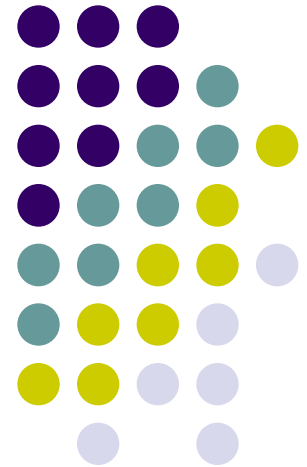
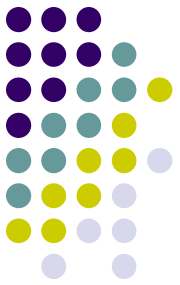




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**Progress Report of the  
Virginia Rural Health Data Council  
March 12, 2008**





# Presenter

Ken Cook, Chairman

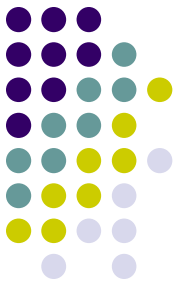
Virginia Rural Health Data Council

Contact info:

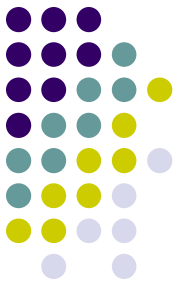
[kgcookjr@aol.com](mailto:kgcookjr@aol.com)

(540) 765-7987

# Workgroup/Council Members

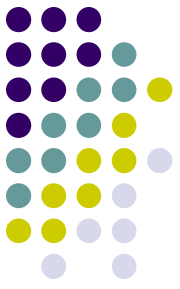


- **David Bowen**, National Center for Analysis of Healthcare Data
- **Karen Cameron**, Central Virginia Health Planning Agency
- **Michelle Chesser**, Joint Commission on Health Care
- **Ken Cook**, VHRA, Goodman & Company
- **Chris Delcher**, Virginia Health Information
- **Marilyn Jackson**, Virginia Department of Health, OMHPHP
- **Tim Perkins**, Virginia Department of Health, Office of EMS
- **Ann Peton**, National Center for Analysis of Healthcare Data
- **Karen Roberto**, Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology
- **Glen Sink**, Center and Council for Rural Virginia
- **Ken Studer**, Virginia Department of Health, OMHPHP



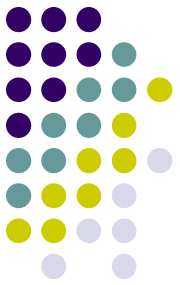
# Tasks

- **Define “Rural” to provide a framework for the State Rural Health Plan**
- **Development of a data structure supporting “rural”**



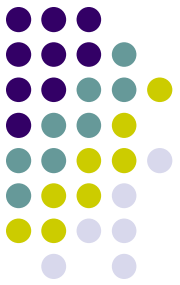
# Our Definition of Rural

- **After long discussions, the Isserman Model was selected as the definition of rural upon which the plan and data comparisons can be made.**
- **Isserman Model is used by the USDA**
- **There are quirks unique to Virginia with respect to this definition**



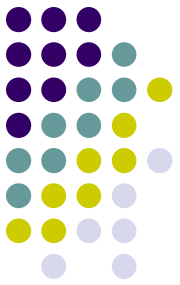
# Isserman in Virginia

- **Four classes of urban/rural**
  - **Urban (31 jurisdictions)**
  - **Mixed urban (17 jurisdictions)**
  - **Mixed rural (20 jurisdictions)**
  - **Rural (67 jurisdictions)**
- **Map showing locations and how defined is on page 36 of the Plan, jurisdiction names on pages 37-38.**



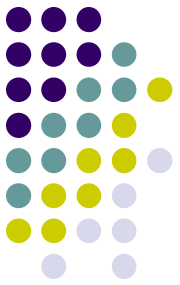
# Database

- **Next task was to develop a list of data elements that when examined would identify disparities in health status**
- **Identified 52 data measures/indicators**
  - 17 demographic
  - 9 workforce
  - 20 access measures
  - 6 quality



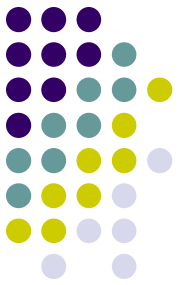
# Database

- **Workgroup prioritized list to 32 indicators to be included in initial database**
- **Indicators selected because of their relative ease to obtain data and ability to standardize data to perform calculations and comparisons**



# Presenting the Data

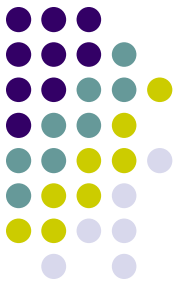
- **Goal: Establish a website/electronic database portal to provide essential rural health relevant research, statistics, quality indicators and data, links and references for RHP partners, policymakers, researchers and the general public.**



# Progress Towards Goal C1

## **C1. Establish the Virginia Rural Health Data and Rural Definitions Council.**

- **Done.**
- **Most workgroup members agreed to serve on Council**



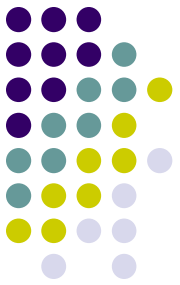
# Progress Towards Goal C2

- C2. Create a rural health database website/electronic database portal ...**
- **Working through issues of developing site**
    - **Market assessment (who will use)**
    - **How much will it cost**
    - **Who will host**
    - **What will be on the site**
    - **How will the data will be presented**
    - **Will data be available for download**
    - **Who will clean data**



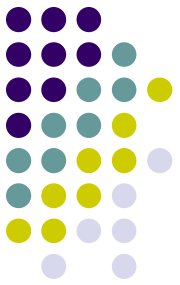
# “Dream Site”

- **Click on maps counties for data**
- **County-to-county/region-to-region/rural-to-urban continuum comparison**
- **Download data in Excel, maps**
- **Conduct simple analysis/comparisons on site**
- **Make site as interactive as possible**



# Other Issues

- **Cost, Cost, Cost**
- **Effort needed to gather, clean, and connect databases**
- **Legal issues?**
- **Phasing of data elements, abilities**
- **How often is data updated**

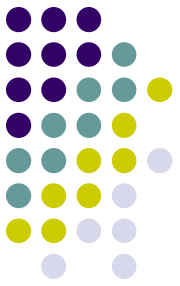


# Progress Towards Goal C3

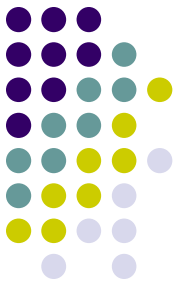
**C3. Incorporate the 32 measures...during the first year of the VA-RHP implementation**

- **Will be incorporated into website**

# Progress Towards Goal C4



- C4. Utilize the USDA Isserman Model four-level delineation of rurality as the rural definition for framing the development of the VA-RHP**
- **Done, but efforts need to continue to modify model where differences exist between counties and independent contained within**
  - **Baseline analysis needs to be performed to establish impact of RHP activities and to focus future efforts**

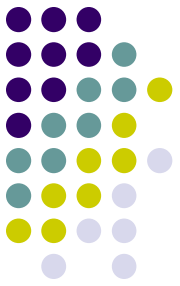


# Progress Towards Goal C5

**C5. Hold roundtable discussions to discuss the feasibility of collaboration/coordination of electronic health records**

- **No activity to date**

# Goals for Coming Year



- **Identify host for website**
- **Fundraising**
- **Data collection and cleaning**
- **Establishment of initial website**
- **Perform baseline assessment of rural areas**