The Virginia Rural Health Data Portal

The One Stop Shop for Rural Health Data Needs in Virginia

Presented by

- Steve Sedlock, Executive Director
  Virginia Network for Geospatial Health Research
  www.vnghr.org

- Ken Cook, Director of Technical Assistance
  Virginia Rural Health Resource Center
  www.vrhrc.org

The Beginning

- **Rural Health Data Portal is an outgrowth of the Virginia Rural Health Plan**
  - Plan originally developed to comply with Critical Access Hospital program requirements
  - HRSA required states to revise plan
  - Virginia chose to include all aspects of rural health

The Process

- Work begin in mid 2000's with formation of workgroups
  - Access, Workforce, Quality, Data/Rural Definitions

- Workgroups included over 50 partners to assist in the development of recommendations and objectives

- Met over 18 month period

The Plan

- In mid-2008, the current plan was released
  - www.va-srhp.org

- Plan continues to be worked by formal rural health councils

- Some councils have divided into subcommittees

- Oversight committee has been formed to coordinate activities

Rural Health Data Council

- Among charges was to develop on-line data tool that could be used to highlight Virginia's rural health issues

- Defined 32 data points/sets that should be included

- Councils members created "dream" site features with goal to achieve in five years

Desired Attributes

- Free to public
- Downloadable data sets in common format
- Commonly available public data
- Side-by-side comparisons
- Most current data possible
- Mapping capabilities

Rural Health Data Portal is Born

- Funds used from FLEX grant to provide seed money
- Technical Assistance sought from Virginia Economic Bridge (VEB) and VANGHR
- Website launched mid-November 2009
- Much of "dream" goals met
- Work in progress

Data Sources

- Virginia Department of Health (disease, vital statistics)
- Virginia Department of Health Professions (manpower)
- Virginia Health Information (facility, quality data)
- Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service (population, demographics)
- Virginia Employment Commission (demographics)
- Virginia Department of Education (educations, free lunches)
- US Census (poverty data, demographics)
- National Center for the Analysis of Health Data (manpower)
- HRSA (MUA/HPSA data)

Future Direction

- Expand geospatial layers and data sets for workforce, disease prevalence data
- Side by side comparisons
- Real time updates
- Improved quality data/geospatial presentation
- Add mental health, dental health, and EMS data

Web Address

- www.vrhrc.org/data-portal