ETSU Health: Expanding Rural Access in NE Tennessee
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AHP ETSU Quillen College of Medicine Library; Tyler Morgan, MA, ETSU Department of Family Medicine

Background

- East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine in NE Tennessee and within Appalachia
- Vision: Revolutionize Rural Health
- Mission Statement: “The primary mission of the Quillen College of Medicine is to educate future physicians with a focus on primary care and rural underserved medicine.”
- ETSU Health serves the areas of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia positioned within Appalachia.

Objectives

- Obtain and compile targeted four county demographic data
- Obtain and compile targeted four county health data
- Create a business plan for a new clinical venture
- Review potential clinical practice models
- Deliver the initial findings to COM leadership

Method

- Contacted the medical library resource team to assist with identifying the most current data available for the four NE Tennessee counties of interest, specifically demographic and health data; S
- Contacted the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) to determine available AAFP resources compiled for national rural areas;
- Interviewed local experts on Academic FGHC clinics and the community CEO of an Area Health Education Center (AHEC-like practices);
- Consulted the Associate Dean for Finance and Administration regarding the creation of a budget for a clinic; and
- Planning with the Dean to present to COM Leadership

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total Rural Population</th>
<th>Rural Population Age 18–64</th>
<th>Rural Population Age 65+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>36,734,957</td>
<td>27,932,000</td>
<td>8,802,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee – Northeastern</td>
<td>6,709,356</td>
<td>5,205,132</td>
<td>1,504,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee – Southwestern</td>
<td>5,037,598</td>
<td>3,846,079</td>
<td>1,191,519</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Conclusions and Future Directions

- Challenges:
  - Personnel recruitment – Family Medicine physicians, nursing, staff
  - Communication –
    - Interested parties
    - Experts/experienced
  - Shared goals and outcomes
  - Funding considerations
    - Payer mix
    - Federal sources
    - Reserves
    - Loan

- Potential funding resources:
  - Federally Qualified Health Center (new or expansion, look-alike)
  - Health Center Program (Awarded or Look-alike; qualifies for HPSA and NHCS)
  - Tennessee Center for Health Workforce Development
  - Investment funding
  - Loan

- Next steps:
  - Disseminate information to Dean and COM leadership
  - Engage community leaders
  - Approach local medical community
  - Identify potential physical locations
  - Solidify funding source

References


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