Alliance for Health Care Reform Briefing
“Access to Health Care in Rural America”

Tom Morris

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)
Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP)
July 26th, 2013

The Office of Rural Health Policy

• Policy Review
• Research
• Grant Programs
• Technical Assistance
Policy and Research ...

Regulations
• Medicare, Medicaid, ACA
• Meaningful Use
• Quality Measurement

Research
• Rural Health Research Center Program
• Rural Health Works
• Evaluation Findings


Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) Activities

National Advisory Committee on Rural Health & Human Services

• Advises the Secretary of HHS on Rural Issues
• Eight Affordable Care Act Policy Briefs Available Online
  • New Briefs Examine Impact of Budget Deficit Proposals on Small Rural Hospitals

Rural Health Realities

• Tends to be …
  • Older, Sicker
  • Different provider and case mix
  • More dependent on public payers

• Common Misconceptions
  • Not just a smaller version of urban

Key Rural Initiatives: Access

• ACA Insurance Expansion
• Community Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics
• Rural Health Outreach Program
  • Community Health Gateway
• Strengthening Rural Hospitals
  • Flex and SHIP Programs
• Telehealth
Key Rural Initiatives: Workforce

- Rural Training Tracks
- Teaching Health Centers
- National Health Service Corps
- Nurse Corps
- State Conrad 30 and HHS J1 Visa Waiver Program
- State Loan Repayment Program
- Rural Recruitment and Retention Network

www.raonline.org/rtt_new
Our Goal…. Helping Rural Providers Make the Transition

Grants
- Flex
- SHIP
- Outreach
- Network
- Network Development
- Quality Improvement
- Telehealth Network
- State Offices of Rural Health

- Flex Monitoring Team
- RHSATA
- Rural Assistance Center
- Telehealth Resource Centers
- Telehealth Licensure and Technology Assessment
- National Center for Rural Health Works
- Rural Health Clinic TA
- Link Rural Communities to Other Federal Resources
- State Offices of Rural Health

Technical Assistance
- Regulation Review
- White House Rural Council
- National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services
- Collaboration with NRHA, AHA and NOSORH

Policy

Thank You!

For further information please contact us anytime:
- Leslie Atkinson: latkinson@hrsa.gov
- Janet Goldberg: janet.goldberg@hhs.gov

www.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov