



The Wisconsin Office of Rural Health & The Rural Hospital Flexibility Program



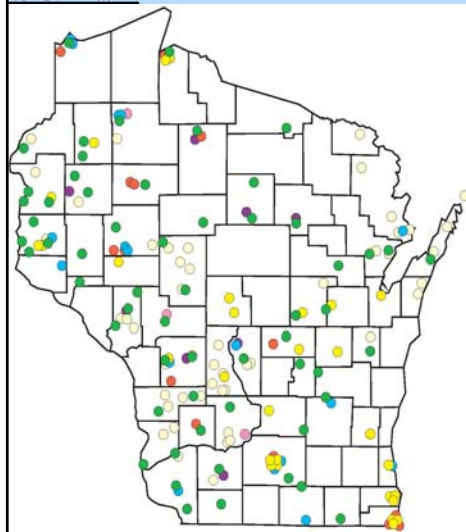
Kathryn Miller
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Wisconsin Office of Rural Health
August 2009



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www.worh.org



Wisconsin Office of Rural Health



- 59 Certified Critical Access Hospitals 1999-2008
 - 17 Practice Sites of Health Professions Loan Assistance Program Award Recipients
 - 8 Community Grant Funding Sites
 - 48 Rural Health Clinics
 - 30 Physician Placement Sites
 - 14 Dentist Placement Sites
 - 3 Strong Rural Communities Initiative Project
 - Over 975 recipients of the *Rural Reporter* news feed summary every month
- Data represents 2008 calendar year unless otherwise indicated.

Workforce

- Full time Physician and Dentist Recruiters
- (Allied) Health Careers Website
- Loan Assistance Program
- WI Academy of Rural Medicine (WARM)

Rural Hospitals/Clinics/EMS

- Flex Program
- SHIP Program

Informational Resource

- Fed/State/Regional research
- Daily News Feed
- Website of resources
- Training series online

Rural Communities

- Rural capacity building
- *Strong Rural Communities Initiative*
- Rural Health Development Council
- Health Information Technology

Advocacy (Federal, state and regional)

- Connecting independent efforts
- Academic/community partnerships

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*Improving the **Workforce***

- Physician & Dentist Placement
- (Allied) Health Careers Website
- Loan Repayment Program



*Building Bridges in **Rural Communities***

- Rural capacity building
- Strong Rural Communities Initiative
- Rural Health Development Council
- Health Information Technology



*Supporting **Rural Providers***

- CAH & RHC technical assistance
- Education, training and resources
- Quality Improvement projects
- EMS system improvements
- Cross-sector collaboration & planning
 - ↳ Hospitals / Clinics / EMS



*Advocating for **Rural Needs***

- At state and national levels
- Assembling rural health data
- Academic/community partnerships

Serving as an

Informational Resource

- Research fed/state resources
- Daily news feed
- Online library of resources



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Program Basics: State Flex Programs 101



- Health Resources and Services Administration, Office of Rural Health Policy administers the Flex Program nationally
- Program guidelines focus on:
 - Quality Improvement (QI)
 - EMS Integration
 - Network Development
 - Supporting and Sustaining CAHs
 - Rural Health Planning
 - Program Evaluation
- 45 states participate annually



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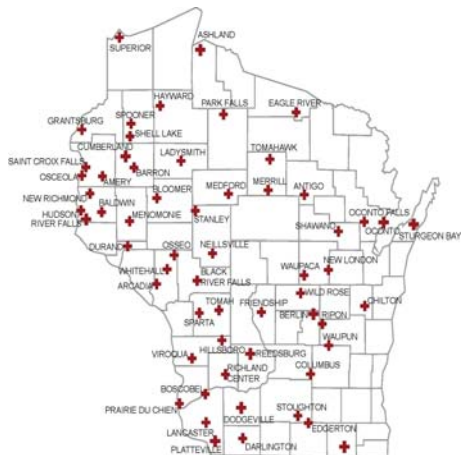


Supporting and Sustaining CAHs

- Survey and licensing tools & support
- Workshops and training
- HIT training, planning, networking
- Grants
- Workforce development
- Technical assistance: Regulations, Reimbursement
- Relocation assistance & support
- Listservs: CahCoalition, CAH Nurses, CAH Financial Managers

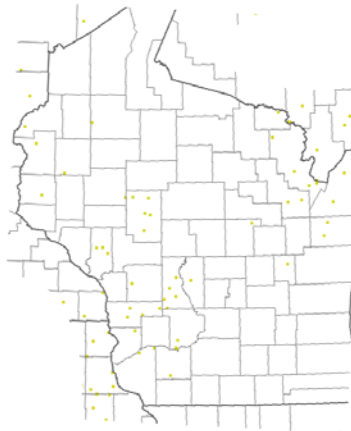
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Critical Access Hospitals



59 CAHs in Wisconsin
 1,298 CAHs Nationwide

Rural Health Clinics



47 Certified RHCs in Wisconsin
 Over 3,000 RHCs Nationwide



Rural Health Summit

- Held in April 2009 in Wisconsin Dells
- 110 participants
- Representation from all rural healthcare “sectors:” CAHs, RHCs, EMS, Public Health, CHCs, Long Term Care, Mental Health
- Identified Strengths and Weaknesses within each Rural Healthcare Sector
- Identified ways for all healthcare sectors to collaborate together

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Quality/Performance Improvement

Quality Improvement Modules (On-Line)

- Collaboration with WHA
- Lean, Six Sigma, Model for Improvement

Rural Hospitals Stroke Improvement Project

- Collaboration with WHA
- Reduction of Stroke Morbidity
- Participants use the Get With the Guidelines Tool

Wisconsin Pressure Ulcer Reduction Project

- Collaboration with MetaStar
- Expanded focus on CAHs and Rural Hospitals
- Implements activities to reduce facility acquired pressure ulcers
- Collaboration with community nursing homes

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Education & Training

- Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) Webinar Series
- EMS Management & Leadership Courses
- EMS Budget Model Training
- Grant Workshop: How to Succeed in Securing Grants
September 29, 2009 in Steven's Point
- Annual Hospital Finance Workshop

Club Scrub

- Collaboration with the Rural WI Health Cooperative
- Goal: "Grow your own" Healthcare providers
- Targets Middle-school students
- Provides a "sampling" of different health professions
- Available for download on the WORH website

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TeleMedicine Initiatives

"Telemedicine in Wisconsin: A Report on the Wisconsin Environment for Patient Care at a Distance in 2009"

- Collaboration with the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative
- Identified existing telemedicine programs in WI
- Identified barriers faced/lessons learned
- Recommendations for policy changes and statewide initiatives

Contracting with RWHC in 2009-2010 Grant Year

- Weekly monitoring of HIT/TeleHealth/Stimulus News
- Monthly report to all interested parties
- "How CAHs Can Prepare for the Stimulus" Webinar

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EMS

- Study of EMS & Rural Hospital “Shared-Staff” Models
- Assessment of Trauma Care Systems used by CAHs
- Education & Leadership Trainings
- Recruitment & Retention
- Grants and equipment (i.e. Rural Community Grants)

Rural Health Clinics

- Rural Health Clinic Needs Assessment
- RHC Case Studies
- Creation of an RHC “FAQ” Manual

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