

NOSORH Region C Meeting, July 21-22, 2010

St. Louis, MO

Round Robin Report Form

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Round Robin Topic/Question: Recruitment and Retention of Health Professionals	Phone: 515-281-3166 Email: edrinnin@idph.state.ia.us Website: www.idph.state.ia.us
<p>Within the Bureau of Health Care Access at the Iowa Department of Public Health (the Bureau that houses the State Office of Rural Health), we administer several programs targeted at recruitment and retention of health professionals. The programs include the Health Workforce Center (with the goal of coordinating activities, data collection, policy and planning for development of stable and qualified health workforce), the State Loan Repayment Program, 3R Net, and small projects primarily targeted at recruiting and retaining mental health professionals.</p> <p>Among all of these programs, however, are very little administrative funds to devote staff time and support to direct recruitment and retention activities with providers and health professionals. Because of this, we need to think creatively about how we use state funds and resources to address recruitment and retention. One recent issue in particular has generated some brainstorming about ways we can better support communities and employers in their efforts. Iowa applied for and received additional State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) funds through ARRA, but we have faced challenges to being able to fully allocate the ARRA funds and the regular annual SLRP funds that we receive. The primary challenge appears to be National Health Service Corps' infusion of funds and easing of HPSA scores for federal loan repayment.</p> <p>Two approaches have been considered – changes to the current SLRP to encourage more applicants, and/or investing state funds in a more meaningful way through other</p>	