

RURAL HOSPITAL CONSTITUENT GROUP

October 27, 2005 Meeting Summary

Facilitator: Denis Barton

Participants:

1. Marion Pawlek – NERHRT
2. Ronnie Rom – Mass State Office of Rural Health
3. Linda Small – SPARC
4. Andy Majka – B.D.M.P.
5. Ed Perlak – Berkshire Hospital Systems
6. Christopher Knowles – Martha's Vineyard Hospital
7. Jan Casey – Mary Lane Hospital
8. Christy Whitney – Monadnock Community Hospital
9. Peter Holman – Parkside Consulting
10. Alisa Butler – NH State Office of Rural Health
11. Diana Giacalone – CMS Medicare reimbursement
12. Craig Schneider – CMS Medicare reimbursement
13. Scarlett Dewman – New London Hospital
14. Duane Hiyagishima – Capital Solutions Advisors
15. Denis Barton – Vermont office of Rural Health
16. Dot Bergin – NERHRT Consultant
17. Charlie White – NH Foundation for Healthy Communities
18. Jane Bonvini – Nantucket Cottage Hospital

Rural Issues and observations:

1. Conflicting rules that impact reimbursements in various rural health care settings...
2. The quality perception in rural health care settings.
3. A clear definition of what is rural.
4. CEOs in rural areas usually do a more than run a hospital and tend to manage other related activities, i.e. private practices, home health, nutrition programs. Specific CAH concerns were raised regarding reimbursement for non “core” hospital services like home health.
5. Staffing continues to be an issue in rural areas.

Other Associations:

1. Each state has a Hospital Association although rural issues tend not to be a focus in states with few CAHs in proportion to the total number of hospitals.
2. Individuals belong to many other professional organizations.

Potential NERHRT Involvement:

1. Collect information that is rural hospital (CAH) specific to help in being to compare and improve services.
2. Consider the development of a benchmarking tool or other information that is specific to CAHs in New England.
3. Find ways to improve recruitment and retention efforts
4. Collect information on the impact of MMA.
5. Develop list serve that distills issues.