

Keith J. Mueller, Ph.D.

Director, RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

National Rural Health Association

May 20, 2010

Savannah, Georgia

# Standing in the shadows of Bob LeBow, M.D.

2002: "I see my patients continuing to wander in the health care wilderness, without much hope of finding the path out. Even more ominous, I see millions of currently insured Americans facing the danger of losing their coverage—and their dignity—as our healthcare system slips towards 'meltdown."

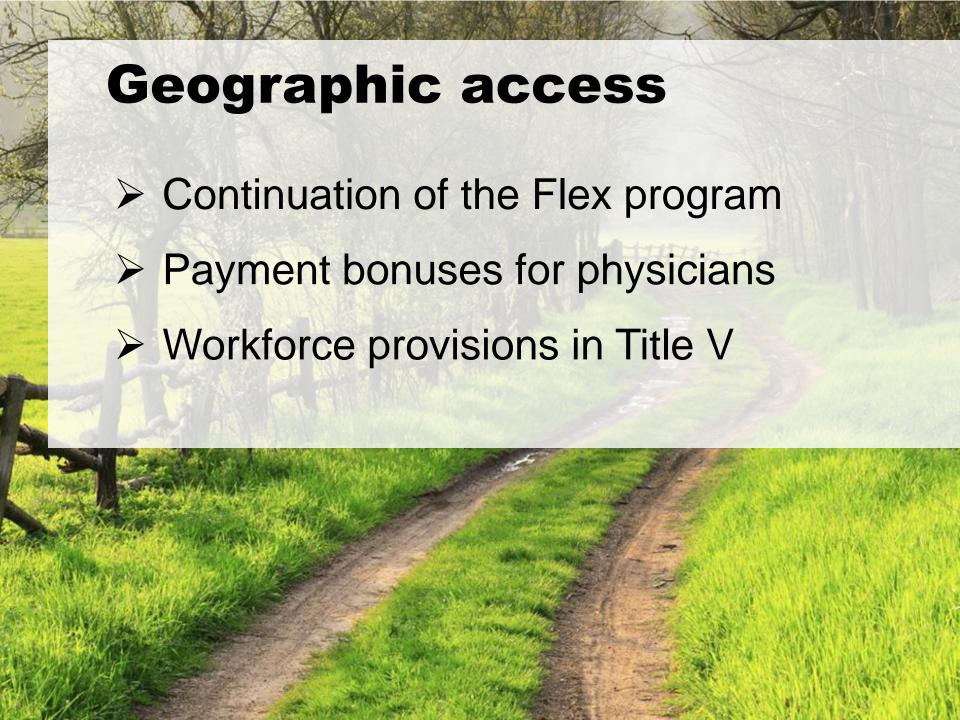
"Our health care system—or, more precisely, nonsystem—has evolved into a monster, a disorganized, overly complex creature that robs people of their health, their money and their dignity."

Source: Health Care Meltdown Boise, Idaho: JRI Press. 2002.



- > Financial Access
- Geographic Access
- System change and quality improvement
- > Public health





#### System change

- In payment policy the move to valuebased purchasing
- An emphasis on measuring and reporting quality
- Accountable Care Organizations
- Bundled payment (consultation with small rural hospitals, including CAHs, regarding participation in this program
  - pilot program)

#### System change

- Drivers are toward integrated systems of care, including quality measures applied to patient transfers
- Broadening to include more emphasis on care in the home – Section 3024 establishes an Independence at Home Medical Practice category, serving at least 200 applicable beneficiaries and using electronic health information systems, remote monitoring, and mobile diagnostic technology
- Community health teams, patient centered-medical homes, health teams (Section 3502)
- Regionalized systems for emergency care

#### System change: big picture

- Secretary develops a national strategy by January 1, 2011 to improve the delivery of health care services, patient health outcomes and population health
- Secretary develops quality measures assessing health outcomes and functional status, management and coordination across episodes and care transition, and experience, quality, and use of information to and used by patients

#### Big picture continued

- Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation in CMS
- National Health Care Workforce Commission
- Patient-centered Outcomes Research Institute and trust fund: rural-relevant comparative effectiveness research?

# Using elements of the legislation as a package

- Integrating systems for payment and quality improvement
- Patient focus and primary care
- Opportunity for public health overlay next six slides

# PPACA Opportunities: Title IV, Subtitle A

- The new National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council
- The new Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative Public Health
- Use of a new Prevention and Public Health Fund
- CDC to convene an independent Community Preventive Services Task force

# PPACA Opportunities: Title IV, Subtitle A, continued

- Planning and implementation of a national public-private partnership for a prevention and health promotion outreach and education campaign to raise public awareness of health improvement across the life span
- Establish and implement a national science-based media campaign on health promotion and disease prevention

# PPACA Opportunities: Title IV, subtitle B

- School-based health centers
- Medicare coverage of personalized prevention plan services

#### PPACA Opportunities: Title IV, subtitle C

- > CDC grants for implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of evidence-based community preventive health activities in order to reduce chronic disease rates, prevent the development of secondary conditions, address health disparities, and develop a stronger evidence base of effective prevention programming
- Grants to provide public health community interventions, screenings, and clinical referrals for persons between ages 55 and 64

# PPACA Opportunities: Title IV, subtitle D

- Funding for research in the area of public health services and systems
- Employer based wellness assisted
- Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grant Program
- Funds to carry out childhood obesity demonstration projects

#### **PPACA Opportunities: Title V**

- Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program established
- Expands student loan forgiveness to include public health agencies
- Scholarships for mid-career professionals in public health
- Establishes Public Health Sciences Track to award advanced degrees in public health, epidemiology, and emergency preparedness and response

#### Much remains to be done

- Bob Lebow's lament and new world of coverage
- Bob Lebow's lament and new system for finance and delivery of services
- Are we there yet? Or at least on the right path?

