The Office of Regional Operations: Supporting Rural Health

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Nick Zucconi
Office of Regional Operations/---Denver

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources & Services Administration
HRSA’s Regions
Office of Regional Operations

Mission

To improve health equity in underserved communities through on-the-ground outreach, education, technical assistance and partnering with local, state and federal organizations.
Office of Regional Operations

HRSA’s national network of 10 Regional Offices strive to increase access to quality care, information and resources.

• Provide responsive outreach and assistance to HRSA grantees, target populations and stakeholders
• Partner with and convene local and regional stakeholders to advance HRSA priorities
• Extend the reach of HRSA’s Bureau and Office programs
• Represent HRSA at meetings and events to promote HHS/HRSA initiatives
• Identify emerging regional/state trends, priorities, and effective strategies
HRSA Office of Regional Operations

External Affairs & Outreach
Agency liaison and Regional leadership

Regional Surveillance
Identify and report ground-level information

Strategic Stakeholder Partnerships
Engage partners and broker relationships

Regional Management
Ensure efficacy of HRSA Resources
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Areas of Focus</th>
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<tr>
<td>CAPT Debra Scott, RN, MS, MA</td>
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<td>Community Engagement, Initiatives to Advance the Role of Nurses, Veterans, Special Populations Montana and Wyoming</td>
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HRSA Office of Regional Operations

ORO Priority Areas

- Delivery System Reform
- Behavioral Health: Prevention and Integration
- HRSA Outreach and Education
- HRSA Bureau and Office Collaborations
- State and Community Engagement
- Special Initiatives and Partnerships
- Surveillance
Prospective Activities in FY17: ORO-Denver

- **Behavioral Health Prevention and Integration**
  - **Rural Behavioral Health Forums**
    - Convene rural health care providers and rural constituents;
    - Discuss challenges managing patients with behavioral health issues.
    - Provide follow-up TA in-person, via webinar, and/or in partnership with other behavioral health organizations that provide TA;

- **Suicide Prevention:**
  - Integrate suicide prevention into HRSA safety-net healthcare services.
  - Primary partners include the state Suicide Prevention Directors. Other partners include SAMHSA and HRSA state-level grantees.
  - Anticipated outcome: increased screening for suicidality among underserved populations; increased referrals for treatment/crisis services.
Prospective Activities in FY17: ORO-Denver

• HRSA Outreach & Education
  • Grants Training Workshops (also ORO-Seattle)
  • High Need Counties: identify counties with the highest need and identify organizations in those counties to provide information about HRSA and other resources and grant programs (ORO-Seattle).
  • Diabetes Prevention and Management: partner with State Diabetes Programs to provide training sessions via webinars on various diabetes-related topics, with an emphasis on increasing utilization of DSME and DPP programs in rural and frontier areas.
Prospective Activities in FY17: ORO-Denver

• **State and Community Engagement**
  • **Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care:**
    • Leverage both HRSA and SAMSHA funding in an integrated fashion in the context of State behavioral health and public health agencies.

• **Coordination of Chronic Disease Prevention & Management**
  • Facilitate integrated and coordinated care to reduce chronic diseases and improve public health;
  • Proposed Collaborators: State Departments of Health; State Offices of Rural Health & Flex Programs; State Chronic Disease Programs; State Medicaid; Primary Care Association; QIN
  • Aim: collaboration between local hospitals, local agencies, and community-based organizations to conduct community health assessments, develop local coordinated and integrated Health Improvement Plans focused on reducing obesity, tobacco use and exposure, and partnering on chronic disease prevention and management.
Prospective Activities in FY17: ORO-Denver

- **Special Initiatives and Partnerships**
  - **Diabetes**
    - Partner with USDA Cooperative Extension and safety net clinics to develop rural collaboratives to coordinate diabetes primary care and outreach and education services across programs in select communities.
    - Offer information on diabetes resources to rural partners to improve collaboration and improve diabetes outcomes in rural communities.
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