MEETING THE GOALS OF THE HEALTH CAREER OPPORTUNITIES (HCOP) AND CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE (COE) PROGRAMS

Ronald C. Manning, J.D.
Health Policy Fellowship 2010
INTRODUCTION

- Information provided in this presentation
  - What the HCOP & COE programs are
  - Why the programs are important
  - What the programs have and have not accomplished
  - Recommendations to improve the programs
What the HCOP & COE Programs are

- HCOP & COE – Programs and Goals
  - Why established
  - HCOP’s Function
  - COE’s Function

- History & Background
  - Began in 1960’s
  - At least 500,000 participants
  - Legislation passed to establish the programs
Why the Programs are Important

- Jordan Cohen, M.D. – The Case For Diversity In The Workforce
What the Programs have accomplished

- Presently
  - 30 active HCOP grant projects in 21 states
  - 15 active COE grant projects in 11 states
- Approximately ½ million participants as of 2004
- Funding levels have increased
  - Senate Appropriations Committee FY 2011 Labor-HHS Education bill
  - House – Labor-HHS Education Appropriations Subcommittee 2011 spending measure
  - President’s FY 2011 budget proposal requests
- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
What the Programs have not accomplished

- Establishment of a longitudinal participant tracking system
- Determined how many participants are employed in the various health professions
- Determined if participants are providing services in medically underserved areas
- Determined if the programs have impacted the mal-distribution of physicians
Proponents

- Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), American Medical Association (AMA), Institutes of Medicine
- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM)
- All proponents agree
Stakeholders (continued)

- Opponents
  - Costs
  - Spending
  - House GOP
Recommendations

Comments on the recommendations

The recommendations

1. The longitudinal participant tracking system must include whether participants actually provide services to minorities in underserved areas
2. Evaluate the programs
3. Establish a longitudinal participant tracking system
4. Determine if participants who are part of loan forgiveness programs work in medically underserved areas
5. Determine if participants are paying off loan obligations
6. Mandate that participants must work in medically underserved areas to qualify for loan forgiveness
7. Establish mandatory participation for middle school students in underserved areas, in Science and Math Academies
8. Determine if the existing HCOP & COE programs are in areas of the most need

NOTE: Loan forgiveness is not part of the HCOP & COE programs