Presentation Objectives

• Who are we?
• RHPI Project overview
• Trends and findings from RHPI hospital consultation projects
• Questions and comments
Purpose

The National Rural Health Resource Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining and improving health care in rural communities. As the nation's leading technical assistance and knowledge center in rural health, The Center focuses on five core areas:

- Performance Improvement
- Health Information Technology
- Recruitment & Retention
- Community Health Assessments
- Networking

The RHPI Project is funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) through a contract with The Center.

RHPI Goals

- Improve and sustain the financial, operational and/or clinical performance
- Build capacity to support hospitals long term
- Disseminate best practices and share lessons learned
**RHPI Purpose**

To provide comprehensive and ongoing technical assistance to Delta RHPI eligible hospitals through:

1. On-site Consultations projects
2. Sessions in Sustainability Trainings:
   - Health Education & Learning Program (HELP) webinar series
   - Performance Management Group (PMG) calls

**RHPI Serves**

Rural hospitals <199 beds that are located in Delta Regional Authority (DRA) counties / parishes in 8 state region

**RHPI State Partners**

The Center works collaboratively with Delta state partners to strengthen rural hospitals through Performance Improvement Activities (PIA).

*Delta State Partners include:*
- State Hospital Associations
- State Offices of Rural Health
- State Quality Improvement Organizations
The Center’s RHPI Experience

• The Center has:
  − Assisted in the development of RHPI since its inception in 2000
  − Served over 150 Delta hospitals through the RHPI Project Sessions in Sustainability trainings

• The RHPI Project has served 127 hospitals with onsite consultation services targeting financial, operational, and clinical performance improvement since 2001.

www.ruralcenter.org/rhpi
www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/about/hospitalstate/delta/index.html

Hospital Consultation Projects
Consultation Findings: Leadership
- Boards don’t seem to understand the future of health care
- Many hospitals still haven’t established a framework to support strategic planning and to monitor progress towards performance improvement
- Chronic CEO turnover
- The majority of hospitals still see quality as an ‘office’, and not a culture

Consultation Findings: Quality
- Hospitals need more training with care management especially with utilization review, and discharge planning
- Hospitals need assistance with developing a process for transition of care and care coordination

Consultation Findings: Operations
- Many hospitals still struggling to implement best practices concepts such as:
  - An emergency department re-direct program
  - Revenue cycle management processes
  - Key performance indicators
Consultation Findings: Other Financial

- RACs are holding cash, which is negatively impacting the hospital's financial position
- Many hospitals using EHR incentive payments to support operations
- Many rural hospitals still not prepared for ICD-10
- Many hospitals are still not taking full advantage of the 340b program

Questions and Comments

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