

Shortage Area Designations and Service Obligated Programs

Behavioral Health Webinar Series

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The Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University at Albany, SUNY

- Established in 1996
- Based at the University at Albany School of Public Health
- Committed to collecting and analyzing data to understand workforce dynamics and trends
- Goal to inform public policies, the health and education sectors and the public
- Broad array of funders in support of health workforce research

Today's Presentation

- Review of shortage area designations
- Review of service obligated programs
- Discussion with a service obligated provider
- Questions and answers

Shortage Area Designations (MUAs/Ps)

- Medically underserved areas/populations (MUAs/Ps)
 - Primary care only
 - Types
 - Areas
 - (Special) populations
 - Used for federally qualified health centers
 - Used for J-1 Visa waiver programs

Shortage Area Designations (HPSAs)

- Health professional shortage areas
 - Specialties
 - Primary care
 - Mental health
 - Dental health
 - Types
 - Areas
 - (Special) populations
 - Facilities
 - Used for state and federal service obligated programs

HPSA Designations

- Geographies
 - Whole counties (rural)
 - One or more townships (rural)
 - One or more census tracts (urban)
- Populations
 - Medicaid-eligible
 - Low-income
 - Migrant farm workers
 - Homeless
 - Culturally isolated

HPSA Designations Cont.

- Facilities
 - Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) (auto HPSA)
 - FQHC lookalikes (auto HPSA)
 - Indian health services (auto HPSA)
 - Rural health clinics (auto HPSA)
 - Not-for-profit outpatient clinics
 - Federal hospitals (auto HPSA)
 - State prisons
 - Medium or maximum security
 - State or county mental health hospitals
 - Average daily census of at least 100

Who are the Providers?

- Counting providers
 - Primary care providers
 - Family medicine
 - General medicine
 - General internal medicine
 - Obstetrics/Gynecology
 - General pediatrics
 - General dentists
 - Psychiatrists (adult and child/adolescent)
- Geographic – all providers
- Special populations – those serving the population

Who are the Providers? Cont.

- Working in community settings
 - Private practice
 - Freestanding clinics, including FQHCs
 - Hospital outpatient clinics
- Providing patient care
 - Hours providing clinical care
 - To create full time equivalents (FTEs)
 - Medicaid visits
 - 5,000 visits = 1 primary care FTE
 - 4,000 visits = 1 dental care FTE
 - 4,000 visits = 1 mental health FTE

Shortage Designation Modernization Project

- Standardized data sources
 - Population demographics
 - Provider (NPI)
- 10/28/2017 rescoring
 - Geographic
 - Special population
- Auto HPSA rescoring
 - Anticipated spring 2019

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HPSA Work

- Prioritize and review current HPSAs
- Work with community providers and state agencies to identify new shortage area designations
- Provide technical assistance on shortage area designations and their implications on service obligated programs

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HPSA Work Cont.

- Update geographic and special population HPSAs
 - Verify providers
 - Determine clinical care hours/FTEs
 - Update Medicaid visits and enrollment
 - Maintain OASAS substance abuse and mental health data
- Submit outpatient facility and state prison HPSAs
- Submit state and county mental health facility HPSAs

Health Profession Shortage Area Scoring

- Population to provider ratio
- % below 100% of federal poverty level
- Nearest source of care
- Infant health index (primary care)
- Water fluoridation (dental care)
- Elderly ratio (mental health)
- Youth ratio (mental health)
- Alcohol abuse prevalence (mental health)
- Substance abuse prevalence (mental health)

Current Mental Health HPSA Designations

- Clinton County – Medicaid-eligible population (10/28/2017)
- Essex County – geographic (4/13/2018)
- Franklin County – geographic (4/2/2018)
- Fulton County – Medicaid-eligible population (10/28/2017)
- Hamilton County – geographic (10/28/2017)
- St. Lawrence County – Medicaid-eligible population (10/28/2017)
- Warren County – Medicaid-eligible population (12/22/2016)
- Washington County – Medicaid-eligible population (12/22/2016)

Service Obligated Programs: Things to Consider

- When offered
- Length of service
 - Availability of part-time obligations
- Tax implications
- Use of HPSAs/HPSA scores
- Professionals supported
- Settings supported
- Other requirements

State Service Obligated Programs

- Doctors Across New York
 - Shortage areas
 - Defined shortage
- Doctors Across New York OMH
 - OMH Facility
- Primary Care Service Corps
 - HPSA
 - Social works, NPs, Psychologists, Licensed Mental Health Counselors
- New York State 30
 - HPSA
 - MUA/P
- HESC Social Worker Loan Repayment
 - HPSAs
- Regents Shortage Areas
 - HPSAs

Federal Service Obligated Programs

- NHSC
 - Loan repayment
 - Scholarships
 - Available certain times during the year
- Nursing corps
 - Loan repayment
 - Scholarships
 - Generally available January 1st
- Health and Human Services J-1 Visa Waiver Program

Federal Service Obligated Programs Cont.

- NHSC
 - Number of different programs
 - Loan repayment
 - Scholarships
 - Student to service (final year of medical school)
 - In a shortage area
 - Approved site
 - Site approval occurs at certain times during the year
 - Minimum score – varies year to year
 - Approved recipient

Federal Service Obligated Programs Cont.

- Nursing Corps
 - Number of different programs
 - Scholarships
 - Loan repayment
 - Faculty
 - Registered nurses or advanced practice nurses
 - In a primary care or mental health shortage area
 - Minimum score of 14
 - Approved recipient
 - Salary to debt ratio

Meet a Provider

- Licensed mental health counselor and national board certified counselor
- Currently working in an outpatient hospital setting in the Adirondacks providing counseling in the psychiatric clinic
- Degrees:
 - Master's Degree in mental health counseling
 - Bachelor's Degree in psychology
- Past Experience:
 - Mental health counseling services in:
 - public high school
 - college counseling center
 - private practice

Service Obligated Provider

- Introduction
- Questions:
 - Describe your service obligated program location.
 - What made you decide on this service obligated program?
 - Did you consider other service obligated programs?
 - Describe what individuals should consider as they think about service obligated programs.
 - Give advice other individuals should consider when entering into service obligated programs.

Questions?

- For more information, please email me at: rmartiniano@albany.edu

- Visit us at:

