

UNMC Rural Health 2030: 2018-2019 Action Plan

Introduction:

In 2017, UNMC reached out to stakeholders and partners across the state to assess and revitalize the collaborative vision and strategy necessary to address the disruptive change that will continue to impact rural Nebraska's health workforce, patient care, health education, technology, and research. UNMC leaders traveled the state to listen to rural community leaders and stakeholders, including health care providers, educators from K-12 to partners in higher education, as well as state and local agencies, institutions and organizations. UNMC heard their opinions, advice and suggestions and now is moving into action.

A broader conceptual framework for achieving a transformative vision for rural health is contained in our Rural Health - 2030 Report distributed last November. Now, with this Action Plan for 2018-2019, UNMC is committing to playing a vital role in partnering with rural Nebraska to accommodate and even embrace the disruptive change that lies ahead. We have come together to develop the *UNMC Rural Health 2030: 2018-2019 Action Plan* which identifies timely priorities to tackle related to rural education and workforce preparation, rural health education and delivery models, the use of emerging technologies, rural health research, and maximizing UNMC's organizational structure to guide such action.

Through new and forward thinking, hard work and strategic collaboration, UNMC and rural Nebraskans can together shape a new vision for a healthy rural future, beginning now.

UNMC Rural Health 2030:
2018-2019 Action Plan

GOAL A: Support rural health care providers to address disruptive change and thrive in their practices.

2018-2019 Action Items:

- 1) Create an interprofessional rural practitioner leadership group to advise UNMC in identifying current and future needs, opportunities and measures of success.
- 2) Develop a portfolio of resources that meet day-to-day office and overall practice needs of rural practitioners. To include, but not limited to:
 - a. Facilitate a working session with Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) human resource leaders and provider recruiters to understand better the challenges related to workforce recruitment, retention and ways in which UNMC could support possible solutions.
 - b. Provide continuing education to laboratory personnel.
 - c. Provide disaster preparedness training.
 - d. Provide training for quality directors.
 - e. Provide training related to antibiotic stewardship programs
- 3) Expand use of UNMC's newly developed mentoring toolkit for rural providers and preceptors.

GOAL B: Enhance current or develop new education and training programs that enhance rural health workforce preparation, distribution and address the diversity in the state's changing demographics.

2018-2019 Action Items:

- 1) Establish and regularly convene a task force of key stakeholders, partners and decision makers to identify new solutions, set priorities and develop a timeline to revitalize UNMC health career pipeline programs as informed by findings from the recently completed RHOP/KHOP/PHEAST needs assessment and studies examining barriers and opportunities for improving the diversity of enrolled students.
 - a. Host a summit for stakeholders in spring 2019.
- 2) Develop and utilize a centralized online tracking tool to capture UNMC rural student rotation and other formalized educational programming data.
- 3) Collaborate with UNMC Education Council to:
 - a. Establish new dual enrollment agreement(s) with at least one post-secondary institution.
 - b. Develop telehealth-supportive curriculum for various professions.
- 4) Pilot eLearning projects with at least two rural Nebraska high schools.

GOAL C: Support the utilization of emerging technologies in rural Nebraska to expand the accessibility of health education, outreach, care and research.

2018-2019 Action Items:

- 1) Identify long-term solutions to sustain the Simulation in Motion-Nebraska (SIM-NE) mobile simulation education system for pre-hospital and hospital professionals statewide.

GOAL D. Expand telehealth opportunities in rural Nebraska.

2018-2019 Action Items:

- 1) Initiate a stakeholder group to assess statewide need and the resources required to become a fully recognized statewide Project ECHO education hub to strengthen peer-to-peer educational and practice support for providers.
 - a. Develop an application to the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) for a Rural Development Planning Grant submit for February 2019 application deadline.
- 2) Expand access to specialty clinical services across Nebraska via telehealth, as resources permit.
 - a. Identify grant opportunities within SAMHSA, OAT and HRSA to support the expanded adoption and use of telehealth.

GOAL E: More closely collaborate with health education and delivery systems that provide rural health training programs.

2018-2019 Action Items:

- 1) Partner with strategic stakeholders and partners to support a one-day summit on rural health to provide information and training on topics such as interprofessional practice, cultural competency, social determinants of health and primary care.

GOAL F: Conduct or support population health research applicable to rural areas.

2018-2019 Action Items:

- 1) Conduct a collaborative study on the role and effectiveness of innovative delivery models utilizing community health workers and RN care coordinators for rural patients with heart disease using mobile technology.
 - a. Using data from pilot project pursue grant funding for larger study use of new technologies such as handheld devices to improve health outcomes of rural populations.
- 2) Assist rural hospitals and practices in developing and evaluating innovative new practice models including but not limited to health care cooperatives or community care teams.

GOAL G: Expand current and seek new programs to promote health and science awareness among Nebraska’s rural citizens.

2018-2019 Action Items:

- 1) Explore opportunities to deliver Science Cafes to additional rural participants.
- 2) Develop a regular health program presence on RFD-TV.

GOAL H: Refresh UNMC’s rural health brand and maximize the organizational structure to facilitate open communication, coordination and collaboration.

2018-2019 Action Items:

- 1) Develop infrastructure and single point of contact to coordinate UNMC rural health-related education and research initiatives.
- 2) Include UNMC’s Rural Health 2030 Action Plan in the UNMC UNePlan as a subsection of UNMC External Affairs.
- 3) Support advocacy efforts where appropriate at the local, state, and federal levels related to items that improve access to quality and affordable health care and health education in Nebraska.