

REPORT TO THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
2015

PURSUANT TO
SECTION 321-1.5(6)
HAWAII REVISED STATUTES
PRIMARY CARE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

PREPARED BY:
STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DECEMBER 2014



HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

Hawaii State Department of Health
PRIMARY CARE OFFICE

The Hawaii Primary Care Office (PCO) is a Federal grant program funded by the Bureau of Health Professions in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and authorized under the Public Health Service Act, as amended, Title 3, Sections 330 and 333. The purpose of the funding is to support the coordination of local, State and Federal resources to improve primary care service delivery and workforce availability to meet the needs of underserved populations.

The mission of the Hawaii PCO is to improve access to primary care for medically underserved populations.

The Hawaii PCO is one of fifty-three PCOs (one per State, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) receiving funding by HRSA and charged with HRSA's goal to improve access to healthcare.¹

All PCOs are tasked with the following program expectations:

- **Organizational Effectiveness/Fostering Collaboration**
- **Assessment of Needs/Sharing Data**
- **Workforce Development for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Safety Net/Health Center Network**
- **Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Applications and Updates**
- **Technical Assistance to Organizations/Communities Wishing to Expand Access to Primary Care for Underserved Populations**

In 2014, the Hawaii PCO met **organizational effectiveness and fostering collaboration** expectations by:

¹ U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Health Resources and Services Administration Strategic Plan, www.hrsa.gov.

- ❖ Continuing partnership with the state Oral Health Task Force with a focus on expanding dental workforce options and strategies, and possible expansion of dental shortage designation areas in Hawaii.
- ❖ Ongoing partnership with the Hawaii Primary Care Association supporting the alignment of the Primary Care Office contract reporting measures with the Uniform Data System performance measures used by the Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- ❖ Participating in monthly Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) -sponsored conference calls. The calls provided opportunities for the Bureau of Clinical Recruitment and Retention and the Bureau of Health Professions - Office of Shortage Designation, and other federal programs to introduce new/revised policies, information on procedural and statutory updates, and address questions from the state PCOs. The conference calls are important in assisting the state PCO's in responding to the increased demand for services.
- ❖ Maintaining weekly calls with the Region IX Division of Regional Operations to discuss NHSC workforce program changes and technical assistance support for NHSC members.

In 2014, the Hawaii PCO met **assessment of needs and data sharing** expectations by:

- ❖ Ongoing distribution and promotion of the 2012 Primary Care Needs Assessment Data Book. (<http://hawaii.gov/health/doc/pcna2012databook.pdf>) The Data Book provides over 50 health, population, and socio-economic indicators spanning the life course presented by geographic communities in Hawaii. Chapters highlight maternal and infant health risk, adult morbidity, mortality, and oral health presented in detailed tables and maps. New additions to the Data Book are five new mental health indicators and more specifically defined the areas of West and East Honolulu, and Ewa providing greater detail at the census tract level. The range of data supports FQHCs, other community-based organizations, state offices and others by providing census-level data for use in policy development, program planning, and grant applications.
- ❖ Beginning planning activities for the next version of the Primary Care Needs Assessment Data Book. Preliminary discussions have included identifying new possible data sources, new indicators, and the option of publishing a supplemental data book focusing on a single critical public health issue.

In 2014, the Hawaii PCO met **Workforce Development for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Safety Net/Health Center Network** program expectations by:

- ❖ Assisting 10 practitioners interested in the NHSC in Hawaii by providing information about eligible practice sites, HPSA scores and NHSC policies, procedures, and requirements for recruitment and retention applications. The practitioners included two primary care physicians, one health psychologists, five Advanced Practice Registered Nurse/Nurse

Practitioner/Registered Nurses, one Licensed Clinical Social Worker, one 4th year medical student, and .

There are currently a total of 44 NHSC providers serving at community health centers as well as a correctional facility, and critical access hospital across the state. These include eight allopathic and osteopathic physicians (general and family practice), 12 dentists (DDS), two Nurse Practitioners (NP), one Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), two Physician Assistants (PA), 16 Clinical Psychologists, two Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), and one Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH).

NHSC health professionals serve on the following islands: Hawaii island – five dentists, 3 health psychologists, seven MD/DO, two LCSW, and one NP. Maui island – two dentists and one clinical psychologist. Molokai – one each CNM, dentist and RDH. Kauai – one PA. Oahu – four dentists, 12 clinical psychologists, and one each MD, NP, and PA.

- ❖ Processing and recommending approval of two new NHSC recruitment and retention site applications for the island of Hawaii and one on Oahu.

Hawaii currently has 75 NHSC approved sites including 65 FQHC primary and satellite locations on all the islands, two State correctional facilities, two Department of Education School-based Behavioral Health sites, two Native Hawaiian Healthcare System sites, a Family Guidance Center with the Department of Health, and four private practice sites.

- ❖ Serving as the state contact and liaison for HRSA's Bureau of Recruitment and Clinician Services (BRCS) to disseminate information and updates related to the NHSC, for site and provider applications, and changes in policies and procedures.

In 2014, the Hawaii PCO met **health professional Shortage Area (HPSA) application and update** program expectations by:

- ❖ Applied for and received a new Medically Underserved Population (MUP) designation for the Wahiawa community. Having the MUP designation allowed a community group to apply for a HRSA New Access Point grant.
- ❖ Submitting for processing requests for review of existing Health Professional Shortage Area scores for three FQHCs. The review resulted in dramatic increases of the primary care and mental health scores for Hamakua Health Center and Kalihi Palama Health Center. These increases significantly elevated the status of the Centers to compete for National Health Corps Services placements.

Hawaii County has: five Primary Care HPSAs (Puna, Kau and Waikoloa/Kawaihae, three Mental Health HPSAs (Kau, North Hawaii, and Puna). Maui Island has: one Primary Care HPSA (Hana/Haiku), two Mental Health HPSA (Hana and Maui Service Area that includes the remainder of the island), and one Dental HPSA (Hana). Molokai Island is designated as a Primary Care, Mental Health and Dental HPSAs. Kauai County has two Mental Health

HPSA serving the Waimea and East side of the island. Oahu has one Mental Health HPSA (North Shore), and one Dental HPSA (Kalihi Palama).

All the islands have at one Medically Underserved Area/Population designation.

In 2014, the Hawaii PCO met **technical assistance to organizations/communities wishing to expand access to primary care for underserved populations** program expectations by:

- ❖ Managing 16 statewide primary care contracts and providing technical assistance as needed.
- ❖ Providing technical assistance related to the NHSC, data sharing, HPSA designations, and needs assessments to health care providers, private, state, and federal government offices.