

# VA Rural Health Summit

Health Workforce Council Report

March 12, 2009

# Health Workforce Recommendations

- Establish VA Rural Health Workforce Council
- Provide retention incentives for providers to remain in rural communities
- Explore health care training models and alternatives for rural areas
- More aggressively engage the VA Community College system

# Health Workforce Recommendations

- Increase communication among training programs
- Engage academic centers in strategies to improve workforce in rural areas
- Research dual certification programs
- Develop/support educational opportunities for integrating primary care with behavioral health

# Workforce Council Issues

- Role of the Council—Rural Focus Health Workforce Advisory Committee  
Dept. of Health Professions—Physician Workforce Committee
- How to Measure Success in Recruiting/Retaining  
How do VA legislators measure?
- Collaboration between educational agencies  
Academic health centers, community colleges, high schools

# So Many Choices—So Little Resources

- Host a workforce summit-statewide workforce issues—training needs, employer needs, best practices
- Survey of rural employers—future employment needs—top 5 professions
- Survey of academic institutions—rural focus
- Hire intern—collect data on dual certification programs—opportunities/barriers

# Focus for 2009—Option Chosen

- Host workforce summit-statewide workforce issues—training needs, employer needs, best practices
- Invite all players to table
  - Date?
  - Location?
  - Invitation List?
- Your input is needed