Health Reform in Vermont: Transforming to a High Value and Affordable Health Care System

By Debra Miller

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Programs under federal health reform aim to tackle the persistent challenges of rural health disparities through expanded access and quality. New investments in rural primary care work force development and changes to rural hospital financing are part of the strategies to improve quality and reduce cost while improving health. State experts will describe how investments in telemedicine are bringing immediate specialized care to remote areas to save lives and reduce unnecessary care and costs. Hear about state successes in teaching patients to effectively manage chronic diseases, showing how integrating information technology, coordinating health providers, and incorporating evidence-based service improvement could diminish rural health disparities.

Narrowing Rural Health Disparities
Saturday, December 4.  2:00 - 3:30 pm.

Steve Maier is the newly appointed health care reform manager at the Department of Vermont Health Access. He is helping to manage the integration of diverse health reform initiatives with areas of focus including expansion of health information technology resources to mental health and substance abuse services providers and assisting in the statewide implementation of Vermont's Blueprint for Health. Prior to this position, Maier served in the Vermont Legislature from 2003 to 2010, including as chair of the House Committee on Health Care from 2007 through 2010. He also co-chaired the Vermont Health Care Reform Commission, a quasi-legislative body that has guided sweeping health care reform legislation over the last four years.

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