How Can Nurses Practicing in Rural Areas Contribute to Better Care, Better Health and Lower Costs for Texans?

The Texas Team, Advancing Health through Nursing, believes all Texans deserve better care, better health and lower costs associated with health care. The Texas Team also recognizes nurses – as the largest group of health care providers in the state – are the key to achieving these goals. Rural nurses play a significant role in the health and wellness of Texans and have a significant impact! Did you know some of our counties are seeing an average of just 28-200 nurses per 100,000 population? This creates an opportunity for rural nurses to lead the charge toward better health and wellness in rural communities.

The Texas Team has joined the national Campaign for Action and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in working to advance the Triple Aim which aims to improve care, enhance the patient experience of care and control costs.

The Texas Team, as a state action coalition, is an active participant in the Campaign for Action and works to advance the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommendations:

1. Increase the percentage of Texas RNs who hold baccalaureate or higher degrees to 80% by 2020;
2. Double the number of nurses with doctorates by 2020;
3. Strengthen the diversity of the Texas RN workforce to better care for the state’s multicultural population;
4. Enable all nurses in Texas to practice to the full extent of their education and training;
5. Advance interprofessional collaboration to ensure coordinated and improved patient care;
6. Expand leadership ranks to ensure that nurses have voices on management teams, in boardrooms and in policy debates; and
7. Improve health care workforce data collection to better assess and project workforce requirements.

The Texas Team seeks to actively engage a wide range of health care providers; consumer leaders; prominent officials; and groups representing government, business, academia and philanthropy. Rural nurses can contribute to this effort through community engagement, collaborative partnerships, and engaging in the dissemination of the important work of the Texas Team. Please get involved today!