

West Virginia Assesses 85 Health Databases, Recommends Changes

Information for State Health Policy Program

SUMMARY

During 1992 and 1993, the West Virginia's Information for State Health Policy (InfoSHP) project brought together a State Health Policy Task Force that met monthly and continues to meet quarterly.

The project provided information to the governor and the legislature and prepared a reference document that assessed 85 health-related databases. In addition, the project replicated a national model of measurements of health service delivery performance.

The project was part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) *Information for State Health Policy* national program.

Key Results

Key accomplishments of the project included the following:

- Preparation of *The Report of the Task Force to West Virginia Health Care Planning Commission*, which continues to be a link in formulating a comprehensive overhaul of West Virginia's health services delivery system.
- Publication of a comprehensive health data resource book for consumers, the *West Virginia Health Care Database and Health Information System Reference Resource*.
- Replication of a model for measurements of health service delivery performance: *Tracking the System: American Health Care, 1992* created by the National Committee for Quality Health Care.
- Inclusion of task force recommendations in health reform legislation drafted for the West Virginia legislature; this legislation, however, did not pass in the 1993 legislative session.

Funding

RWJF supported this project through a grant of \$149,971.

THE PROBLEM

West Virginia sought a comprehensive overhaul of its health care delivery system. There was a large number of uninsured individuals in the state. Problems of access to health care were of concern to the Governor's Office and others in state government, and the InfoSHP grant was seen as one way to address the health care system's deficiencies.

THE PROJECT

The project's 25-member Interagency Work Group (called the Robert Wood Johnson Information for State Health Policy Task Force) met monthly throughout the grant period, and continued to meet quarterly after Phase I funding ceased.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Preparation of The Report of the Task Force to West Virginia Health Care
 Planning Commission. This report, most of which was included in the commission's
 final report to the governor and legislature in 1992, continues to be a link in
 formulating a comprehensive overhaul of West Virginia's health services delivery
 system.
- Publication of a comprehensive health data resource book for consumers, the West Virginia Health Care Database and Health Information System Reference Resource. This report marked the completion of an assessment of 85 health-related databases. More than 600 copies have been distributed to state agencies, higher education institutions, and public libraries.
- Replication of a model for measurements of health service delivery performance: Tracking the System: American Health Care, 1992 created by the National Committee for Quality Health Care. West Virginia was the first state to develop a state-specific replication of this model.
- Inclusion of task force recommendations in health reform legislation drafted for the West Virginia legislature. This legislation, however, did not pass in the 1993 legislative session.

Due to lack of political support for the project, it was not selected for Phase II implementation funding.

Communications

West Virginia published a comprehensive data resource book (see the Bibliography).

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Current as of date of the report; as provided by the grantee organization; not verified by RWJF; items not available from RWJF.)

Publications

"West Virginia Health Care Database and Health Information System Reference Resource," 1993.