



Focus on Rural Health Care Pilot Program Workshop

Approaches to CDC and Public Health Needs

Texas Health Information Network Collaboration
16 Oct 2008

Founding Participants



- CHRISTUS Health System
- East Texas Area Health Education Center
- Rural & Community Health Institute
- TeleCommunity Resource Center
- Texas A&M Health Science Center (**SEGP**)
- Texas A&M University (**I2**)
- Texas Organization for Rural and Community Hospitals
- University of Texas Medical Branch (**SEGP**)

Funding Recipients



- 250+ rural sites including
 - Rural Hospitals
 - Rural Clinics
 - Rural PA's
 - Rural Hospital Associations
 - Rural Clinic groups
- In
 - 165 counties out of 254
 - All 17 Texas LATAs
 - 208 ZIP Codes



Connectivity Targets for Rural Recipients



- Each other
- 11 Health Science Centers in Texas
- Regional secondary and tertiary facilities
- Urban specialty hospitals
- Texas Medical Center (Houston)
- **County, regional, and State Public Health offices**
- National research and education via I2 and NLR
- **CDC**

Public Health in Texas



- Theoretically, can connect Texas Department of State Health Services backbone with single gig link
- Theoretically, can quickly connect to state Health Alert Network – PHIN@texas with a single 10/100 Mbps link
- Theoretically, can quickly connect county health organizations supporting 90+% of Texas population. However,
- Can only connect less than 50% of county health organizations in a reasonable manner

Public Health in US



- Use I2/NLR as national transport
- Work with Regional Healthcare Information Organizations (RHIOs)
 - Currently, low priority to THINC
 - As yet not well organized at state level

- Reachable via I1
 - PHIN
 - Current programs “organized” for I1
 - Nothing special planned in short term by THINC
- Should be reachable via I2