IOM ROUNDTABLE ON VALUE & SCIENCE-DRIVEN HEALTH CARE

“BEST PRACTICES INNOVATION COLLABORATIVE”

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL AHEC ORGANIZATION

MAY 1, 2013
AHEC (HRSA/BHPPr) Program

- The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program enhances access to high quality, culturally competent healthcare through community-based interprofessional/interdisciplinary training, continuing education, and health careers outreach activities that will ultimately improve the distribution, diversity, and supply of the primary care health professions workforce who serve in rural and underserved healthcare delivery sites.

National AHEC Organization (NAO)

- The membership association that supports and advances the AHEC Network to improve health by leading the nation in the recruitment, training and retention of a diverse health workforce for underserved communities.
- Vision
  - That the AHEC network is the national leader in developing a highly competent and diverse health care workforce for underserved populations.”
• **Strong National AHEC Network**
  
  - 55 Medical School AHEC Programs (52 allopathic; 3 osteopathic {A.T. Still, MO, Nova SE, FL; UNE, ME})
  - 3 Nursing School AHEC Programs (MT, IA, AK)
  - 246 Community-based centers: 66% non-profit; 29% hosted; 5% other
  - 46 States, District of Columbia, and 2 Territories (OK, DE, KS, MS) with AHEC Program Offices
  - AHECs in 2,700 counties w/in the 46 states that have Federally-recognized AHEC Programs

• **AHECs have depth and breadth of activities related to the recruitment, retention and CE of the health care workforce**
  
  - Partnerships with 600 nonmedical health science centers/academic institutions
  - Partnerships with over 1,000 Community Health Centers
  - 12,000 Community-Based Training Sites
  - Over 400,000 students introduced to health careers annually
  - 1.6 million CE contact hours annually
  - Partnerships with a wide variety of HHS/SAMHSA/HRSA/DoL Programs
AHECs nationally well positioned & have broad experience

- CE/CME
- Community Health Education
- Community Health Worker (CHW) Initiatives
- Evaluation and Training/Technical Assistance
- Health Care Pipeline Activities
- Health Care Workforce Needs & Data Analysis/Community Assessments
- Interprofessional Education & Practice
- Minority Health/Health Profession Diversity
- Primary Care Training
- Service Learning
- Tobacco Cessation
- Veteran’s Mental Health
NAO Assessment of AHEC ACA-Related Activities Fall 2012

What We Found

• 28 State AHEC Programs Responded as Engaged in ACA-related activities
  o Meeting the increasing demands for the health care workforce, mainly in primary care, with a focus on the distribution of health professions workforce particularly in rural and underserved urban areas
  o AHEC focus on the importance of recruiting a diverse workforce that reflects the nation’s population, and how AHECs across the nations are working with their partners for the expansion of collaborative practice and team models of care

• Specific Focus
  o Primary Care Training
  o Early Identification of Diverse Students, Rotations and Placements in Underserved Areas
  o Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) and Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)
  o Community-based Training, Assessments and Evaluations
  o Health Insurance Marketplace and Other ACA Programs and Activities
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<td>Montana AHEC</td>
<td>Collaborate with Great Falls College– Montana State University on Project Homeless Connect to provide medical, dental, social, educational, behavioral and preventive services free of charge.</td>
<td>Coordinate medical student rotations.</td>
<td>Responsible for the inception, feasibility study, and accreditation of the Western Montana Family Medicine Residency Program, a 10/10/10 family medicine program sponsored by The University of Montana.</td>
<td>Host Citizen Soldier inter-professional CME/CEU conference to assist primary care and mental health specialists to provide patient-centered health care for veterans.</td>
<td>Present information on the impact of the ACA and Medicaid expansion on the communities of Montana at Bureau of Business and Economic Development Outlook seminars.</td>
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<td>Sponsor in partnership with the Montana Hospital Association, distance and continuing education series and webinars</td>
<td>Coordinate Montana R/UOP elective for students who have completed first year of medical school.</td>
<td>Oversight of Behavioral Health – Primary Care Collaboration: integrates a pre-licensed clinical social worker and post-doctoral psychology graduates into primary care rural health clinics</td>
<td>Sponsor American Indian Cultural Competency Workshop.</td>
<td>Sponsor Leadership Education and Performance Program (LEAP), focused on developing leadership and teamwork skills to build more effective management teams.</td>
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<td>Partner with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Academic Progression in Nursing Grant Program to educate employers and academic entities about BSN education/competencies, advanced practice roles and retention rates.</td>
<td>Created referral-based Montana Connections Recruitment Program.</td>
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<td>TEXAS AHEC</td>
<td>South Texas AHEC and West Texas AHEC: Coordinate 3rd and 4th year medical student rotations and primary care training in their respective regions. West Texas AHEC coordinates clinical training support for PA and advanced practice nursing. Texas AHEC East: GEC collaboration preparing next generation of elder care providers. Primary care clinical training support for PA and advanced practice nursing. Family medicine rural residency training support.</td>
<td>South Texas AHEC, West Texas AHEC and Texas AHEC East: Serve as NHSC Ambassadors to recruit students and health professionals to work in NHSC eligible sites, FQHCs and rural communities. West Texas AHEC: Works with the Hispanic Center of Excellence to identify minority students to train in underserved areas.</td>
<td>Evaluation expertise for efficiency/quality improvement for ACOs and PCMHs. PCMH pilot at hospitals via training resources for Promotores. South Texas AHEC and West Texas AHEC: Train CHWs and Promotores as essential to ACOs and PCMHs. Technical assistance to FQHCs/CHCs for NHSC retention.</td>
<td>Texas AHEC East: Community health assessment for Medicaid Waiver planning. Rural county health workforce economic impact for 99 counties. Train health professionals about veterans’ mental health. West Texas AHEC: Community assessments in all 105 counties. Conference on ACA and health care changes.</td>
<td>Educating geriatric providers in communities on expansion of services outlined in ACA. Provided master’s health policy course discussion on ACA. West Texas AHEC: Collaborate with HIT Regional Extension Center to implement electronic health record implementation. Worked extensively with Texas Medicaid 1115 Waiver Program hospital leads on community DSRIP projects.</td>
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