

## **SIM CAB Listening Session Review Questions**

Key Findings Key Messages & Next Steps for CAB discussion.

1. **Event Name:** Northwest CT Rural Healthcare Forum
  - a. **Location:** Northwestern CT Community College, Shirley Draper Conference Center, Winsted, CT
  - b. **Date:** June 3, 2016
  
2. **Goals of the Event:** To learn about rural health issues.

### **Key Findings:**

- Rural Health stakeholders want to ensure that the needs of those living in rural areas are addressed in the SIM initiative. There are 68 towns identified as rural by [www.ruralhealthct.org](http://www.ruralhealthct.org)
- There are significant workforce issues that affect rural towns such as a dearth of psychiatrists, LPCs, LMFTs and nurse practitioners
- Aging population need long-term care supports
- Access is limited or hindered by transportation gaps and the prohibitive cost of healthcare to a demographic that is income-limited; need to address transportation and access challenges and promote alternative delivery options such as telehealth, on-line pharmacy programs, in-house monitoring systems
- Substance abuse is on the rise in rural areas
- Lack of accessible information about available services
- Need for enhanced health literacy
- Community health workers (CHWs) are needed to connect people to the system
- There is a rising Latino demographic that needs more culturally-appropriate services, especially since that population has higher rates of mortality and diabetes than Whites and lower rates of screening and prenatal care than Whites
- A limited public health presence exists in Northwest Connecticut.
- The rural residents of the NW corner are suffering from a profound lack of mental health services and access to primary care services.

### **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:**
  - Geography should be considered a specific health equity factor in SIM's evaluation efforts, not just race and ethnicity. The CT SIM evaluation needs to include an assessment and plan to address geographic as well as racial and ethnic disparities.
  - Advanced medical home pilots and CCIPs that serve rural communities need to include strategies to address rural health care disparities as part of their planning process.

- CT SIM should undertake a specific process to address workforce shortages and transportation challenges particularly in rural communities. Without addressing these critical factors, progress cannot be achieved in rural communities.

2) PROMOTE PROVIDER-CONSUMER PARTNERSHIPS:

3) ENGAGE AND EMPOWER CONSUMERS:

A need to reach out to consumers due to the lower population density and a dearth of health literacy.

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.*

5. **Key Messages of the CAB:**

- Ensure the SIM initiative studies and addresses the particular health issues of the rural areas as they are different in kind and scope from other areas of the State.
- Work force and transportation issues are paramount.
- Outreach and education are lacking.
- Providers want to find a way to coordinate their activities as there are many active non-profits who could benefit from a coordinated approach going forward.

6. **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?**