

GMCB Panel Discussion on Rural Hospitals

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CHALLENGES

– Rural Demographics

- Aging population
- Outmigration
- Declining Birth Rate
- Poverty/Homelessness
- Substance Abuse/Opioids, Heroin, Alcohol
- Mental Health

– Hospital-specific

- Retention/Recruitment –Clinicians and Staff
- Use of Temp/Contract Labor
- Clinician Retirements
- Migration to employment model for clinicians
- Maintain Medicare Designations (*BMH is Medicare Dependent Hospital*)
- Regulatory requirements
- IT and technology
- *Hospitals redefining the “H” to address not just our communities’ medical needs but the Social Determinants of Health*



BMH RESPONSE

– **New Models for Care Delivery**

- Development of Progressive Care Unit and Post-surgical Unit
- Critical Care RN Float Pool
- Scribes (in-person and web-based)
- Post-Acute Team
- RN Care Coordinators
- Telemedicine
- Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (ED)
- Dental Center

– **Workforce Development**

- Partnership with local educational institutions and VT State Agencies (CCV, VTC, DOL)
 - **Medical Assistants**
 - **RN Residency for New Grads**
 - **Environmental Services Aides**
 - **LPN**
 - **LNA**
- Associate Providers
 - **Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Midwives**
- Recruitment of Canadian physicians (H1B and J1)



BMH RESPONSE

– Access to Care

- Recognition that BMH as small hospital can't provide all healthcare services to our communities but *we need to provide pathways/partnerships for those services*
- Strategic Partnership with DH and Cheshire Medical Center
 - ED, Radiology, Pathology, Cardiology, Podiatry, Rheumatology

– Embrace Healthcare Reform

- Participation/Challenge in participating in all OneCare “risk-based” contracts
- Community Partnerships and Collaborations (Accountable Communities for Care)
- Commitment/Expansion of our Community Health Team
 - Vulnerable Population RN
 - RiseVT
 - Care Coordination
- Continued uncertainty with MDH funding

– Focus on Expense Management

- Group Purchasing Organization (NEAH)
- Management structure consolidation
- Labor (OT, Replacement positions, cross-training)

