Policy Research Division – Who We Are and What We Do

November 5, 2019

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Director – Policy Research Division
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People
OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH POLICY

Sec. 711. (42 U.S.C. 912) (a) There shall be established in the Department of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the "Department"), an Office of Rural Health Policy (in this section referred to as the "Office"). The Office shall be headed by a Director, who shall advise the Secretary on the effects of current policies and proposed statutory, regulatory, administrative, and budgetary changes in the programs established under titles XVIII and XIX on the financial viability of small rural hospitals, the ability of rural areas (and rural hospitals in particular) to attract and retain physicians and other health professionals, and access to (and the quality of) health care in rural areas.

(b) In addition to advising the Secretary with respect to the matters specified in subsection (a), the Director, through the Office, shall—

1. oversee compliance with the requirements of section 1102(b) of this Act and section 4403 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 (as such section pertains to rural health issues),

2. establish and maintain a clearinghouse for collecting and disseminating information on—
   (A) rural health care issues, including rural mental health, rural infant mortality prevention, and rural occupational safety and preventive health promotion,
   (B) research findings relating to rural health care, and
   (C) innovative approaches to the delivery of health care in rural areas, including programs providing community-based mental health services, pre-natal and infant care services, and rural occupational safety and preventive health education and promotion,

3. coordinate the activities within the Department that relate to rural health care,

4. provide information to the Secretary and others in the Department with respect to the activities of other Federal departments and agencies, that relate to rural health care, including activities relating to rural mental health, rural infant mortality, and rural occupational safety and preventive health promotion, and

5. administer grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to provide technical assistance and other activities as necessary to support activities related to improving health care in rural areas.

1 See Vol. II, P.L. 100-203, §4403.
...and also program development
PRD’s Policy Role

- Inpatient
- Outpatient
- Medicare Advantage
- Health Reform
- Veterans Health
- Mental/Behavioral Health
- Value-Based Care
- Physician/Clinician Payment
- Post Acute Care
- Workforce

- Medicaid Waivers
- Rural Definitions
- Substance Abuse
- Oral Health
- Human/Social Services
- Drugs/340B
- ESRD/DME
- Ambulance/EMS
- Telehealth
- Hospital Closures/Financial Viability
- Data/Research Methods
PRD’s Research Portfolio

Current Research Centers & Areas of Expertise

**Maine Rural Health Research Center**
Health Insurance and the Uninsured, Long Term Services and Supports, Rural Health Clinics (RHCS), Mental Health, Substance Abuse

**North Dakota and NORC Rural Health Reform Policy Research Center**
Health Policy, Health Services, Frontier health, Workforce

**North Carolina Rural Health Research and Policy Analysis Center**
Medicare, Medicaid and S-CHIP, Healthcare Financing, Health Policy

**RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis**
Health Policy, Medicare, Medicare Advantage (MA), Health Insurance and the Uninsured, Health Services

**Rural and Underserved Health Research Center**
Substance Use Treatment, Primary Care, Emergency Department Access

**Rural Telehealth Research Center**
Telehealth, Health Information Technology, Technology

**Rural and Minority Health Research Center**
Health Disparities, Minority Health, Health Services

**Southwest Rural Health Research Center**
Health Insurance, Maternal and Child Health, Aging, Diabetes, Substance Abuse

**University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center**
Quality Measurement and Improvement, Women's Health, Perinatal Care, Aging, Disability, Social Determinants of Health

**WWAMI Rural Health Research Center**
Workforce, Health Services
PRD’s Research Portfolio

www.ruralhealthresearch.org
Rapid Response to Requests for Rural Data Analysis

Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
725 MLK Jr. Blvd., CB 7590
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7590
Phone: 919.966.5541
Fax: 919.966.5764
Website: View center’s website
Director: George H. Fink, PhD

Is one of the designated Rural Health Policy Analysts initiatives. The Center is built on the 35-year history of rural health services research at the University of North Carolina’s Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, and is able, through that relationship, to draw on the experience of a wide variety of scholars, researchers, analysts, managers and health service providers.
PRD’s Research Portfolio

Rural Health & Economic Development Analysis

Purpose: Assist rural communities with expanding the public and policymaker awareness of the importance of the economic impacts of the rural health care sectors on rural, state and national economies.

Awardee: University of Kentucky

Highlights: The awardee will quantify the impact of rural health care, and conduct analyses of the link between the health of the economy in a rural community and the health outcomes of the residents of those communities.
Purpose: Support research and analysis of key policy issues affecting rural communities that informs policy makers
PRD’s Information Dissemination/TA Portfolio
Rural Health Information Hub

- Online Library
- Topic & State Guides
- Rural Data Visualizations
- Case Studies & Conversations
- Tools for Success

RESOURCE & REFERRAL SERVICE

Need help finding information? RHIhub can provide free assistance customized to your needs.

1-800-270-1898
info@ruralhealthinfo.org
Rural Health Value

• Tools & Resources
• Programs & Demonstrations
• Profiles in Innovation
• Presentations
• Share Your Rural Innovation

https://ruralhealthvalue.public-health.uiowa.edu/
Rural Health Clinic TA

Purpose: Identify key policy, regulatory and clinical challenges facing Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) as well as informing them and other rural stakeholders about key RHC issues

Awardee: Capital Associates, Inc.
NRHA is an important partner to FORHP:

- Educate rural stakeholders
- Facilitate partnerships and collaborations
- Provide support to State Rural Health Associations
- Address key rural health challenges through programs such as:
  - 3RNet
  - Agrisafe
  - Community Health Worker trainings

www.ruralhealthweb.org
PRD’s Workforce Portfolio
The RRPD Program recipients span across 21 states with some partnering with out-of-state rural training sites:

- Massachusetts General Hospital and IHS Rosebud Service Unit in South Dakota
- Meharry Medical College and A.E. Henry Community Health Services Center in the Mississippi Delta
- Quinnipiac University and Northern Maine Medical Center in Fort Kent, ME