



Virginia's State  
*Rural Health Plan*  
www.va-srhp.org

Beth O'Connor, M. Ed.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Rural Health Association



## The Virginia Rural Health Plan

### What is it?


- ▶ 3–5 year strategic plan
- ▶ Strengthen infrastructure
- ▶ Improvements in rural health
  - NOT just delivery of services
  - NOT a static document

## Why a rural health plan?

- ▶ Requirement
- ▶ Support Critical Access Hospitals and their communities
- ▶ Support delivery of rural health care
- ▶ Must build on past efforts



## How was the Plan created?

- ▶ Over 50 partners around Virginia
    - Led by OMHPHP, VRHA & VRHRC
  - ▶ Kick-off meeting July 2007
  - ▶ Divided into four Focus Areas:
    - Access
    - Workforce
    - Quality
    - Data/Rural Definitions
- 
- Created Workgroups

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## Plan Creation – 2008

- ▶ Workgroups examined issues, developed recommendations
- ▶ 2008 Rural Health Summit
  - Finalized first year of work
  - Prioritized recommendations
  - Prioritized next steps
- ▶ [www.va-srhp.org](http://www.va-srhp.org) launched



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## The recommendations are...

- ▶ 48 separate recommendations
  - Implement an effective communications plan among all Plan partners
  - Assess the current status of mid-level practitioners in Virginia
  - Create a rural health data website
  - Host a statewide Rural Health Quality Summit
  - Explore health care workforce training models and alternatives for rural areas
  - Update the 2004 Rural Obstetrical Care report

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## Progress to date

- ▶ Formalized Rural Health Plan Councils (Access, Workforce, Quality, Data/Rural Definitions)
  - Initiated rural-specific research on behavioral health integration, oral health, telehealth, ob/gyn and more
  - Groundwork for the Rural Health Data Portal
  - Created rural workforce survey

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## More progress to date

### ▶ 2009 Rural Health Summit

- Rural EMS Roundtable
- Critical Access Hospital EMS assessment
- Rural hospital partnerships with Rural Health Clinics
- Primary Care & Behavioral Health Integration



## Plans for 2010

### ▶ 2010 Rural Health Summit

- Rural Workforce Summit
- Telehealth Summit
- ▶ USDA Rural Community Development Initiative??
  - HIT Readiness
  - Recruitment & Retention Assessments
  - Distinct Part Unit Training

## More Plans for 2010

- ▶ Build support and ‘adoption’
- ▶ Launch Rural Health Data Portal
  - Virginia Economic Bridge
  - Virginia Network for Geospatial Health Research



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## Questions?

Beth O'Connor  
Executive Director  
Virginia Rural Health Association  
540-231-7923  
boconnor@vcom.vt.edu  
www.vrha.org



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