GMCB Panel Discussion on Rural Hospitals
April 3, 2019

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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)