GEORGIA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

PRESENTATION BY: SHELLEY SPIRES

ASSOCIATE CEO OF ALBANY AREA PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, INC. & PRESIDENT ELECT OF GRHA
GRHA BACKGROUND

- OLDEST RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN THE COUNTRY
- COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES OF RURAL GEORGIANS
- COMPOSED OF A BOARD THAT THE INDIVIDUALS ARE COMMITTED TO THE HEALTH CARE FIELD
“Systems dominated by primary care have better outcomes at lower cost. Yet the nation is facing a severe shortage of primary care physicians for adults...44,000-46,000 by 2025...this does not take into account 32 million uninsured who will obtain coverage in the ACA”
“The shortage...will be in excess of 100,000 physicians by the middle of the next decade...recommend an immediate increase of 3,000 entry-level positions in targeted residencies.”
THINGS WE KNOW

▪ “Ample research in recent years concludes...reliance on specialty care services at the expense of primary care...is less efficient”

▪ HRSA estimates in 2020 a need for 337,400 PCPs and a supply of 271,440 shortage = 65,960
GEORGIA’S OVERALL PHYSICIAN SUPPLY

Georgia

200 docs per 100,000 pop.

National. Avg.

300 docs per 100,000 pop.
Rate of primary care physicians per 100,000 population (*excludes Gen. Surgery in this calculation)

Georgia

82 docs per 100,000 pop.

National Average.

100 docs per 100,000 pop.

*using Kaiser Foundation study’s definition, MS EC Health ‘04
THINGS WE KNOW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physicians active in the U.S. who did both medical school and residency in Georgia</th>
<th>71.8% Practice in Georgia 28.2% Practice Elsewhere</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ranked 19th in Nation</td>
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<tr>
<th>Physicians active in the U.S. who completed residency training in GA</th>
<th>49.0% Practice in Georgia 51.0% Practice Elsewhere</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Ranked 17th in Nation</td>
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<th>Physicians active in the U.S. who graduated from medical school in GA</th>
<th>46.3% Practice in Georgia 53.7% Practice Elsewhere</th>
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<td>Ranked 13th in Nation</td>
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WHAT IS GEORGIA DOING?

• Implemented the HB 922 Preceptor Tax Credit

• Sponsor the Medical Student Scholarship Program
  – Advantages
  – Disadvantages

• Sponsor the Physicians for Rural Areas Assistance Program
  – Advantages
  – Disadvantages
WHAT IS GRHA DOING?

• Participating annually in the Primary Care Summit to form an alliance to build a stronger voice

• Advocate for Primary Care from a Legislative perspective. We have presented our agenda for 2014 with R.A.I.S.E

• GRHA joined forces with Georgia Hospital Alliance to develop an annual recruitment fair for providers
WHAT CAN GEORGIA DO TO PREVENT THIS SHORTAGE?

- Provide more dollars for scholarships and increase the scholarship amount
- Provide more loan forgiveness dollars
- Increase the GME slots
- Be creative and develop perks that encourage students to stay in Georgia, train in Georgia, and provide services in Georgia
QUESTIONS?

Shelley Spires, ACEO
Albany Area Primary Health Care, Inc
shelley.spires@aaphc.org