



Rural Health Network

Support Connect Improve

MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2014

TELECONFERENCE

Members Present: Kerry Dunlavey Stella Mouzon Debbie Wood Dr. Seidel		Guests: Joyce Case, Tony Penna	
		Staff: Nikole Helvey	
		Clarissa Ortiz	
		Laureen Pagel	
		Karen Peyton	
		Patrick Johnson	
Welcome and Introductions	Nikole and Kerry welcomed all members, and all introduced themselves to initiate the mtg.		
Minutes from Nov. Teleconf.	Members reviewed the minutes from the November 7 th Teleconference. The minutes were approved.		
Affordable Care Act (PPACA) Implementation in Northeast FL	<p>Nikole introduced Joyce Case, Director of the Northeast Florida Health Insurance Marketplace Navigator Program, and Tony Penna, area Director for Enroll America, to talk about activities and strategies to provide outreach and assistance for ACA Insurance Enrollment throughout the region. Joyce presented a brief slide deck, and Tony followed up with additional information. Members asked questions and clarified information about how to connect individual consumers with appropriate in-person assistance.</p> <p>Nikole encouraged all participants to refer individuals and other organizations requesting information about ACA options to the dedicated Federal Health Insurance section on the Northeast Florida Counts community website. (www.NEFloridaCounts.org) The site has been populated with information from both the federal CMS resources as well as local events and activities – including a comprehensive calendar of ACA-related outreach and enrollment. Consumers can also view educational videos about the importance of insurance coverage, and on how to engage in the marketplace.</p> <p>Nikole also reminded members about the existing Federal web resources: the primary information resource for consumers is www.Healthcare.gov – which is also THE health insurance marketplace itself. Organizations wishing to access training or materials should visit www.Marketplace.cms.gov</p>		
Pre-Legislative Session: Issues and Topics of Interest	Nikole provided members with a very high level list of potential bills that may be submitted during the upcoming 2014 legislative session and that may impact Rural Health. She provided a document with the bill titles and direct links to the bill information on the Florida House of Representatives and Florida Senate websites. It is unknown yet which of the bills are most likely to be heard and decided upon during the session, although intel points to 2 primary bills of interest: 1 related to Telehealth and reimbursement for those services and 1 related to “scope of service” of Nurse Practitioners. RHN Admin and members will collectively keep an eye on session for emerging issues and outcomes.		

Member Question: Physician Loan Repayment Programs	<p>An RHN member had requested information about any possible physician loan repayment programs that might be available for local providers, including for behavioral health services. Members all provided input on known programs, including Clarissa Ortiz from the Northeast Florida AHEC, which has a residency program in the region. A secondary issues also emerged in the conversation related to J-1 Visa's for International doctors to practice in the U.S.</p>
Member Updates Around the Region...	<p>Members each provided updates on their organization's activities and initiatives...</p>
Discuss 2014 RHN Meeting Schedule	<p>Kerry explained that the large County Health Department Consortium has revised its recurring meeting schedule from the 1st Thursday of alternating months, to the 4th Thursday of those same months. The RHN had previously decided to align its meeting schedule to occur on the same days (and continue to be at the same location) as the CHD Consortium, noting that all 7 of our CHD Administrators attend that meeting, and are also RHN members. The goal was to ease the travel burden for that large contingency of key RHN members by allowing them to attend both meetings back to back in the same location. In this continued spirit, the RHN members present agreed unanimously to change the RHN meeting schedule to align with the new CHD Consortium schedule on 4th Thursdays of alternating months. All RHN members will be notified and reminded multiple times.</p>
Adjourn	<p>The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm</p>
Next Meeting	<p>April 24, 2014</p>