

Barriers to Georgians' Access to Adequate Healthcare

Who is the speaker – Jimmy Lewis?

JIMMY LEWIS, CEO OF HOMETOWN HEALTH IS A GRADUATE IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING FROM AUBURN UNIVERSITY. HE GREW UP IN SOUTH GEORGIA, THEN WORKED IN SENIOR EXECUTIVE POSITIONS IN SIX FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES, FORMED HOMETOWN HEALTH, LLC IN 1997 AS AN ADVOCATE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF RURAL HOSPITALS. HE HAS LOBBIED, ADVOCATED AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE FORMATION OF HOMETOWN HEALTH WITH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY SERVICES THROUGHOUT HOSPITALS IN SEVERAL STATES, ONLINE EDUCATION WITH OVER 10,000 STUDENTS ACROSS THE U.S., AND HAS CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE LOBBY WORK IN ALL ASPECTS OF RURAL HEALTH POLICY IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA. JIMMY IS ON THE STATE OF GEORGIA GOVERNOR'S RURAL HOSPITAL STABILIZATION COMMITTEE AND SERVES ON THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR TELEHEALTH BOARD.



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Barriers to Georgians' Access to Adequate Healthcare

GIVEN:

- 1) MAJOR SHORTAGE OF PHYSICIANS; AS MANY AS 1000 PHYSICIANS SHORT IN GEORGIA
- 2) AGE-DRIVEN RETIREMENT
- 3) RURAL QUALITY OF LIFE IS NOT ATTRACTIVE
- 4) RESIDENCY SLOTS INSUFFICIENT
- 5) GEORGIA IS A PHYSICIAN EXPORTER FROM ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS
- 6) DEBT
- 7) EMTALA



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Barriers to Georgians' Access to Adequate Healthcare – Acute Care

Option 1

Do nothing and:

- 1) The local rural health system dies
- 2) The local economy collapses; patient care and access to care goes away
- 3) Example: Charlton County

Option 2

Expand scope of services beyond current limitations for

- 1) PA's
- 2) Nurse Practices
- 3) Other Midlevels
- 4) Pharmacists

Option 3

Expand Telemedicine by:

- 1) increasing payments and
- 2) loosen rules
- 3) Train presenters
- 4) Increasing application to high access areas such as schools, prisons, state health benefits plans and
- 5) Medicaid through CMO's
- 6) Ambulances – 1100 of them
- 7) Chronic Disease Monitoring
- 8) Example: Crisp County Schools

Barriers to Georgians' Access to Adequate Healthcare

Acute Care Clinical

- ▶ Insufficient physicians
- ▶ Reduced access such as OB due to closures
- ▶ Closed hospitals - 8 in 3-5 years
- ▶ Heavily depreciated facilities
- ▶ Poor reimbursement
- ▶ Narrow Networks
- ▶ Insurance premiums and deductible unaffordable/high
- ▶ Transportation

Barriers to Georgians' Access to Adequate Healthcare – Mental Health

Acute Care Mental

- ▶ Insufficient licensed practitioners
- ▶ Insufficient rural providers as in psychiatrists and psychologists
- ▶ Community Service Boards (CSBs) inadequate beds
- ▶ Insufficient state resources
- ▶ Growth in geriatric psychiatry
- ▶ Aging population
- ▶ Poverty
- ▶ Drugs – opioids/heroin
- ▶ Under a Federal mandate
- ▶ Consolidated in urban settings
- ▶ 1013's can break a rural hospital:
 - ▶ Up top \$50,000 stays with no place to send them
 - ▶ Hospitals and CSBs do not communicate well

Major Solution

- ▶ Telemedicine



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Barriers to Georgians' Access to Adequate Healthcare - A Presentation

▶ Thank you!

- ▶ Questions?
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