

HEALTHCARE CHALLENGES OF RURAL NORTH DAKOTA

Successful Strategies for Healthy Communities



Why is this Session Important to YOU?

- You are invested in rural health care issues and want to be part of the solution
- Session offers a strategy of community engagement ... the “Rural Health Dialogues” offer a process that can be used at the local level
- Gain further understanding of North Dakota’s rural health issues ... are these similar to your community?
 - What’s the same?
 - What’s unique to your community?
- What is available to assist your community?
 - CRH Update on its activities based on community feedback ... can we help you?
 - What else might we do?
 - What strategies have you used to address your community’s issues ... can you share and help others?



- **Rural Health Workforce**
Health Professional Shortage Area designations
Health professions recruitment and retention
Workforce trends
- **Community Development and Technical Assistance**
Network enhancement
Strategic Planning
Community needs assessment
- **Native American Health**
Native American community research
Native elders project development
Native American health issues
- **Rural Health Research**
Develop and implement programs in rural areas
Address rural/frontier health issues and trends
Cancer
Uninsured
Traumatic Brain Injury
Nursing Needs Study
Pesticide Survey
- **Education, Training, and Resource Awareness**
Presentations on rural health topics
Disability issues for children
Survey Development
Mental Health
Epidemiology
Grant development
- **Rural Health Policy**
Public policy leadership
Rural Health Fact Sheets
Policy Briefs

Why use such a Community Engagement Process

- A motivating process ... networking
- Educational for all involved
- Provides a voice for others... valuable feedback
- Validates your interest in hearing from others
- Inform your strategic plan ... validates need to access resources
- Strengthens staff relations ... morale, awareness
- Deemed newsworthy

Engaging Communities

PURPOSE: To identify rural health priorities and to share information

WHEN: Fall of 2003

WHERE: 13 communities including 5 tribal communities

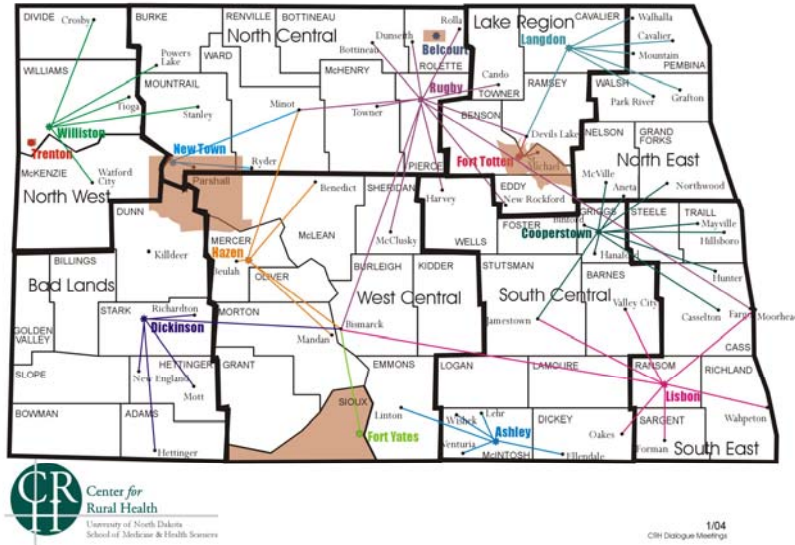
WHO: Rural healthcare, human services and tribal agencies (282 people attended)







2003 Center for Rural Health Dialogue Meetings



How was this done?

1. Selection of communities
2. Selection of facility
3. Establish a host site contact
4. Identify participants and invite
5. Track participants
6. Prepare site
7. Deliver a formal presentation



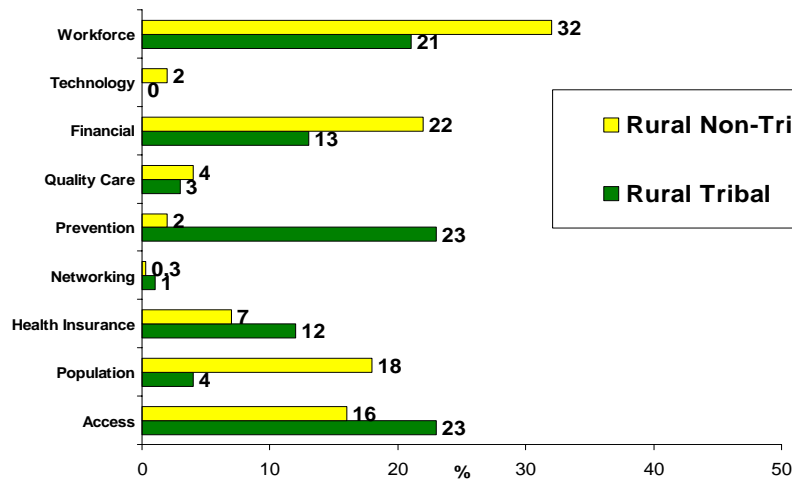
Informal Dialogue

- 2 questions
 - 1) What is the key current or emerging health care priority for your facility or your community?
 - 2) How do you think the Center for Rural Health should align its efforts to assist your community in meeting these needs?

Survey

- 1) What are the three greatest threats to healthcare in North Dakota?
- 2) List the top three issues faced in your organization related to healthcare and what role could CRH play in addressing these issues?
- 3) Additional comments or questions.

What did we learn? What did healthcare providers say?



Full report w/results: www.med.und.nodak.edu/depts/rural/pdf/dialogue_report.pdf

What are we doing?

WORKFORCE

Current activities...

- Project CRISTAL
- SEARCH
- Health Professions Tracking
- Nursing Workforce Study

On our “Radar”...

- Expand Health Professions Tracking
- McNair Mentoring at CRH

What are we doing?

FUNDING

Current activities...

- Insurance Fact Sheet and Policy Brief
- Bremer proposals

On our “Radar”...

- State Planning Grant Pilot
- Rural Health Clinic Survey
- Rural Health Clinic Grants

Lessons Learned Community Engagement Process

- Make process as convenient as possible
- Reminders are needed
- Map was useful tool ...
- Interactive process
- User-friendly information
- Direct loop back to community is key ...
has to be applicable ... something they
can use

Next Steps ...

- There is a wealth of knowledge & experience in ND ... how do we optimize this for building/implementing solutions?
- Is there an issue that might benefit from such a process in your community?
 - What do the elderly of your community see as health issues?
 - What is the perspective of the business development community?
 - Are we serving the needs of our community?

(Use to inform your quality improvement plan).

After thoughts

