

Implications of Healthcare Reform for Local Communities

What can local communities be doing?

Harvey Licht
Varela Consulting Group
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Session Agenda



- **Types of local response**
- **PPACA Provisions**
- **Local responses to Health Care Reform Issues**
- **Why rural areas are important in Health Care Reform**

PPACA Provisions



- **Health Care Coverage Provisions**
- **Health System Innovation Provisions**
- **Public Health Provisions**
- **Health Workforce Provisions**
- **Health Safety Net Provisions**

Types of Local Response



- **Practice Response**: potential steps to be taken by private practices in the community.
- **Safety Net Response**: potential steps to be taken by community health centers, rural health clinics, public health offices and other public and nonprofit outpatient agencies and programs.
- **Facility Response**: potential steps to be taken by local hospital or other key health facilities.
- **Community Response**: potential steps to be taken by local leadership, civic and business groups.

Issue: Expansion of Coverage



- **Community/Safety Net Response**

- Provide information and links to statewide resources for uninsured local residents. [*]
- Provide information on plans offered, subsidies offered, and mandates/incentives. [*]
- Provide advice and counseling to uninsured and to local employers. [*]

- **Practice/Safety Net/Facility Response**

- Negotiate participation agreements with all plans covering local population. [*]

Issue: Shortage of Primary Care Providers



- **Practice/Safety Net Response**
 - Re-engineer the primary care encounter.
 - Increase use of non-physician providers.
 - Increase use of Federal/State incentive program. [*]
 - Provide retention incentives.
 - Provide compensation guarantees.
 - Conduct periodic compensation reviews/adjustments.
 - Serve as a field training site for primary care providers. [*]
- **Facility Response**
 - Provide hospitalist support to primary care practices.
 - Provide financial support to primary care practices. Note Stark issues.
- **Community Response**
 - Conduct community-wide recruitment.

Issue: Increased Professional Education Indebtedness



- **Practice/Safety Net/Facility Response**
 - Participate in public loan repayment programs. [*]
 - Establish separate loan repayment benefit system.
- **Community Response**
 - Establish Community Loan Repayment Program. [*]

Issue: Outcome Oriented Care



- **Practice/Safety Net/Facility Response**
 - Establish primary care home model and participate in demonstration project. [*]
 - Negotiate participation in regional accountable care organization demonstration project. [*]
 - Negotiate establishment of bundled care networks. [*]
- **Community Response**
 - Develop coordinated chronic condition prevention and care management programs for key conditions [diabetes, asthma, hypertension]. [*]

Strengths of Rural Projects in Health Care Reform



- **Basic Message:**
 - The relatively *small scale of systems* in rural areas make them a *microcosm* of what might be accomplished in larger communities and an excellent *test bed for health system innovation*.
- **Low Overall Project Cost – High Cost-Effectiveness:**
 - The relatively small cost of health projects in rural communities can be attractive investments for Federal funders. The relatively large impact in the target community makes cost-effective investments.
- **Health System-Wide Interventions:**
 - With a relatively small number of healthcare providers, health projects can be system-wide.

Rural Projects and Health Care Reform [con't]



- **Population-Wide Intervention:**
 - The relatively small size of the target area permits the health project to serve a relatively high percentage of the target population.
- **Population-Wide Impact:**
 - With population-wide intervention comes the ability to assess the population-wide impact of the health system innovation.
- **Model for System-Wide Change in Larger Communities:**
 - Small health system improvements require the same mechanisms as large ones. Rural communities are excellent places to prototype health systems improvements.