

**Innovative Rural Health
Workforce Development
Issues**

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Did You Know???

TODAY'S HEALTHY
50 YEAR OLD WOMAN
IS EXPECTED TO LIVE TO 100

Did You Know???

55,000
BABY BOOMERS Nationally
Are
Turning **65** Every MONTH

Did You Know???
Perspective on Aging
AGING is a **DISEASE**
NOT
a NATURAL Process

Did You Know???
•Attitudes toward health care providers have changed
•After WWII:
 Wants became Needs
 Needs became Expectations
 Expectations became Demands

Sweet Home Alabama
•**RURAL Communities in Alabama**
•Eight counties have no hospitals
•35 Counties have not hospitals performing obstetric care
•14% of Alabamians are uninsured
•22% of Alabama population is living in poverty

Life is a BEACH
•Rural Communities in Florida

The Perfect Storm
•**Communities** aren't aware how long it takes to recruit physicians
•**Aging primary care providers** in many rural communities with no plans for transition/replacement
•**Aging population** – In Alabama, we anticipate an additional 1.8 million primary care visits by the year 2025
•**Increase in chronic diseases** - diabetes, obesity, heart disease

VOLUNTEER HEALTH SERVICES

FLORIDA & ALABAMA

ALABAMA

Retired Volunteer
Physician and Dentist
Program

**Retired Primary Care MD's,
DO's and DMD's, DDS's**

- Retired health care providers are an untapped resource
- Established FREE Medical Clinics are looking for staff
- Retired Volunteer Dentist and Primary Care Physician Program is designed to encourage Volunteerism by protecting from tort actions

The Volunteer Service Act

- The volunteer is immune from civil liability except in the case of wonton or willful misconduct
- However, an individual can sue even if health practitioner has immunity
- Who will Defend you? Will have to hire an attorney to go into circuit court and plead immunity

What is a TORT ACTION?

- An actionable wrong under the law
- Recoverable in a CIVIL Action against you
- Filed in Circuit Court
- You must hire a lawyer to defend yourself*

Good Samaritan Law
Probably does not apply:

- It's not an emergency
- You're not at the scene of an accident

LAWYERS

- Finding a lawyer to plead your case
- Lawyers can charge anywhere from \$125 to \$750 an hour

The Professional Liability Coverage Act

- Amended the State Employee's General Liability Trust Fund Act
- Coverage is through Lloyd's of London
- Blanket policy - \$22,000
- Insurance is available for general dentistry, family practice, internal medicine and pediatric practitioners that are retired

Retired Volunteer Physician and Dentist Rules

- Promulgated by public health
- Practitioners must practice at an established free medical clinic
- Clinic may not charge or accept fees from Medicaid, Medicare or insurance
- Clinic may accept donations

Retired Volunteer Physician and Dentist Rules

- No specialists
- Insurance premiums for specialists are cost prohibitive
- No hospital, overnights or general anesthesia...limited to primary care
- Minimum of 4 hours per month
- Maximum of 32 hours per month
- CEUs kept current with licensing board

Retired Volunteer Physician and Dentist Rules

- Monthly email to report hours worked
- Application is simple
- Program lasts one year and must be re-authorized
- First year of program

Retired Volunteer Physician and Dentist Rules

- Program potential is great
- Must have time to market program because most retired volunteer physician and dentists don't understand volunteer service act does not fully protect them –
- Marketing plan to reach associations, volunteer clinics and faith based community

Retired Volunteer Physician and Dentist Rules

- Three applications from specialists who did not match program requirements
- Extra layer of protection for retired volunteers attractive to specialists
- First two months – enrolled two dentists and one primary care physician
- Presentations to MASA, Dental Association and Free and volunteer clinics – “held” due to budget cuts

Florida Programs

Volunteer Health Services

Florida Programs

Health Access Dental License

Florida Programs

Area of Critical Need

Other Resources

J-1
NHSC
3RNet
Residency Programs

Community Partnerships

- Building the workforce from the grassroots
- Treat Health Care Development like Economic Development
- Grow our own strategy – part of the community planning process
- Envision 2020, Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) – healthcare workforce recruitment part of community strategic planning process. Integrate healthcare recruitment into community strategic plan.

???Questions???

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