



Bureau of Health Planning
Primary Health Care Practitioner Program

Annual Progress Report
June 30, 2000



Robert S. Zimmerman, Jr. M.P.H.
Secretary of Health

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

HARRISBURG

ROBERT S. ZIMMERMAN, JR., MPH
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

September, 2000

Dear Fellow Pennsylvanian:

It gives me great pleasure to present this progress report for the Primary Health Care Practitioner Program for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2000 as required under Act 113 of 1992.

Availability and access to primary care is vital to the health of all Pennsylvanians because it often is the point of entry into the entire health care delivery system. And yet, even today, disparities in access to primary medical and dental care continue to exist – among rural residents, among economically disadvantaged populations, linguistically isolated groups, or other people for whom a simple visit to the doctor or dentist is often difficult. In fact, more than two million Pennsylvanians live in areas recognized as Health Professional Shortage Areas by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration based on lack of availability or access to services.

I am pleased to report that, since its inception in 1993, the Department of Health has energetically approached this problem by developing a comprehensive program to address the training of primary health care practitioners, development of community medical and dental clinics, and recruitment of primary care providers into shortage areas. In fact, the Department's Division of Health Professions Development has recruited a total of 342 primary care physicians, dentists, and non-physician professionals into urban and rural shortage areas, and has supported the development of 33 new or expanded primary care medical or dental clinics.

While much has been done, more work remains. In the coming year, the Department will intensify efforts to address the issue of access to dental services by expanding our community challenge grant program for dental clinics, providing assistance to communities to determine eligibility for designation as a dental health professional shortage area, and increasing funding limits for community challenge grants to permit the acquisition of dental equipment. In addition, the Department has significantly increased our support of the Pennsylvania Area Health Education Centers, an important element in supporting the educational needs of clinicians in shortage areas. Among other things, this increased support will permit clinician training to support public health initiatives of the Department, such as communicable disease reporting and preventive efforts.

The Primary Health Care Practitioner Program is another example of the Department of Health being there.....for your health. For your community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Zimmerman, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert S. Zimmerman, Jr., M.P.H.

Primary Health Care Practitioner Program

Program Activity Summary

Act 113 of 1992 authorized the Department of Health to implement a program to improve the availability of primary health care practitioners in designated shortage areas of Pennsylvania. In response, the Department of Health developed a comprehensive initiative to assist and encourage the development of community responsive systems of primary care through public and private partnerships to address the supply, distribution, recruitment, and retention of primary health care practitioners.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND SERVICE

Governor's School for Health Care

The Governor's School for Health Care is an honors program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center for high school students interested in a career in health care. The program consists of an intensive six-week program to provide students with first-hand experience in health care careers along with completion of a community health project upon return home. Throughout the program, emphasis is placed on opportunities in primary care in rural and urban underserved areas.

Results: Since 1993, 834 students have graduated from the GSHC; 109 students from 41 counties completed the Summer 1999 program.

Bridging the Gaps Community Health Internship Program

This program provides students in health and social service disciplines with opportunities to work as interdisciplinary teams to obtain meaningful leadership experience in community based health service projects. An emphasis is placed on health promotion and client education among medically underserved populations.

Results: In 1999, 201 students participated at over 100 sites, including homeless shelters, community health centers, schools, senior centers, substance abuse programs and community organization offices.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Medical School Generalist Initiative

The Generalist Physician Initiative was developed in response to national recognition of the importance of primary care physicians in providing access to health care. Since 1994, the Department has provided matching support to a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Generalist Initiative awarded to the MCP/Hahnemann School of Medicine and the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. Funds were used to encourage changes in admissions, curriculum and faculty development, practice entry and support, and community based teaching.

Results: Table 1 illustrates the increase in the total number of graduating medical students entering a primary care residency, based upon results of the annual National Internship and Residency Match Program.

Table 1
Graduating Medical Students Entering Primary Care Residency Programs

	1993	1999	2000
MCP Hahnemann	115 (42%)	138 (58%)	119 (51%)
Penn State - Hershey	41 (37%)	47 (46%)	46 (48%)

Area Health Education Centers

The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program places emphasis on increasing the numbers of medical students entering primary medical care careers, particularly in underserved areas of Pennsylvania. To do this, Pennsylvania AHEC provides community based practice experience in primary care for medical students, and continuing education to reduce professional isolation and retain health professionals already practicing in rural or underserved areas. Regional AHECs are operational in six regions: northwest, northcentral, southwest, southcentral, southeast, east central.

Results: During SFY 1999/2000, more than 89 continuing professional education programs were provided to over 5,000 health care professionals. Approximately 2,600 health science students and primary care residents participated in clinical training sponsored in AHEC affiliated community based training sites.

In addition, during this report period the Bureau of Health Planning received \$20,000 in federal funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration to work with the AHEC and the Pennsylvania Forum for Primary Health Care to identify training needs of practitioners serving in National Health Service Corps sites, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and state and federal loan repayment program participants.

RECRUITMENT/RETENTION INITIATIVES

Primary Care Practitioner Loan Repayment Program

The Loan Repayment program provides incentives for primary care practitioners to practice in a Health Professional Shortage Area. The program provides for repayment of eligible educational loans up to \$64,000 for physicians and dentists and \$40,000 for midlevel practitioners with a four-year commitment to practice in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area.

Results: During SFY 1999/2000, 28 new participants were approved. Since the program's inception in 1993, 138 practitioners have been placed in underserved areas. Table 2 provides a breakdown of participants by discipline and practice site for the report period.

Table 2
Loan Repayment Program Participation by Professional Group and Practice Location
July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000

Practitioner Type	Total	Rural	Urban
Family Practice	9	3	6
Pediatrics	1	1	0
Internal Medicine	3	3	0
Obstetrics	2	1	1
Dentists	4	1	3
Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner	2	1	1
Physician Assistant	4	1	3
Certified Nurse Midwife	3	1	2
Total	28	12	16

J-1 Visa Waiver Program

Federal law requires international medical graduates to return to their country of origin upon completion of their post graduate training in the United States. States may request a limited number of waivers of this requirement if

a physician agrees to practice in a primary care Health Professional Shortage Area for a minimum of three years.

Results: Since the Department of Health began its participation in this program in 1993, 204 physicians have been recruited to Pennsylvania in 83 urban and 121 rural practice sites in shortage areas. In SFY 1999/2000, 16 physicians were placed. Table 3 provides additional information.

Table 3
J-1 Visa Waiver Placements by Physician Specialty and Practice Location
July 1, 1999-June 30, 2000

Practitioner Type	Total	Rural	Urban
Family Practice	3	0	3
Pediatrics	2	0	2
Internal Medicine	6	2	4
Obstetrics	1	0	1
Psychiatry	3	2	1
General Surgeon	1	1	0
Total	16	5	11

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Community Challenge Grants

The Community Challenge Grant Program, begun in 1993, provides grants to communities in designated shortage areas and where services are lacking to start primary care medical or dental clinics. The program places emphasis on community-based solutions to increasing primary care medical or dental capacity, and requires a 50% community match.

Results: Since the start of the program, 33 communities received grants as illustrated in Table 4. These grants resulted in the recruitment of 38 primary care practitioners. Over \$1.9million dollars were awarded, which leveraged an equal amount in community commitment. In SFY 1999/2000, 6 new grants were awarded in two rural and four urban communities to provide primary care medical and dental services to approximately 16,000 persons living in underserved areas. Table 4 summarizes the experience of the Community Challenge Grant Program since its inception.

Table 4
Primary Care Community Challenge Grants by Location and Services
July 1, 1993 – June 30, 2000

	Medical Clinics	Dental Clinics	Medical/Dental	Total
Rural	7	7	0	14
Urban	16	2	1	19
Total	23	9	1	33

Office of Rural Health

The Office of Rural Health (ORH) is a partnership between the Department of Health, the federal Office of Rural Health Policy and Penn State University/Department of Rural Sociology. The ORH provides consultative and informational services to rural communities to preserve access to health services and strengthen health systems in rural Pennsylvania.

Results: SFY 1999/2000 annual Rural Health Conference was attended by over 200 exhibitors, presenters and attendees. The conference included a one-day workshop on Internet use and grant writing skills. This year, the ORH was a key partner in the development of a grant application to the Health Care Financing Administration to implement the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility program in Pennsylvania.

FEDERAL/STATE PARTNERSHIPS

Primary Care Cooperative Agreement

Under the terms of the Federal/State Primary Care Cooperative Agreement, the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Planning has been designated as the state Primary Care Office, for coordination of primary care programs and initiatives. This grant program supports the designation of Health Professional Shortage Area and Medically Underserved Areas in Pennsylvania.

Results: During SFY 1999/2000, the Department completed the designation process for ten new health professional shortage areas and the renewal designation of nine health professional shortage areas. In April 2000, the Department received funding under the Cooperative Agreement to develop a Community Development Initiative. In partnership with the PA Forum, this initiative will assist interested local health improvement partnerships to attract and leverage federal, state, local, and private resources in their efforts to identify access and/or health disparities and resolve service gaps. Activities will support objectives identified in Healthy People 2010 and collaboration with programs funded by the federal Bureau of Primary Health Care.

The Department increased focus on improving access to dental services for residents of underserved areas by providing technical assistance to twelve recipients of grants awarded by the Bureau of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention. The grants target five urban and seven rural communities to obtain federal designation as dental health professional shortage areas. Communities are then eligible for practitioner recruitment assistance through federal and state loan repayment programs.

HRSA Loan Repayment Program

The Department of Health receives a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to fund a portion of the loan repayment incentives for primary care practitioners who practice in Health Professional Shortage Areas. This program, matched dollar for dollar by state funds, is operated under the provisions of Act 113 of 1992.

Results: During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2000, 12 of the 28 primary care practitioners placed in Pennsylvania were supported in part by this grant.

**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER
PROGRAM ACTIVITY BY COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2000**

County	Residents in			Residents in Medically Underserved Areas	J-1 Physician Placements Placed this Year/ Currently Assigned/ Cumulative	Loan Repayment Placed this Year/ Currently Assigned/ Cumulative	Governor's School Attendees	Community Challenge Grants Current/ Cumulative
	Health Professional Shortage Areas							
	Primary Care	Dental	Mental Health					
Adams	--	--	76,579	28,420		0 / 0 / 2		0 / 1
Allegheny	151,277	33,383	--	202,773	3 / 10 / 22	0 / 1 / 4	11	3 / 4
Armstrong	36,854	--	27,054	25,562	0 / 1 / 4	0 / 1 / 2	1	0 / 1
Beaver	2,532	60,673	60,673	8,649	0 / 1 / 2	1 / 1 / 2	3	
Bedford	10,330	--	--	9,546	0 / 0 / 2	1 / 2 / 2		
Berks	847	--	--	39,034	1 / 1 / 1		2	
Blair	1,900	--	--	27,664	0 / 1 / 1		1	
Bradford	2,560	22,945	--	1,043				1 / 1
Bucks	--	--	--	32,832			3	
Butler	8,292	27,650	--	12,518	0 / 0 / 4	0 / 4 / 5	3	
Cambria	28,600	--	--	35,565	0 / 0 / 2	3 / 3 / 4		
Cameron	5,661	--	--	5,661	0 / 3 / 4	0 / 0 / 1		
Carbon	--	--	56,224	--	1 / 2 / 3		1	
Centre	15,730	--	--	53,156	0 / 2 / 2		1	
Chester	1,461	--	--	4,779		1 / 1 / 1	6	
Clarion	8,394	--	--	5,830	0 / 2 / 2	1 / 1 / 2		
Clearfield	25,134	--	--	17,519	0 / 2 / 7	0 / 1 / 1		
Clinton	5,786	--	35,376	2,671			1	
Columbia	6,041	--	--	66			2	
Crawford	16,675	15,803	--	16,261	0 / 0 / 1	2 / 6 / 8	1	
Cumberland	5,119	--	--	--			4	
Dauphin	51,446	24,805	--	33,883	0 / 0 / 1	1 / 2 / 4	1	2 / 2
Delaware	--	--	--	29,081			4	0 / 1
Elk	85	--	--	--			2	
Erie	26,961	42,239	--	30,666	0 / 4 / 21	3 / 9 / 14	4	1 / 1
Fayette	24,262	20,226	144,224	145,351	0 / 7 / 13		3	0 / 2
Forest	4,575	--	4,766	4,672	0 / 1 / 2	1 / 1 / 1		
Franklin	13,920	9,773	--	121,082	0 / 1 / 1	1 / 4 / 13		1 / 2
Fulton	5,945	5,319	--	13,837	1 / 1 / 4			
Greene	19,004	7,599	41,408	32,739	1 / 1 / 3	0 / 1 / 1	1	0 / 1
Huntingdon	30,356	6,250	43,204	11,843		0 / 2 / 3		
Indiana	23,693	--	84,226	27,111	0 / 1 / 6		1	
Jefferson	18,145	19,706	--	21,758	0 / 2 / 5	0 / 0 / 2	1	

**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER
PROGRAM ACTIVITY BY COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2000**

County	Residents in Health Professional Shortage Areas			Residents in Medically Underserved Areas	J-1 Physician Placements Placed this Year/ Currently Assigned/ Cumulative	Loan Repayment Placed this Year/ Currently Assigned/ Cumulative	Governor's School Attendees	Community Challenge Grants Current/ Cumulative
	Primary Care	Dental	Mental Health					
Lackawanna	--	--	15,849	24,523	0 / 2 / 2		1	
Lancaster	42,552	34,771	19,443	47,901		1 / 2 / 4	4	1 / 3
Lawrence	--	34,460	--	25,926		1 / 2 / 4		
Lebanon	--	--	--	--			1	
Lehigh	--	--	--	--			1	
Luzerne	--	--	--	56,277				
Lycoming	13,074	--	116,949	3,303	0 / 1 / 1		1	
McKean	7,335	2,334	--	4,991	0 / 1 / 7	0 / 1 / 1		
Mercer	23,004	10,449	--	10,315	1 / 2 / 4	1 / 3 / 5	1	1 / 4
Mifflin	12,698	20,252	46,197	8,239	0 / 2 / 3			
Monroe	41,272	--	92,439	--	1 / 4 / 6	1 / 6 / 7		
Montgomery	--	--	--	3,501			8	
Montour	--	--	--	--				
Northampton	6,119	--	--	2,191			4	0 / 1
Northumberland	29,167	--	--	27,817	1 / 2 / 4	0 / 1 / 2	1	
Perry	9,612	--	--	--			2	
Philadelphia	92,773	165,988	--	684,547	4 / 15 / 15	3 / 9 / 24	10	3 / 5
Pike	3,288	12,935	27,809	5,985	0 / 1 / 2			
Potter	7,426	--	--	2,235	0 / 1 / 5	1 / 4 / 4		
Schuylkill	8,042	61,587	--	16,015			2	1 / 1
Snyder	9,411	--	--	3,315	0 / 3 / 3			
Somerset	9,733	--	--	29,594	0 / 1 / 4		2	
Sullivan	6,079	--	--	6,104				
Susquehanna	19,886	--	41,197	20,924	0 / 3 / 10	1 / 1 / 1		
Tioga	28,093	14,720	39,967	19,390	1 / 2 / 5	0 / 2 / 3	2	
Union	7,450	8,526	--	--				
Venango	2,471	--	--	3,711			1	0 / 1
Warren	1,480	--	43,715	--	0 / 2 / 8			
Washington	--	--	--	54,174			2	1 / 1
Wayne	13,732	19,008	42,905	13,774	0 / 3 / 5	2 / 3 / 4	1	1 / 1
Westmoreland	29,973	--	--	23,148	1 / 4 / 5	1 / 1 / 2	5	
Wyoming	--	--	27,493	10,949				
York	28,021	28,021	58,745	28,021	0 / 2 / 2	1 / 2 / 3	3	

TOTALS 452,691 413,051 572,708 1,136,870 16 / 94 / 204 28 / 79 / 138 52 16 / 33

**INFORMATION AND MANUALS AVAILABLE THROUGH
THE BUREAU OF HEALTH PLANNING
DIVISION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS DEVELOPMENT**

The following is a list of documents available from the Bureau of Health Planning, Division of Health Professions Development. Items identified with an asterisk (*) are available for downloading from the Department's Web site, www.health.state.pa.us/practice/default.htm. Others may be requested by contacting us at the above site, or by phoning or faxing your request to the numbers below.

Guidelines for Federally Designated Primary Care (Medical) Health Professional Shortage Area

Guidelines for Federally Designated Medically Underserved Areas

Guidelines for Federally Designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Area

Guidelines for Federally Designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Area

Guidelines for Development of a Rural Health Clinic

Community Health Centers and other Federally Affiliated Clinical sites

GAZETTEER of Pennsylvania's Areas of Medical Underservice (1999 Edition)

*J-1 Visa Waiver Program Application Guidelines and Procedures

*Primary Health Care Practitioner Loan Repayment Program
Eligibility and Application Guidelines

PLEASE DIRECT QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR THIS INFORMATION TO

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