

NERHRT PRIMARY CARE CONSTITUENT GROUP

October 27, 2005 Meeting Summary

Facilitator: Eric Turer, CHI

Participants:

- Nancy DuMont, Bi-State Primary Care Association (NH-VT)
- Cathleen McElligott, Office of Rural Health, MDPH (MA)
- Hunt Blair, Bi-State Primary Care Association (VT)
- Wilda Pelton, Precision Valley Free Clinic (VT)
- Hope Crifo, People's Health and Wellness Clinic (VT)
- Sharon Beaty, Mid-State Health Center (NH)
- Peg Smith, Generations Family Health Center (CT)
- Robin Saunders, Newport Health Center (NH)
- Cynthia Mitchell, Island Health, Inc. (MA)
- Adele Woods, Coos County Family Health Services (NH)
- Joseph Stenger, Mass AHEC Network (MA)
- Shirley Powell, SMP Associates (ME)
- ?Bill Schmitt, MassHealth (MA)
- Kathy Myers, Oral Health Foundation (MA)
- Mary Winar, CT Office of Rural Health (CT)
- Rick Hoover, CMS (Region I-Boston)

Intro comments regarding constituent group process/future meetings:

- People need to be able to move between groups. Several participants noted that they could easily have participated in one or two other groups meeting concurrently.
- For this reason, notes should be shared between groups!

Rural-specific primary cares concerns/challenges:

- transportation
- primary care reimbursement in rural areas
- access to specialty care
- access to technology (advocacy, education)
- isolation of private, independent practices: no time or money to attend meetings like this so we need to create linkages for them
- clinical support in "new" areas like pain management, methamphetamines/SA, HIV
- workforce development and support; both training and operations

Other groups representing these issues (who is here, who else should be at the table?)

- economic development councils (health care is an economic driver!)
- other rural affiliates, e.g. USDA, County Extension
- academic medicine (residencies, rural scholars)
- other health care advocates, e.g. MassHealth

- local and state public health infrastructure, including state health depts, town health officers, regional health officers
- PCAs and AHECS
- migrant health programs
- (NH) Medical Group Mgmt Association, representing private practices
- state medical, dental and other professional health care societies/associations

Does the group today hang together?

- need more focus on direct providers

Ongoing constituent group activities/interest in

- listserv limited to rural primary care concerns (include summaries of national, state conference calls such as Open Door Forums)
 - "push system" for newsletter articles, initiated by NERHRT
 - policy-oriented conference calls
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Respectfully submitted,

Nancy DuMont, Bi-State PCA
October 30, 2005