

Rural Mobile Health Services Project Update

Meeting Notes

May 25, 2006

During the Mobile Health Services Project meeting, participants were asked for input on several questions. The answers were recorded on flip charts. The questions and responses are listed below.

Question: *What criteria or factors should be considered in deciding what services to provide with this project, and where to provide them?*

- Data – Data related to health outcomes; to need; etc.
- Current Services – Do the new services compliment, not compete, with existing services?
- Partnerships – For long-term sustainability
- Community Buy-In - Was the community involved in designing the services, in bringing them to the community?
- Local Resources Available for Sustainability
- Costs/Expenses – For example malpractice costs. If the FQHCs are involved, they might be able to offer their malpractice benefits to the providers.
- Need in the Community – Defined as HPSA/MUA or focus on counties/communities with no services at all.
- Availability of Staffing – Participants seemed to agree finding dentists, mental health professionals, or certain techs would be quite difficult.
- Need for Follow Up – If follow up treatment is needed, who would provide it? Would it be reimbursable?
- Financing and Reimbursement – How will the services be paid for? Look into the Rural Health Clinic option, which provides cost-based Medicare and Medicaid.
- Building Local Capacity – There should be a long range plan of building up local capacity tied to mobile services.
- Physical Issues – Is there a place to actually set up these services?

Question: *What services should be provided?*

- Screening
- Prevention services
- Continuing Medical Education or Certification– leave something tangible with the community; lower start-up and equipment costs.
- Specialty Outreach – Most urban hospitals don't offer this service now; cardiology, ortho, pulmonary, etc.; Steve Mostow example.

It was also suggested that the following people or groups to contacted for input:

- Jack Westfall, MD regarding the medical school, data on health needs, input from High Plains Research Network members.
- High Plains Rural Health Network regarding telehealth needs and resources.