

# **SORH perspectives on role of EMS in Critical Access Hospitals**

# Don Wood, MD extraordinary leader



# National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health

NOSORH promotes the capacity of State Offices of Rural Health to improve health care in rural America through leadership development, advocacy, education, & partnerships.



## 2 perspectives at state level

Changing rural health environment

Flex program

*All in context of state government!*

***PARTNERSHIPS AND LINKAGES ARE CRUCIAL***

# Changing rural health environment

- Pay for value
- Increasing demands for reporting
- Reduced reimbursement
- 2016 community health needs assessments updates

# Role of EMS in the CAH changing environment?

- Care coordination solutions
- Data initiatives
- Responding to community needs

# Changing FLEX Focus areas

*Improvements to rural medical services (EMS) systems  
and integration of EMS activities into rural health  
networks*

1. Quality Improvement (required)
2. Financial and Operational Improvement (required)
3. Population Health Management and Emergency Medical Services Integration (optional)
4. Designation of CAHs in the State (required if requested)
5. Integration of Innovative Health Care Models (optional)

# FLEX program changes

- Reduction in funding for EMS – still a priority
- Increasing need to document measurable impact of efforts of the FLEX program on systems of care
- Changes how EMS is supported



# Link to lead: nationally, in state, locally

- State associations
- State policy makers
- Academic partners
- Corporate partners
- State funders
- State Offices of Rural Health



# Link to lead – *in your state*

## *State Offices of Rural Health*

- There is a SORH in each state
- Participate in training
- Let them know challenges
- Share your successes
- Three other core functions
  - Information Dissemination
  - Rural Health Coordination
  - Technical Assistance

You've  
got  
a  
Friend!