primary Health Care
- Rural Health
- Tele-Health

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Rural Health in a National Spotlight

http://www.healthcare.gov
Challenges for Improving Health Care Access in Rural America

A Compendium of Research and Policy Analysis Studies of Rural Health Research and Policy Analysis Centers

2009-2010

HRSA’s Role in Health Care Reform

- **Primary Care Access**
  - Expansion of Health Centers and Capital Projects
- **Workforce Expansion**
  - Increased Funding for National Health Service Corps
  - Data Analysis

- **Newborn Home Visitation Program**
- **Expansion & Changes to 340B Program**
How Health Reform Benefits Rural America

- Insurance Reforms:
  - Access and Affordability
- Expansion of Community Health Centers

Investments in Health Care Workforce
- National Health Service Corps
- Medicare GME Changes
- Teaching Health Centers
How Health Reform Benefits Rural America

- Supporting the Rural Infrastructure
  - Payment Extensions
  - 340b Changes
  - VBP Demo for CAHs
  - Primary Care and General Surgery Bonus Payments
- Low-Reimbursed Rural Hospital Payments
- Frontier Wage Index & Practice Expense Floor
- Low-Volume Adjustment Changes
- Medicare-Dependent Hospital Extension
- Expansion of REACH Demonstration
What’s New at ORHP?
ORHP Structure

- **Community Based Division**
- **Office for the Advancement of Telehealth**
- **Border Health Division**
- **Administrative**
- **Hospital State Division**
- **Policy Research Team**
ORHP & Key Rural Program

FY 2010 Budget: $185.5 Million

Grant Awards and Cooperative Agreements ($152.5M)
Rural Health Research ($5.5M)
Contracts/IAA ($20.8M)
HRSA Costs ($6.1M)
Other ($615K)

3% 11% 3% 3% 82%
Policy and Research

- Policy
  - Regulation Review
  - Legislative Review
  - Demonstrations

- Research
  - Research Centers
  - Policy Analytic Grants
“Within the total amount requested for Rural Health activities, the Budget includes $79 million to continue the President’s initiative to improve rural health. The goal of this initiative is to improve the access to and quality of health care in rural areas.”
# The Improving Rural Health Initiative: Key Elements

- Health Workforce Recruitment and Retention
- Building a Programmatic “Evidence-Base”
- Telehealth/HIT Coordination
- Cross Governmental Collaboration
Welcome
The National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet) members are not-for-profit organizations helping health professionals find jobs in rural and underserved areas throughout the country. Some of the health professions we serve and the kinds of jobs posted include:

- Physician jobs in a variety of specialties including
  - Family Medicine
  - Internal Medicine
  - OB/GYN
  - Psychiatry
  - Pediatrics
  - And many others
- Dentist jobs
- Nurse Practitioner jobs
- Physician Assistant jobs
- Registered Nurse jobs
- Mental Health Professionals

Visit this week's featured state: Kansas

The Rural Recruitment and Retention Network
www.3rnet.org
Rural Workforce Resources & Opportunities

- The Rural Training Track Technical Assistance Center
- The Rural Network Training Grants

A Family Medicine resident in Idaho
HRSA Workforce Programs That Can Serve Rural

- Title VII
  - Primary Care and Dentistry, Centers for Excellence, AHECs, Public Health, Disadvantaged Student Assistance, etc.
- Title VIII
  - Advanced Nurse Education
- Scholarships and Loans
  - NHSC, Nursing education, Nursing Faculty, State Loan Repayment
Community-Based Division Programs

- Rural Health Outreach
- Rural Network Development
- Network Planning
- Delta Network Development
- Quality Improvement
- RAED
- Rural Workforce

2010 Focus:
- Identify best practice models
- Sustainability
- Economic Analysis Impact
New Tools

- Economic Multiplier Calculator for Community-Based Programs
- Available on RAC in 2011
Rural Assistance Center

- Web-Based Services
  http://www.raconline.org
- Electronic Updates
  Subscribe on the website
- Customized Assistance
  Phone: 1.800.270.1898
  E-mail: info@raconline.org
Rural Health Outreach Grants
Rural Health Network Planning Grants
Rural Health Network Development Grants
Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement

* Rural Health Outreach Grants include Rural Health Care Services Outreach Grant, Delta State Rural Development Network Grant and Frontier Extended Stay Clinic Cooperative Agreement.
Grants Technical Assistance Workshops

Targeting Key States
- Wisconsin
- Michigan
- North Dakota
- South Carolina

Target Populations
Regions served by
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Border Communities
- Tribal Communities
Upcoming ORHP Community-Based Grant Opportunities

- Network Planning
  - Guidance out; Applications Due October 8th
- Network Development
  - Guidance Available
  - Applications November 12
  - Awards Early 2011
- Rural Outreach
  - Cycle in FY 2012; Guidance Available in 2011

Hospital-State Division: Building an Evidence Base

- Flex Program: 3 Core Areas
  - Quality Improvement
  - Performance Improvement
  - Community Development/ Emergency Medical Services

Mountain City Health Services, Mountain City, TN
Flex Multi State Quality Improvement Project

- Involving significant number of CAHs
- National benchmarking
- Rural Appropriate Measures & Processes
  - Heart Failure, Pneumonia, Heart Attack
  - 30 Day Re-admissions Outcomes
  - ED Outpatient Transfer Communication
  - HCAPS
  - Medication Management & Patient Safety Measures

- Paul Moore: Pmoore2@hrsa.gov
Hospital-State Division

- Small Hospital Improvement Program
  - 2010 Changes
  - Pooling resources

- State Offices of Rural Health Program
FQHC-CAH Collaboration Manual

- Just released and now available at:
Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

- New Addition to ORHP …
  - Telehealth Network Grants
  - Telehealth Resource Centers
  - Licensure and Portability
Telehealth Resource Centers

Oregon linked to TRC with St. Vincent’s Foundation
406-237-3635  Website: www.nrtrc.org
Health Information Technology & Rural

- Meaningful Use Rules modified
- FCC Proposed Rule on $400 Universal Service Mechanism
- Increased Focus on Rural HIT Challenges within HHS
2010 Report to the Secretary from the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health & Human Services

- Just released and now available at: http://ruralcommittee.hrsa.gov
Cross-Governmental Collaboration

Committed to the future of rural communities.
Contact Information

Tom Morris, Associate Administrator

tmorris@hrsa.gov

Office of Rural Health Policy
301-443-0835
http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov