

Rural Health Data Summit

23-24 July 2015 Santa Fe, NM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Representatives from fourteen states and four national organizations met for two days to discuss state offices of rural health's data collection, analysis, use, and visualization. Resources were shared, knowledge was exchanged, and the following conclusions were made:

- The Data Summit should continue as an annual face-to-face meeting of “data super users” for discussions on recommended practices for rural health data use.
 - Separating this discussion from data-use training allows each audience to get what they need – those newer to data aren't overwhelmed by advanced conversations, and more advanced users aren't slowed down by more basic topics.
 - These super users should also connect via webinar/calls between Summits, and a discussion listserv be set up. (Done, by WI-ORH—let us know if you'd like to join)
 - A web site/blog/tumblr should be set up for sharing examples of great data reports and visualizations
- The goals of the Super Users group are to:
 - Support data super users in their work, to learn from each other and create more robust work nationally
 - Make policy recommendations on data use to FORHP and even CMS
 - Make recommendations to SORHs on how to better utilize data
 - Help guide the creation of data trainings, such as NOSORH's Data Institute
 - Produce resources, like data templates, toolkits, etc
- The Summit participants fleshed out an outline for NOSORH's Data Institute, and will serve as an advisory body for creating it. Kassie Clarke will be leading that work at NOSORH.
 - In addition, the group felt it would be valuable to create a Pre-Workshop for the NOSORH Annual Conference on data use, for SORH staff that wanted to learn more.
 - Finally, for those unable to make the trainings, a toolkit should be developed to guide states through data collection, analysis, use, and visualization.
- The participants decided to form a subcommittee that would make recommendations on quality indicators for rural hospitals, specifically improvements to MBQIP.
 - Other topic groups/subcommittees were discussed but no decision made:
 - HCAHPS data standardization from vendors
 - “Hospital health” indicators including quality, finance, and operations
 - Program evaluation to help SORHs evaluate themselves better (and subsequently, be able to tell their story better)
- Next year's Summit will be held in the same location (city and hotel), in early August, 2016.