



KANSAS RURAL
HEALTH WORKS

Neodesha Rural Health Works

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Program Agenda

- Overview – progress to date
- Final thoughts on survey
- Community concerns revisited
- Summary
- Open discussion
- Next steps...

Program Overview

- Help foster sustainable rural community health care system
- Community-driven process
- 5-6 one-hour working meetings over 5-6 months
- Emphasis is on development of information products
 - Economic impact of health care system
 - Health services directory
 - Community health care survey
 - Data and information reports
- Summary meeting at conclusion
 - Discuss tentative action plan at the final formal KRHW meeting

Community Survey

- Findings are consistent with preliminary impressions
- Breaking apart questions provides insight, but must be interpreted cautiously
 - Services needed: youngest group sees greater need for services and assistance than the oldest demographic

Preliminary Community Concerns

- What are the major health-related concerns in Neodesha?
 - Closure of the nursing home
 - Pending retirement of the dentist
 - Drug and alcohol addiction – prevention and treatment
 - Loss of health insurance & associated preventive care
 - Use of hospital emergency room for health care
 - Child abuse and protection

Preliminary Community Concerns

- What needs to be done to improve the local health care system?
 - Availability of a walk-in health clinic as an alternative to the emergency room
 - Strengthen the overall economic viability of rural communities

Preliminary Community Concerns

- What should be the over-arching health care goals of the community?
 - Improve overall access to health services
 - Sustain the viability of the local hospital
 - Recruit another nursing home to keep the local elderly nearby

Preliminary Community Concerns

- What are the greatest barriers to achieving health care goals?
 - Difficulty of recruiting visiting specialists
 - Cost and financing of health services
 - Awareness and access to available health resources
 - Cost of pharmaceuticals for lower income persons

Overall Conclusions from Data

- Population trends and income levels are creating challenges
- Accessing state/federal assistance is essential
- Community-based services for those elderly, alone
- Improvement in preventable problems – neonatal care, teen tobacco/alcohol use, teen pregnancies, immunization rates

Survey Conclusions

- Approximately 15% - 20% of primary health care market “leaks” from Neodesha
 - How much can be captured is uncertain
 - Most who use local services are satisfied
 - Increase awareness of local services then out-compete the competition
- Need for additional services/assistance across the board
 - transportation, direct assistance
 - younger age groups more than old?

Action Strategies

- An overarching issue
 - hospital organization or finance
- Health services feasibility
 - market analysis; budget analysis
- General health environment enhancement
 - EMS recruitment & training; I&E initiatives

Action Strategies

- It only takes one person to start
- Multiple discrete initiatives
 - what issues can attract community passion?
 - who is available to network?
 - where are available resources?
 - near-term success builds long-term momentum
- It's up to you

Open Discussion

- Your impressions, reactions to the information provided?
- How satisfied are you with the direction of local healthcare trends?
- What can be done to improve the local situation?
- What do you care enough about to be willing to do something?