Introducing Technical Assistance for the Rural Health Network Development Program

Network TA Team
August, 2017
Rural Health Innovations (RHI), LLC, is a subsidiary of the National Rural Health Resource Center (The Center), a non-profit organization. Together, RHI and The Center are the nation’s leading technical assistance and knowledge centers in rural health. In partnership with The Center, RHI connects rural health organizations with innovations that enhance the health of rural communities.
Rural Health Networks

We are Better Together
Network Development Grantees

2017 NETWORK DEVELOPMENT GRANTEES
“Collaborating and innovating to improve the health of rural communities.”
RHI Network TA Team
Meet Sally, Terry and Alyssa

Sally Buck  
CEO

Terry Hill  
RHI Executive Director

Alyssa Meller  
Director of Operations
Meet Kap and Debra

Kap Wilkes
Director Program Development

Debra Laine
Program Specialist
Meet Angie, Becky and Kiona

Angie LaFlamme
Senior Program Coordinator

Becky Gourde
Senior Program Coordinator

Kiona Hermanson
Program Coordinator
TA Team Strategies

- Approach TA from coaching perspective
- Seek commonalities while acknowledging network program differences
- Utilize a framework to understand and identify TA needs
Aiming for Sustainability

• Leadership
• Collaboration
• Member-Driven
• Communication
• Evaluation and Measurement
• Financial Infrastructure
• Workforce and Culture
• Process and Operations
TA Methods

• Use multiple TA delivery modes
• Focus on leadership development
• Support continuous improvement
• Knowledge sharing
• Environment of innovation and creativity
• Translating business concepts
Delivering TA to Meet Your Needs

- Ad Hoc Questions
- 1:1 Check-In Calls
- Peer Group Calls
- Site Visits
- Reverse Site Visits
- TA Plan
- Support for Grant Deliverables
Delivering TA with Easy Access

- Educational Webinars
- Peer Information Directories
- Informational Newsletter
- Resource Website
Have Questions?

• Reach out to your individual RHI TA Team member
• Note that our entire team is available to you
• We’ll answer questions and help you find resources
• How to contact us:
  ◦ NetworkTA@ruralcenter.org
  ◦ (800) 997-6685 or (218) 727-9390
Check-In Calls

• 1:1 TA Check-in Calls
  ◦ Five per year
  ◦ Intro Calls scheduled for Sept. – Oct.
  ◦ TA Check-In Calls scheduled for Nov. – Aug.
Peer Group Calls

• Peer Group Calls
• Topics based on:
  ◦ Current healthcare issues
  ◦ Follow-up to a educational webinar
• Moderated conversations
• Opportunity to share and assist your peers
On-Site TA Visits

• 12 On-Site TA Visits 2017-2018 grant year
  ◦ 1:1 on-site training, facilitation and planning
• Complete a On-Site TA Visit request
  ◦ Provide potential dates
  ◦ Describe TA topic
  ◦ Describe expected outcome or impact
Reverse Site Visits

• Workshops
  ◦ 10-15 grantee organizations per workshop

• All-Program Partnership Meeting
  ◦ March 2018
TA Plan

- Technical assistance available
- “Aiming for Sustainability” resources
- Upcoming learning opportunities
- Deliverable due dates
Support for Grant Deliverables

- Guide
- Template
- Samples
- Webinar
- Review and feedback
- 1:1 Coaching
Educational Webinars

- Deliverable Toolkits
- Background education for deliverables
- Topics identified by TA assessment
- Topics identified by Project Officers
- Current healthcare events
Welcome

In recent years, the widespread shift to electronic health records (EHRs) has had a profound impact on how health care providers deliver care to rural patients. For rural health networks with providers as members, the use of EHRs influences how members are able to coordinate the care of populations as well as track and share data. But achieving true interoperability—the ability of disparate information technology systems and software applications to communicate—can be a challenge, often due to technical or financial limitations.

In this month’s article, Rene Cabral-Dankels of Community Care Network of Virginia (CCNV) describes the benefits of EHR interoperability through the lens of the Triple Aim. Rene and the staff at CCNV share findings on the unique impact that interoperability can have on rural communities in particular. Their points can help make the case for dedicating resources toward improving interoperability along the path to population health and value-based care.

As your network’s members strive toward the interoperability of your health IT systems, we encourage you to contact the Network TA Team for support from experts in your areas of need during these crucial change efforts.
Development

The Rural Health Network Development Program (Development) is a three-year grant program funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), with grant awards of up to $300,000 per year. The legislative purpose of this grant program is to expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of essential health care services, and enhance the delivery of health care, in rural areas. The primary objective of this program is to assist health-oriented networks in developing and maintaining sustainable networks with self-generating revenue streams. These grants support rural providers who work in formal networks to integrate administrative, clinical, technological, and financial functions. Networks should have a significant history of organizational collaboration and must have a memorandum of understanding.

Recent Webinars and Resources


Important Dates and Updates

RHI Network TA Website Page
Online Resources

• Recorded webinars with accompanying slides and materials
• Guides, templates and samples
• Reports and links
• Newsletters, articles and spotlights
Network Aim for Sustainability Portal

The Network **Aim for Sustainability** collection of resources provides a filtered list of relevant and pertinent education, tools and resources that aim rural health networks toward sustainability.

Since the fall of 2012, Rural Health Innovations (RHI), working through Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA’s) [Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)](https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/) contracts, has provided technical assistance to over 250 rural health networks. We have provided direct support to network leaders across the country, held knowledge-sharing summits and delivered capacity-building workshops, education and resources. Our knowledge and understanding of rural health network, coupled with a systems approach and the Baldrige Performance Excellence Framework, has led to the development of this portal of resources.

The portal is a compilation of eight topics identified through a study of network sustainability factors that defined the six key characteristics of a sustained network plus two additional Baldrige components that are focused on workforce and operational ideas.
Small Rural Hospital Transition (SRHT) Project

• **SRHT** supports small rural hospitals nationally in bridging the gaps between the current volume-based health care system and the newly emerging value-based system of health care delivery and payment

• Provides onsite technical assistance to assist selected hospitals in transitioning to value-based care and Alternative Payment Models (APM)

• Disseminates best practices and successful strategies to rural hospital and network leaders
Small Rural Hospital Transition (SRHT) Project

Assisting Small Rural Hospitals to Prepare for the Future

The SRHT Project is designed to transition rural hospitals to value-based care and Alternative Payment Models (APM), as well as prepare them for population health management. While consultations target financial and quality performance improvements, the primary focus of the technical assistance is to prepare providers for participation in value-based care models and APM (such as patient-centered medical homes and hospital shared saving plans) that position the hospitals for the future. Best practices and transition to value resources such as toolkits, guides, previously recorded HELP webinars, as well as success stories and outcomes showcased through hospital spotlights, PMG calls, and program examples are made available to support rural hospital and network leaders in preparing for population health. The Small Rural Hospital Transition (SRHT) Project is supported by Contract Number HHS325201660012C from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.
SRHT Education for Transitioning to Value

HELP Webinars, PMG Calls, Hospital Spotlights & the Rural Hospital Toolkit for Transitioning to Value-based Systems

- Strategic Planning
- Leadership: Board, Employee and Community
- Physician and Provider Engagement
- Population Health Management
- Financial and Operational Strategies
- Revenue Cycle Management and BO Processes
- Quality Improvement
- Community Care Coordination and Chronic Disease Management
Mark Your Calendar

- August 10: Peer Group Call w/ 2014 grantee group
- Week of August 14: TA Assessment
- September/October: First 1:1 TA “Intro Calls”
- September 14 & 15 Sustainable Network Summit
Network TA Team

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Get to know us better:
http://www.ruralcenter.org