
ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES: POLICY SOLUTIONS

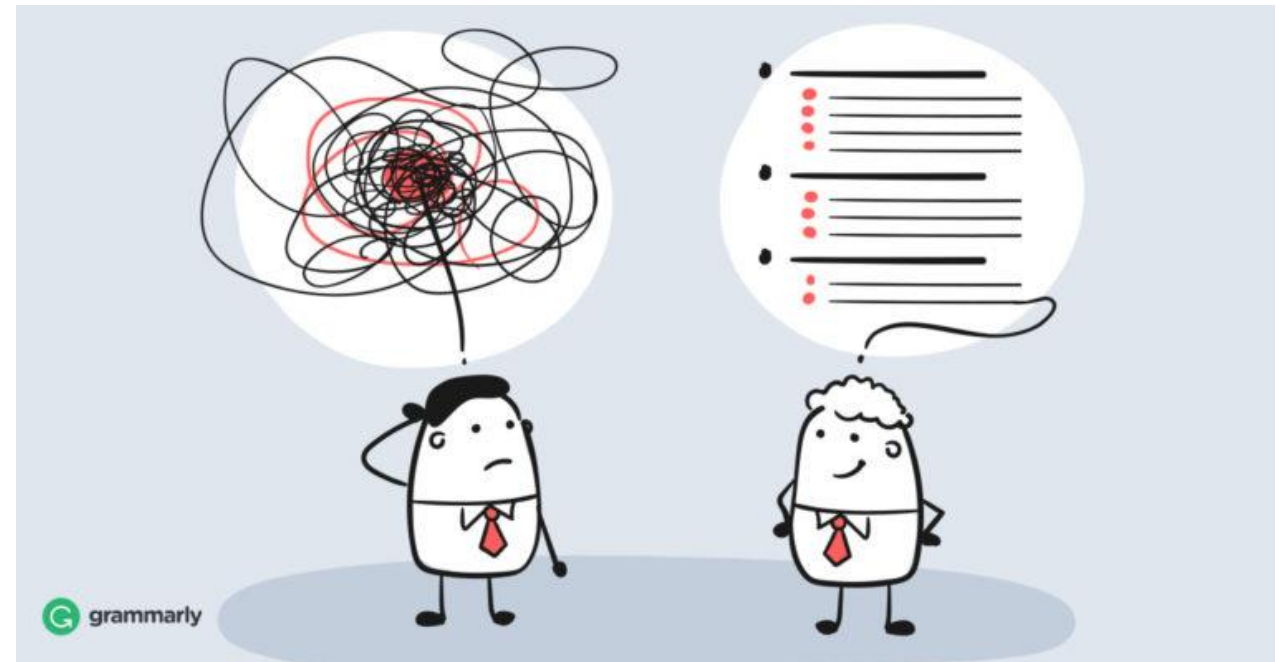
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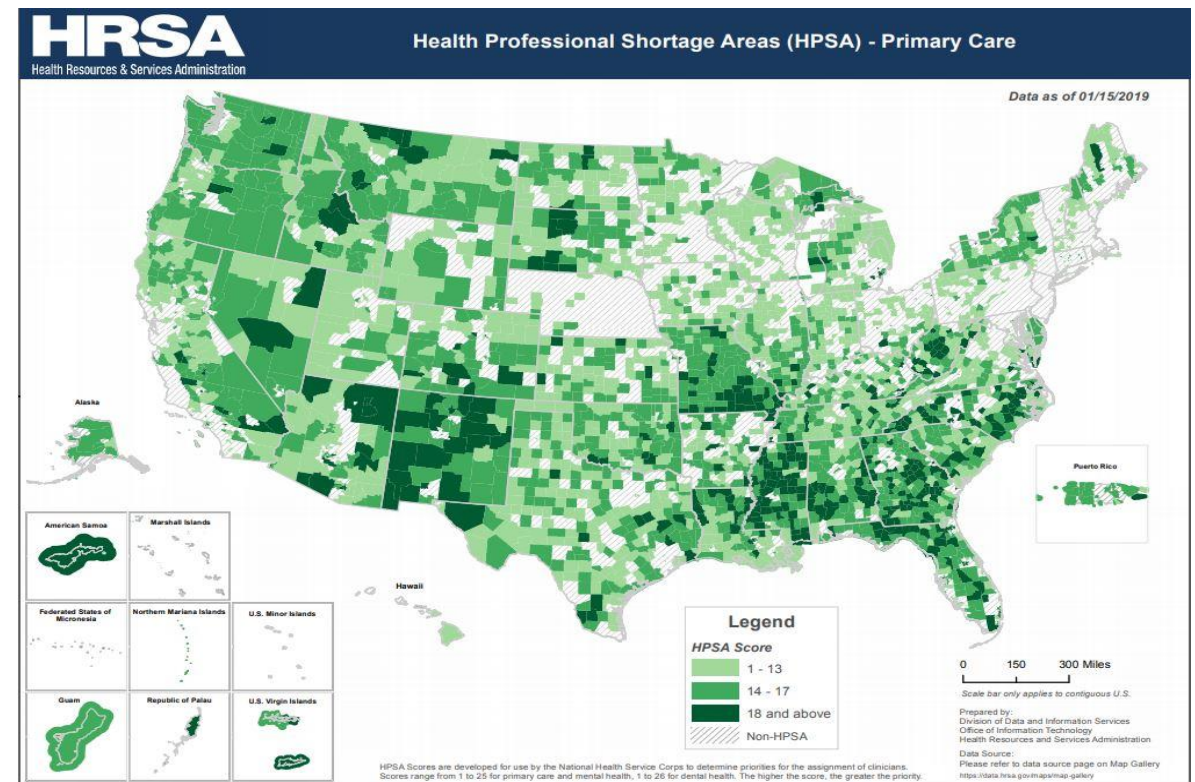
SESSION OUTLINE

- Overview
- Utilizing Providers
- Exercise: Think, Pair, Share
- Utilizing Telehealth
- Exercise: Think, Pair, Share
- Q&A
- Conclusion



WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

- More than 100 million Americans live in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
 - More than three quarters of the nation's rural counties are HPSAs
- HPSAs are “geographic areas, or populations within geographic areas that lack sufficient health care providers to meet the health care needs of the area or population.” (CMS, 2014)
- HPSAs include primary care, oral health and mental health



WHAT IS CAUSING WORKFORCE SHORTAGES?



- Aging and retiring practitioners
- Low number of graduating students who want to practice in rural or underserved areas
- Declining interest in certain fields (e.g., primary care)
- Comparatively low reimbursement rates for certain services
- Lack of adequate training for certain issues and populations

UTILIZING PROVIDERS

Questions to Consider

- How can you help bring health care providers—or keep them—in rural or underserved areas?
- Are there new or emerging provider types that could serve your area?
- Can you examine existing scope of practice policies for non-physician providers?



PROVIDER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION



- Scholarship and loan repayment
- Pathway programs
- State examples
 - Virginia
 - Arkansas
 - Arizona

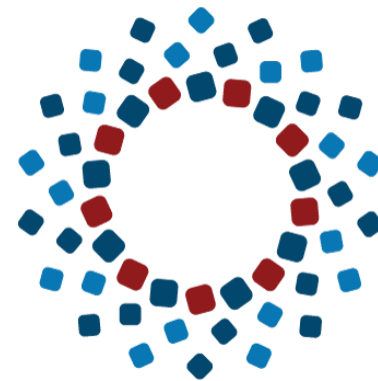
EMERGING PROVIDERS



- Peer support specialists
 - Certification available in almost all states
- Dental therapists
 - Currently practicing in seven states
- Other provider types
 - Community Health Workers
 - Community Paramedics

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- What a health professional can and cannot do to or for a patient
- Defined by state boards of medicine, boards of nursing, etc., often with guidance or instruction (via statute) from the state legislature
- Policymakers balance increasing access through expanding providers' scope of practice, with ensuring patient safety and quality of care
- [ScopeofPracticePolicy.org](https://www.scopeofpracticepolicy.org)



SCOPE OF
PRACTICE POLICY



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FEDERAL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION UPDATES

- SUPPORT Act- established a six year loan repayment agreements with substance use disorder treatment professionals in mental health shortage areas or suffering significantly from overdoses
- Graduate Medical Education Repayment Program Reauthorization
 - [S192](#)- Community and Public Health Programs Extension Act
- Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2019 ([S. 348](#)/[H.R. 1763](#))
- [National Corps Loan Repayment Programs](#)



POLICY OPTIONS

- Explore opportunities to partner with health professions schools to recruit and place students in areas of need upon graduation.
- Examine existing requirements for emerging health care professionals and consider developing standards, certifications or training programs that focus on needed skills and competencies.
- Assess the existing state policies related to scope of practice, licensure and prescriptive policies for the non-physician workforce.



THINK, PAIR, SHARE



- Take a moment to think of questions and comments.
- Chat with your neighbor
- Share with larger group

UTILIZING TELEHEALTH

- Reduce health disparities
- Access to more providers and specialty care
- Provider to provider consultation
- Reduce costs

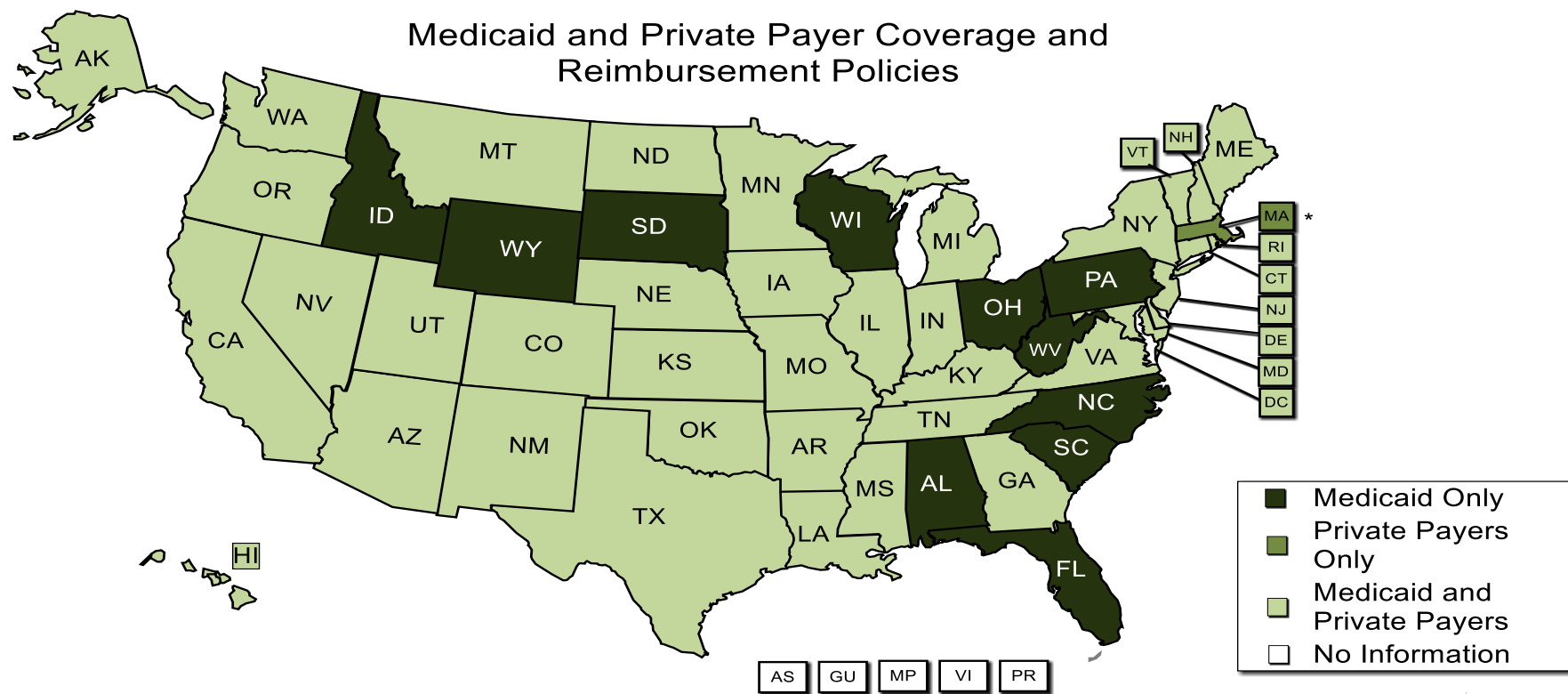


FOUR MODALITIES OF TELEHEALTH

- Real time video
- Store-and-forward
- Remote patient monitoring
- mHealth



REIMBURSEMENT FOR TELEHEALTH



* Some individual Medicaid managed care plans in Massachusetts may reimburse for telehealth delivered services.

Source: https://www.cchpca.org/sites/default/files/2018-10/CCHP_50_State_Report_Fall_2018.pdf



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OTHER TELEHEALTH CONSIDERATIONS



- Licensure
- Patient-provider relationship
- Informed consent

FEDERAL TELEHEALTH UPDATE

- **SUPPORT Act:** Allows states the option for telehealth (both for Medicaid and Medicare enrollees)
- 12 bills filed, including
 - S 981 -Medicare- X Choice Act of 2019
 - S 785 -Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019
 - S 733 -Telehealth Innovation and Improvement Act of 2019



TELEHEALTH & MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

- CMS announced new telehealth benefits for Medicare Advantage enrollees that will start in 2020
- Policies were a part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018
- Allows additional benefits like allowing patients to receive services from their homes rather than requiring them to be delivered at a healthcare facility
- Previously the benefit was only extended to seniors in rural areas
- Updates Star Ratings for dual eligible patients and increases supplemental benefits for the chronically ill



RECENT AND UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants – Opioid – April 15
- Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship Program – April 15
- USDA Traditional Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program – May 15
- National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program – May 16
- USAC Telecommunications Program for Rural Health Care – May 31
- USDA Rural Broadband Loan and Grant Program – May 31
- Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program – Ongoing through August 2019



POLICY OPTIONS

- Examine the use of telehealth under public and private insurers and the potential barriers or constraints to the use of telehealth by providers and patients.
- Assess opportunities for allowing providers to practice across state lines, including reciprocity or joining interstate compacts.
- Examine current statutes and regulations to see if clarity is needed around safe telehealth policies.



THINK, PAIR, SHARE

- Take a moment to think of questions and comments.
- This time, find someone from a different table
- Share with larger group

THINK



PAIR



SHARE



KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK

- What are the greatest barriers to access to care? Where are the greatest needs?
- What state efforts are already underway to address access issues?
- What new strategies are available to address access to health care services? What strategies presented today interest you most?
- What stakeholders need to be at the table? What data do you need?



QUESTIONS?

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