Making a Difference: Maintaining Access to Quality Healthcare for Rural North Dakotans

Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (Flex)
North Dakota Healthcare Review, Inc.
North Dakota Communities - Bowman, Northwood, Park River, Cavalier, Grand Forks

Connecting resources and knowledge to strengthen the health of people in rural communities.

ND Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program

• **FUNDING**
  – FY2007-2008 award $628,000

• **PARTNERS**
  – North Dakota Department of Health
  – North Dakota Healthcare (hospital) Association
  – North Dakota Healthcare Review, Inc. (QIO)

• **CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS**
  – 33 of 39 rural hospitals designated as CAHs in North Dakota; 2/3 in frontier areas
  – North Dakota CAH Median Total Margins 0.06 (compared to national median 2.63)
    *Flex Monitoring Team 2007*
Direct Funding to Critical Access Hospitals

- Over $3.2 million in grants to ND’s rural communities.
  - 128 CAH grants
  - 44 EMS Network grants (impacting 72 additional partners in 30 counties)
  - 40 CAH Network Enhancement grants (impacting 59 additional partners in 26 counties)
  - 4 Making a Difference grants.
  - Approximately 110 communities have benefited from the Flex grants.
Technical Assistance

• PURPOSE
  – Support ND’s small rural hospitals in maintaining access to quality care for rural residents.

• The North Dakota Flex Program provides technical assistance including:
  – Community-wide health care assessments, meetings, presentations
  – Performance Improvement, Strategic Planning
  – Peer Mentoring Program
  – Network, organizational & grant development

Local Impact:
SW Healthcare Services Bowman, ND
Darrold Bertsch, CEO
North Dakota Healthcare Review, Inc.

- North Dakota’s Quality Improvement Organization
- Minot, ND
- Serves as a link between health care providers and the community, stimulating continuous improvement in the quality of health care.
- Dave Remillard, CEO
- Barb Groutt, Director of HCQIP

Flex CAH HIT Network

- **FUNDING**
  - FY2007-2009 award $1.6 million

- **HOSPITALS** – see CAH Profiles
  - Northwood Deaconess Health Center, Northwood
  - First Care Health Center, Park River
  - Pembina County Memorial Hospital, Cavalier
  - Altru Health System, Grand Forks

- **ANCILLARY HEALTH FACILITIES**
  - Valley Community Health Centers
  - First Care Health Center Clinic
  - Wedgewood Manor

- **OTHERS**
  - North Dakota Healthcare Review, Inc. (QIO)
  - North Region Health Alliance
  - Vendors – site specific/overlay system
North Dakota CAH HIT Network Pilot Project Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program

Funded by Health Resources and Services Administration, federal Office of Rural Health Policy

CAH HIT Network Project

Sharing Electronic Medical Records
PURPOSE

- Facilitate the exchange of health information through interoperable electronic medical records, facilitating patient safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care services along a patient-centered care continuum.