



Task Force on Rural Health: Next Steps

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Task Force Goals

- To develop a North Carolina Rural Health Action Plan to provide policy makers, funders, and stakeholder organizations with a common vision and action steps to improve
 - The Task Force will prioritize 4-6 strategies that state level organizations can undertake that can help local communities improve the health of their communities
 - The Task Force will identify areas where there is alignment between organizations creating opportunities for joint efforts, and will develop a multi-partner implementation plan for implementing those 4-6 priority strategies.



Task Force Goals

- The Task Force will work with local communities to identify 4-6 priority strategies that can be implemented at the local level to improve rural health
 - These strategies may, or may not, overlap with state-level strategies
 - This may be helpful to funders to help prioritize local funding strategies



Task Force Charge

1. Examine the health of rural North Carolinians
2. Identify priority areas and potential strategies that are critical to improve rural health outcomes and actionable over the next three to five years.
 - Identify strategies at state and local levels
3. Gather input from eight rural communities across North Carolina.
4. Consider the feedback from the local community forums and make adjustments to priority strategies as necessary.

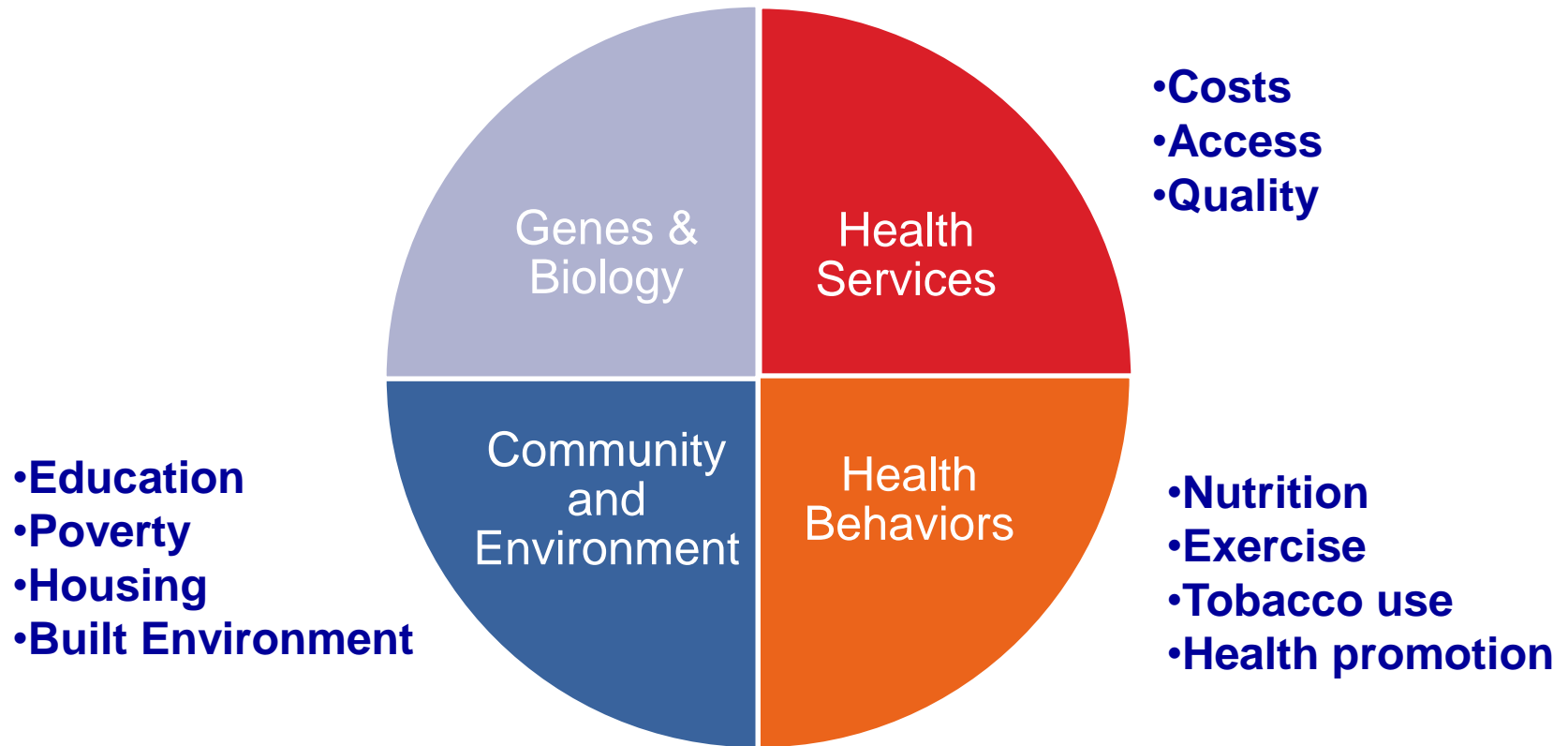


Examine the Health of Rural North Carolinians

- In the next three meetings, the Task Force will examine the health of rural North Carolinians as well as disparities in health access and outcomes for North Carolina's rural and urban residents.
 - Today, the Task Force heard about rural health disparities for 30 of the 40 Healthy North Carolinian objectives.
 - As part of future meetings, the Task Force will consider the factors that contribute to these disparities including demographic and socioeconomic factors, differences in health behaviors, and variations in access to and quality of health care around the state.



Determinants of Health



Identify Potential Priority Areas and Actionable Strategies

- At our next three meetings we will discuss health behaviors (May), health services (June), Community and environmental impacts (late summer)
- Will hear presentations on the topic, then work together to identify and narrow list of priorities.
 - Will break into small groups to develop strategies.
- After the meeting, will send out a poll asking people to vote on the strategies
 - Voting results will establish the top strategies for each priority area

Draft Rural Health Plan for Community Feedback

- NCIOM staff will write up the priorities and strategies developed at each meeting
- Task Force will briefly review at the next meeting
- At the end of four meetings, will have a draft North Carolina Rural Health Plan to take to communities
 - Task Force will be asked to review and offer comments over email



Solicit Feedback from Rural Communities

- The Task Force will gather input from eight rural communities across North Carolina in September/October:
 - Beaufort, Bladen, Halifax, Jackson, McDowell, Rockingham, Montgomery, Wilkes.
- A community forum will be held to discuss local health needs, priorities, and potential strategies to address those needs, and to seek feedback on the strategies and priorities identified by the Task Force.



Community Meetings

- Focus of community meetings:
 - What is important that is not captured in the draft Plan developed by the Task Force?
 - Are there opportunities and partnerships that can be leveraged for a given priority/strategy?
 - What is desirable, feasible, sustainable?
 - What are they energized about/what would they act on?



Community Meetings

- 1:00-1:20 Introductions
- 1:20-1:40 Health of Community (hope to have local Health Director do this presentation)
- 1:40-2:10 Background
Task Force, members, reason for doing, how we got to where we are today, why getting community input, how input will be used to influence process
- 2:10-2:40 Priorities and Strategies (review Draft Rural Health Plan)
- 2:40-3:40 Breakout Session
Process: divide into three groups (Health Care, Lifestyle, Community/Environment); discuss what is important that is not captured in current priorities; discuss what is important that is not captured in the lists of strategies for each priority; prioritizing
- 3:40-4:00 Report back to large group



Community Meetings

- We welcome Task Force members to attend any community meetings they can.
 - May ask for help in reaching out to people in your community
- We will share meeting notes from each community meeting with the full Task Force



Finishing up the Task Force

- We will reconvene after community meetings are completed to revise the Draft Rural Health Plan with input from communities

Questions?

