Strengthening the Health Care Workforce and Ensuring Access to Care

Health Innovations Taskforce
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The Future of Health Care

Patient Centered
High Quality
Accessible
Affordable
Efficient
The Health Care Workforce Strategic Plan through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Required by the CARES Act, the plan focuses on four goals:

- expanding supply;
- ensuring equitable distribution;
- improving quality; and
- enhancing the use of data and evidence to improve program outcomes

Seeks to increase the health workforce in rural and underserved areas. The plan focuses on physicians, nurses, and behavioral health providers.

Nov. 1, 2021 Julie Kozminski
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) HHS workforce
Health Care Workforce

Physicians
Nurses
Pharmacists
Mental Health Providers
Public Health
Telehealth
Workforce Data: A Continued Problem

Problem:
Not a requirement to complete the survey and therefore data is incomplete.

Solution:
Require the licensure survey for all health professions related to actual practice, location, employer and hours worked.
Mission

To educate physicians and health professionals to meet the primary care and health care needs of rural medically underserved areas of Georgia.
Health Care Access in Rural Georgia

Longevity:
How long people live

Quality of Life:
How healthy people feel

Economic development
Grew up rural

Positive Experience with a rural provider
Accelerated Track:
• Family Medicine
• Internal Medicine
• Pediatrics

Future Possible:
• Psychiatry
• OB-GYN

Nathan Deal Scholars
2017 Admissions:
• Academics
• Mission Potential
• Personality

2019 Admissions:
• Mission
• Attributes
• Academic Qualifications
Students from rural areas **declined by 28%** between 2002 and 2017. This decline occurred when the overall number of medical students increased by 30%.

In 2016 and 2017, students from rural areas were 4.3% of total.

Nursing

Unique body of knowledge

Scientific Inquiry

Experiential Learning

Ethical Foundations
Nursing

Experts in Patient Care

Patient Advocates

Patient Educators

Continuity
Nursing Workforce

Nursing Assistants
LPN
Associate Degree
Three-year degree
Baccalaureate
Master’s
DNP
Nurse Patient Ratio

12% higher in hospital mortality
7% higher 60-day mortality

7% increased readmission rate first 60 days

Longer lengths of stay

Sepsis protocols were beneficial but described as “markedly smaller” compared to staffing.

AJC.49(2021)868-873.
There has been a rapid growth of the advanced practice nursing workforce, particularly nurse practitioners (NPs). Auerbach et al., 2018.

“...interest in becoming a NP was associated with a reduction of about 80,000 RNs from the nursing workforce between 2010 and 2017, (Auerbach et al., 2020).”

The nursing workforce will lose more than 2 million years of nursing experience each year between 2020-2030 as the remaining estimated 640,000 Baby boomer RNs retire.

The exit of RNs resulted in a striking loss of clinical and organizational experience, judgment, leadership, mentorship, relationships with physicians and administrators, and nurses who knew how to overcome barriers to get things done for patients.

Pharmacists

2032, the U.S. could see a shortage of as many as 55,200 primary care physicians. 
American Association of Medical Schools: 2019

Pharmacists may be part of a solution:

90% annual health care are expenditures are for people with chronic and mental health conditions.

$1,000 per patient per year with pharmacist interventions for patients with chronic conditions.
Could pharmacists’ prescribing for minor ailments through protocols relieve pressure on emergency rooms?
Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act

April 2021
Bipartisan with original co-sponsor Rep. Buddy Carter
House of Representatives: Bill # 2759
Senate: Bill #1362

Allows provider status under Medicare for pharmacists in medically underserved areas
  1. Defers to state law
  2. 80-85% fee
  3. HPSA/MUA
Mental Health Providers

Ben Hill County Mental Health Initiative

Four Public Schools:
Primary, Elementary Middle, and High School
Students: licensed professional counseling
GPT and CPA

Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center
Mental Health Providers

**CSBs:** Agree on deliverables for every county served and show evidence of provision

**Gateway CSB:**
Same day appointments
Emergency waiver for EMS
Outstanding quality of care
159 counties in Georgia
159 Health Departments

Maternal health service in every county at least monthly

Partner with OB-Gyn Residencies or regional physicians to provide this service

Trial with Georgia OB-GYN residencies or FM/ fellowship in maternal care

12 counties without doctors: must provide primary care services in those counties
Dr. Dennis Ashley Atrium Navicent Health, surgery residents and Dr. Anne Montgomery at the GRHIC Study of 120 isolated traumatic head injuries with bleeding
80 % falls/ 16% MVA
9 hours in ER
4 Days in the Hospital
1.5 days in ICU
THANK YOU