

SIM CAB Listening Session Review Questions

Key Findings Key Messages & Next Steps for CAB discussion.

1. **Event Name:** Northeast CT Rural Healthcare Forum
 - a. **Location:** Generations Family Health Center, Willimantic, Connecticut
 - b. **Date:** October 15, 2015

2. **Goals of the Event:** To collect information about the healthcare issues that are most challenging for the rural areas in Connecticut and, in particular the towns and cities in the Northeastern part of the State.

Key Findings: Persistent barriers to the delivery of quality care include workforce shortages, the lack of care coordination, and transportation issues. In particular, many behavioral needs are not adequately addressed. Access to dental care is also substandard. While many are insured privately or through government programs, many are underinsured for the services they need most.

The disparities are in access to healthcare. In particular, people lack access to primary care, behavioral health, and dental care. Statistics from the CT Office of Rural Health show the low level of providers in rural areas of the state. Disparities exist in heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory disease, and unintentional injury. These rates are much higher in rural Connecticut.

3. Based on the Key Findings, what Recommendations do you have?

Please connect your recommendations with 2017 CAB Plan Focus Area 1,2,3:

- 1) **INFLUENCE SYSTEMS CHANGE:**
 - Workforce issues are paramount. Focus on deploying an adequate number of providers, especially in the area of behavioral health, into the region.
 - Transportation solutions and/or alternatives such as telehealth and e-health are needed.
 - Care coordination needs to be incentivized. Payment should be based on the improved health of patients rather than how many patients were seen.
 - Aging population needs more home care to reduce isolation.

- 2) **PROMOTE PROVIDER-CONSUMER PARTNERSHIPS:**
 - Consumers need to have access to delivery systems that treat the whole person since care is too fragmented.

- 3) **ENGAGE AND EMPOWER CONSUMERS:**
 - Public Health agencies need more support so they can do their work to reach consumers and meet their social needs.

- 4. Do you have any Recommendations that Connect with the CAB Health Equity Priority?**
Health equity involves the promotion of equal opportunities for all people to be healthy and to seek the highest level of health possible.

Key Messages of the CAB:

Workforce shortages need to be alleviated. SIM work groups need to incentivize alternative, innovative strategies to fill this need in the rural communities. Care coordination needs to be a focus, especially given the geographic issues such as the low population density centers.

5. Activities and Next Steps:

a. With whom should we share this report?

b. How can we disseminate the report? Which CAB members will email whom?

c. Next Steps to Implement?

d. Do we need additional information? If so what and how to obtain it?

e. Resources Required?

f. Next Deadline?