Virginia's State Rural Health Plan

www.va-srhp.org

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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

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 launched

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

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

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

Questions?

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