Presenter Disclosures

Jane N. Bolin, RN, JD, PhD

(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

Rural Healthy People 2020 Project Funding

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Presentation Outline

- Discuss how RHP2020 helps identify and support future rural public health workforce needs
- Discuss currently identified public health workforce needs
- Apply RHP2020 findings to setting rural health workforce priorities.

Historical Perspective


Rural Healthy People 2020 Survey: Methods

- Survey originally fielded in December 2010 755 respondents.
- Survey fielded again in Spring 2012 preceded by:
  - Webinar on RHP2020 sponsored by NOSORH
  - Letters to select State Health Officers
- Resulted in a total of 1,214 respondents
Top 10 RHP 2020 Priorities
Respondents = 1,214

Rank Objective
1 Access to Quality Health Care
2 Nutrition & Weight Status
3 Diabetes
4 Mental Health and Mental Disorders
5 Substance Abuse
6 Heart Disease & Stroke
7 Physical Activity & Health
8 Older Adults
9 Tobacco Use
10 Cancer

Priorities 17-20
Rank Objective
17 Injury and Violence Prevention
18 Social Determinants of Health
19 Health Care & Health IT
20 Environmental Health

*Priority rankings based on average percentages of four groups of state and local rural health leaders choosing objectives as a priority. There are virtual ties among some priorities.
Public Health Workforce Shortages

- “Drastic budget cuts and workforce shortages have forced difficult decisions at state, local, territorial, and tribal public health agencies, often resulting in fewer services. Among state health agencies, nearly nine out of ten (89%) reduced services between 2008 and 2010, especially programs related to health promotion, disease-specific intervention, and laboratory services.” (APHA, 2011)

Medically Underserved Areas - MUs and Medically Underserved Populations - MUPs

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) - Primary Health HPSA Clinician Priority Scores

Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas for Dental Care

Counties with no doctor’s offices
HHS-Workforce Objectives

- Objective A: Invest in the HHS workforce to meet America’s health and human service needs today and tomorrow
- Objective B: Ensure that the Nation’s healthcare workforce can meet increased demands
- Objective C: Enhance the ability of the public health workforce to improve public health at home and abroad
- Objective D: Strengthen the Nation’s human service workforce
- Objective E: Improve national, state, local, and tribal surveillance and epidemiology capacity

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Rural Healthy People 2020

**Rural Healthy People 2020: Top 20 Rural Health Priorities**

Top 20 Priorities 10 yrs. later

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Objective</th>
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<td>1</td>
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**Which areas require more HC & PH Workers?**

Top 20 Priorities 10 yrs. later

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**What will the ACA provide?**

Prevention and Public Health; workforce and infrastructure provisions

- Prevention and Public Health Fund
- National Prevention Council & Strategy
- Community health needs assessments
- Public health and primary care workforce development
- Health equity promotion
- Public health research
- Public education campaigns
- Menu labeling

**Prevention and Public Health Fund**

- A much needed investment in prevention
- The U.S.’s first mandatory funding for public health
- Meant to supplement, not supplant, existing funding
- Public health system still underfunded, but this is a start

More information: APHA: Prevention and Public Health Fund

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More information: APHA: Prevention and Public Health Fund
Discussion

NRHA recently published a policy brief documenting specific shortages:

- Shortage of 124,000 FT physicians by 2025 (AMA);
- Aging of the nursing workforce: 51% are older than 40 years of age.
- Extremely severe shortage of mental health professionals and adequate in-patient care.
- Severe shortage of rural pharmacies;
- Extremely severe shortage of rural dentists.
- Poor recruitment and retention of rural workforce.

Public Health Stakeholders face a more significant and formidable challenge in rural areas.

Public Health infrastructure is still behind urban health infrastructure.

Identification of rural public health needs through the mechanism of RHP2020 helps support and document these needs for rural states and counties seeking funding streams.

Continued efforts by states and local rural stakeholders are needed.

References:

6. Southwest Rural Health Research Center, Rural Healthy People 2010 and 2020. Available at: http://srph.tamhsc.edu/centers/srhrc/