Policy Forum
Shaping Sustainable Solutions:
An Interactive Dialogue
With Our Legislative Leaders

June 19, 2017
MN Rural Health Conference
at the DECC, Duluth
Pre-Conference Policy Survey Results
Conference Registrants Responding to Policy Survey…

- **26%** Other
- **23%** Academic/Education
- **14%** County/State Gov’t
- **8%** Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)
- **7%** Rural Health Clinic/Community Health Ctr.
- **4%** Public Health
- **4%** Vendors
- **4%** Dental
- **4%** Clinic
- **3%** PPS Hospital/Health System
- **2%** County/State Gov’t
- **1%** Public Health
- **1%** Vendors
- **2%** Dental
- **4%** Clinic
- **3%** PPS Hospital/Health System
Survey Respondents’ Positions/Roles:

- Administration/Finance: 26%
- Other: 19%
- Students: 14%
- Physicians: 8%
- Health Care Research/Education: 4%
- Consultants: 4%
- Researchers: 3%
- Public Health Staff: 10%
- Nurses: 7%
- Consultants: 4%
What policy and program concerns . . . are most important in Minnesota's current rural health care environment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to mental/behavioral health services</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to affordable health care coverage</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates (too low)</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care workforce shortages</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges of aging healthy in-place</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation challenges (emergency, medical, non-med.)</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovations in care delivery (clinical; scope-of-practice; etc.)</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to oral/dental care</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased burden of regulatory/reporting requirements</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small rural hospitals in danger of closing</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy makers do not understand rural</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Given current budget/financial realities, which do you consider the most potent strategies to address these issues?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Better Medicare and Medicaid reimb. (reflecting true rural need)</td>
<td>45.2%</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening home and community-based care and services</td>
<td>34.2%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care delivery innovations (care coord., health care homes, etc.)</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory reform and relief (less cost/burden)</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telemedicine and mobile medicine outreach and support</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Require health plans to offer coverage in all parts of Minnesota</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants supporting innovation in rural care delivery</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants or low interest loans targeting rural providers</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paying for value/outcomes based on sound quality measures</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special support for rural hospitals and clinics</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More rural medical residencies</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What current trends do you see in health care or government that cause you concern . . . ?

- Negative rural impacts of the proposed AHCA and President Trump’s budget.
- Medicare and Medicaid cuts, caps, shifts, delays and block-granting hurting rural areas – particularly Medicaid expansion states like Minnesota.
- Potential cuts in mandated insurance benefits; reapplying pre-ex condition limits.
- Rural access to affordable health care and health care insurance.
- Workforce shortages; access to dental and mental/behavioral health care.
- Uncertainty about the direction of health care, federal policies, funding.
- Need better jobs and economic development in rural areas.
- Reimbursement cuts and delays hitting rural hardest.
- Concerns/hopes that current break-downs are leading to universal, single-payor.
- Rural residents are increasingly older, poorer and less healthy; aging residents.
What current trends do you see in health care or government that cause you concern . . . ?

- People are moving away from rural communities
- Drugs (opioids) are becoming more and more of a problem
- Persistent gaps in health equity in rural communities
- Medicaid expansion and low MA reimbursement putting providers in trouble
- Hard to recruit young people to rural communities; decreasing job opportunities
- Families cannot live and afford health care on low rural wages
- Transportation costs going up; reimbursements going down
- Health care professional workforce shortages in too many areas
- Reporting mandates burdensome and unfair to rural providers and facilities
- Policy makers out-of-touch with rural realities; we need realistic answers
- Need less partisan bickering and more intelligent, sustainable solutions
What current trends... make you optimistic about the future of rural health care in Minnesota?

- Expanding use of telemedicine/telehealth/telemonitoring and other innovations
- Broadband expansion in rural areas
- Providers being allowed to practice to the full extent of their scope-of-practice
- New thinking about supervised midlevels, paraprofessionals and others helping meet critical health care workforce needs
- Rural community efforts to improve health and health care – inspiring!
- Young health care professionals interested in returning/remaining rural
- Increasing use of health care homes and greater care coordination
- Increasing awareness about rural disparities and equity in health and resources
- Increasing diversity of rural health care workforce
- The political landscape has recently favored rural areas; need policy makers to respond intelligently
- Minnesota health care know-how and ingenuity!
2017 Minnesota Legislative Session

Rural Results

• $1.65 billion projected state budget surplus
• Unfinished business from 2016: taxes; transportation; bonding; individual insurance collapse
• Early committee deadlines, but still a rough ending
• Divided government
• $46 billion two-year state budget FY2018-2020
2017 Minnesota Legislative Session
Rural Results

Hits

• $326 million indiv. insurance emergency subsidies
• $542 million reinsurance prog. to stabilize premiums
• More support for mental/behavioral/chemical health
• New efforts to combat opioid abuse
• Broadband, small cell and telemedicine expansion
• Grants/loans for more medical residencies
• Retained SHIP funding, including rural projects
• Efforts to address health care workforce needs
Misses

• $15 billion HHS Bill reduces spending $463 million
• Elimination of Medicaid cost-of-living increases
• No increase in MFIP cash assistance
• Heavy reliance on Health Care Access Fund dollars
• Medicaid payment delay (spending still happens)
• No plan for dealing with anticipated federal cuts
• Bi-partisan votes on many bills, but partisan brinksmanship leading to missed opportunities
Policy Forum

Shaping Sustainable Solutions:
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Our Panelists:

• State Representative Matt Dean, House HHS Finance Committee (Chair)
• State Representative Erin Murphy, House HHS Finance Committee (Minority Lead)
• State Representative Joe Schomacker, House HHS Reform Committee (Chair)
• State Representative Tina Liebling, House HHS Reform Committee (Minority Lead)
• State Senator Michelle Benson, Senate HHS Finance & Policy Committee (Chair)
• State Senator Jim Abeler, Senate HS Finance, Reform & Policy Committee (Chair)
Policy Forum
Shaping Sustainable Solutions:
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Eight month certificate program on effective rural health advocacy (starts in September)
Get to know the legislative processes that impact your world and rural health – and how to connect!
Build your own story and strategies for change
Learn from experts and use your knowledge at your State Capitol during the 2018 session

www.MNRuralHealth.org
steve@mnruralhealth.org
Join The Voice of Rural Health!

Strengthening rural health and health care through leadership, education, advocacy and collaboration.

It’s easy . . .

www.MNRuralHealth.org
Immediately following the Policy Forum . . .

Student Posters  5:00-5:30
Reception        5:00-6:30
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