

**HRSA Agency Report to PharmPAC
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HRSA Patient Safety & Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative

Background

To ensure that patient care delivered by HRSA grantees and other health care providers serving poor, uninsured and underserved people becomes the safest and best in the nation, HRSA is studying leading practices in patient safety, clinical pharmacy services and health outcomes.

The goal is to replicate those leading practices across HRSA-funded health care providers and their partners using a collaborative model based on the methodology of the Institute for Health Care Improvement.

HRSA intends to pull together teams of health care providers from communities across the nation to learn, replicate, test, and adopt specific practices in patient safety and clinical pharmacy services to improve health outcomes and reduce adverse events.

Networking Events

The inaugural meeting took place Feb. 15 at the headquarters of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists in Bethesda, Md. The meeting generated interest and enthusiasm among the 60 participants, who represent 40 leading safety-net and pharmacy organizations and several federal partners.

At an April 30 meeting in Crystal City, Va., National safety-net organizations were urged to get involved with HRSA's Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative. The meeting was sponsored by the Center for Quality and Office of Pharmacy Affairs.

The meeting had two main purposes: to provide an update on progress in the Collaborative and to encourage national organizations to work together and make solid commitments for participating in the Collaborative.

Current Events

HRSA expects to announce awards for Service Expansion: Comprehensive Pharmacy Services on or about September 1st. The Service Expansion grants in Pharmacy will establish or expand services in approximately 21 states. The total funding committed to this area of service expansion was \$6,220,974.

The next HRSA Commissioned Officer's Brown Bag Session will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, Room 11A-41 of the Parklawn Building. The scheduled time is 12 noon - 1:00 pm Eastern Standard Time. This month's topic of discussion will be the COER.

HRSA News Clip of Interest:

Duke Receives Surgeon General's Top Honor

HRSA Administrator Elizabeth Duke has received the Surgeon General's Medallion, the highest civilian award conferred by the nation's chief health educator.

Acting Surgeon General RADM Steven Galson presented the award to Duke at the 2008 HHS Office of the Secretary Promotion and Awards Ceremony for Commissioned Corps Officers, held July 29 in the Parklawn building. The award is given at the Surgeon General's discretion; there are no nomination criteria.

"It is a real honor for Dr. Duke to receive this prestigious recognition, because it reaffirms her leadership and HRSA's vital mission to serve the underserved," said RADM Kerry Nessler, who leads HRSA's Office of Commissioned Corps Affairs.

The award's inscription cited Duke's "exemplary service to the office of the Surgeon General as a visionary leader in public health and avid supporter of the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps."

In 2006, Duke created HRSA's Office of Commissioned Corps Affairs to implement Secretary Leavitt's vision for transformation of the Corps, ensure a basic level of readiness for all officers, and support the Secretary's health diplomacy missions.

At the event, Duke also was presented with a "memento of appreciation" by HRSA's flag officers: Nessler, RADM Deborah Parham Hopson, associate administrator of HIV/AIDS, and RADM Don Weaver, deputy associate administrator of primary health care.

Given to Duke on behalf of all of HRSA Corps' officers, the award lauded her "exceptional leadership, commitment, and support for the mission of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and for her innovation and dedication to health promotion, emergency response, and disaster preparedness for our Nation."



Dr. Duke displays her Surgeon General's Medallion with Acting Surgeon General RADM Steven K. Galson.