



Community Grant Outcome Report

Name: Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM)

Grantee: Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, Inc.

Academic Partner: Byron Crouse, MD, Associate Dean, Community and Rural Health, Clinical Professor, Family Medicine, UW SMPH

Program: Development

Grant Duration: 11/01/2004 to 12/15/2005 (13.5 months)

Expenditures: \$20,113 of \$25,000 (80% expended)

Use of Funds: Cultivate workforce

► **Description:** Develop a comprehensive, coordinated and strategic approach to Wisconsin's shortage of rural physicians and improve long-term access to physicians in Wisconsin's rural communities.

► **Results:** The intent of this project was to convene a group of rural stakeholders from all areas of Wisconsin to conceptualize, plan, and design specific components for WARM (Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine), a "school within a school" at the University of Wisconsin Medical School dedicated to improving the supply of physicians in rural Wisconsin and improving the health of rural Wisconsin communities. The Wisconsin Rural Medical Education Advisory Committee (WRMEAC) composed of 18 rural stakeholders, met bimonthly and in smaller working subcommittees (admissions, site selection, curriculum, budget/finance, GME) throughout 2005. WRMEAC members reviewed the literature on successful rural medical education programs; discussed opportunities and barriers within the state, UW system and UWSMPH; developed a consensus on recommendations for WARM and developing a "rural pipeline" for Wisconsin; determined resources necessary to implement this vision, and begun to elicit support from academia, rural healthcare organizations and communities. They also developed a MERC proposal to fund further development of WARM.

► **Met Objectives:** Yes

► **Baseline Progress on SHP Objectives:** Not measured

► **Academic Partner Role:** The academic partner was part of the steering committee and a member of several WRMEAC subcommittees.

► **Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** none

► **Dissemination:** WARM has been presented to the premed counselors of Wisconsin, at the Central Region Group on Educational Affairs of the AAMC, and in poster sessions at the Wisconsin Public Health Association Meeting and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Meeting. A number of presentations on WARM have been done within the UWSMPH and information on WARM has been shared with University administrators as well as state policy makers. WARM has been highlighted several times in the Rural Wisconsin health Cooperative's nationally distributed newsletter, *Eye On Health*.

► **Sustained:** WRMEAC will continue to meet regularly and work to gain statewide, University and UWSMPH support for the program. The partner health care systems in Marshfield, LaCrosse and Green Bay are enthusiastic and committed to advancing WARM. WARM was awarded \$178,014 in funding by MERC in 2005 and \$668,490 in 2007.

Efforts are underway to detail the long-term sustaining budget for WARM. It is projected, based on 2005 tuition dollars, that when fully implemented with 25 students per year, there will be \$2,200,000 in new tuition dollars and a budget can be built around those numbers that can sustain the program.