

HEALTHCARE GEORGIA FOUNDATION
2010 LISTENING TOUR

Voices of the Communities: An Early Look at the 2010 Listening Tour

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Kristina Heuman, Porter Novelli

Monique Hillman, RN, MPH, Area Agency on Aging

Ben Robinson, MPA, University System of Georgia,
Center for Health Workforce Planning and Analysis

Healthcare Georgia Foundation
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Where We Went

- Atlanta
- Augusta
- Columbus
- Dalton
- Valdosta



Whom We Talked To

- Consumer advocates and community organizations
- Providers (physician, facilities, insurance)
- Government leaders
- Business leaders



What We Heard

Consistent Themes

- Communities desire more collaboration
- Systems need to adopt a patient-centered approach
- Mental and behavioral health needs additional attention
- The economic downturn is increasing demands on communities and the face of people in need



Local Issues

- Atlanta
 - Chronic disease
 - Uninsured/low-income adults
 - Teens and reproductive health
 - Mental and behavioral health
- Augusta
 - Individual capacity
 - System capacity
 - Mental and behavioral health



Local Issues

- Columbus
 - Health disparities
 - Youth issues
 - Aging population
 - Access
- Dalton
 - Uninsured/underinsured
 - Chronic disease resulting from obesity



Local Issues

- Valdosta
 - Obesity
 - Behavioral health
 - Diabetes
 - Lack of prevention/screening



Perspective of *a Community Advocate*

- Communities want to be empowered
 - Taking ownership and control of their own endeavors and destinies
- Communities want to be treated fairly
 - Accessibility, accountability and activity
- Communities want to be aware
 - Opportunities to improve with education



Perspective of *an Employer*

- Employee wellness programs
 - Must have management's buy-in
 - It is for everyone
 - One size does not fit all
 - Need to address fears
 - Communication is key
 - Beneficial beyond health



Perspective of *Behavioral Health*

- Issues unique to behavioral health
 - System close to collapse
 - Complexity of system is immense and daunting
 - Huge, growing demand for mental health services
 - Large and pervasive staffing problems
 - Education pipeline eroded
- Challenges in moving forward



Perspective of *an Educator*

- Variables for determining training needs
 - Population trends
 - Types of providers needed
 - Colleges/universities providing training
- Opportunities for workforce development
 - New ways of training
 - National interest in health care improvement
- Threats for workforce development
 - Cost of training
 - State budget



Next Steps

- Development of a full printed/online report
- Distribution to HGF Board and general public



Questions?

For more information:

Kristina Heuman

Kristina.heuman@porternovelli.com

(404) 995-4522

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