



Access to Care: Taking Action, Working Together

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As health professionals, how can we work together to improve Access to Care?

To find answers to this question, The Indiana Center for Nursing, home of the Indiana Action Coalition, is hosting a series of monthly, discussion-based meetings with members of over 30 statewide healthcare-related organizations. Participants include primary care, physician, nursing and allied health organizations, among others. The main focus of these meetings is to pinpoint specific goals, strategies and actions to improve patient Access to Care. Specifically, these strategies address the distribution of high-quality health care providers to underserved geographic and socio-economic populations in Indiana.

The ongoing meetings began in October 2013. In subsequent months, the discussion group has worked on:

- Defining specific priority areas
- Looking at the challenges Access to Care brings
- Finding the opportunities working collectively affords
- Addressing the assumptions and values the broad range of participants bring to the table
- Identifying where the diverse group agrees, and where compromises and understanding need to be developed

This work has led the group to center on finding solutions to help rural and urban communities who currently do not have enough practitioners to facilitate Access to Care. The group has pinpointed three specific focus areas:

- Improving inter-professional education (IPE) and expanding inter-professional care models
- Expanding the scope of practice to ensure that all providers can function at the top of their knowledge and ability
- Finding avenues of funding for Access to Care initiatives

Work groups have started to address these three specific areas, with the ultimate goal of increasing Access to Care in both rural and urban Indiana. In coming months, the group will continue their collaborative process and report their findings and recommendations periodically. Check back for updates!