

Health Center Legislative Day

Successes

- 340b pharmacy program obtaining affordable medications
- The wrap
- Community determines what the health center does
- MAT substance use disorder treatment coordinating with Blueprint for Health
- Many resources to address barriers to good health like chronic care RN's and nutritionists, patient advocates
- Affordable dental care
- Chronic care coordinators and patient advocates
- Creating access to high quality health care, regardless of ability to pay
- Diverting some care away from more expensive venues. We provide suturing, fracture care, joint injections, LARC, skin biopsies, vasectomies, and many other services that would cost more if provided in the emergency room or specialist practices

Challenges to Access

More resources to expand into communities still underserved. Exploring joint venture in Johnson with town managers who need economic development, and a town that badly needs a health center

Aging workforce (average age of our physician workforce is 46), high complexity of chronic disease management compounded by poverty, mental health needs, substance use disorders

- Recruitment of physicians, APRN's, nursing and medical assistant staff
 - Currently there are 99 physician vacancies in Vermont listed with the UVM AHEC Program: 46 in primary care and 53 in specialty care.
 - Small communities have high on call ratios. Eg. If population will only support 2 pediatricians, or 1 OB/Gyn, then that person is on call every other, or every , night
- Health care job training at tech centers, high schools, colleges
- Continued funding for the resources that are working: MAT, Blueprint, AHEC
 - Continuation of loan repayment programs like AHEC that support physicians, APRN, PA, LPN. Extremely helpful

- We support the idea of having a study to determine how best to invest in primary care. We are well aligned to provide data about the quality we provide
- Cont'd efforts to ensure Vermont has the finest education system, infrastructure to work from home, healthier communities, excellent stewardship of environment, all of which make VT more attractive place for practitioners to relocate with their families