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September 27, 2010

Summit targets remedies for health care workforce shortages

By Keith Purtell
Phoenix Staff Writer

Three active federal health care reform bills will create dramatic changes before 2018, said University of Oklahoma–Tulsa President Gerry Clancy.

Clancy spoke at a recent health care summit at the Northeastern State University–Muskogee campus. More than 65 top–level educators and health care providers met to validate, prioritize and find remedies for health care workforce shortage issues in eastern/northeastern Oklahoma.

“Thirty–seven million of the nation’s 47 million uninsured will be covered,” he said. “That will create 30,000 to 100,000 newly–insured people in the Tulsa area.”

Clancy outlined other changes brought about by the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and the 1994 Public Health Services Act.

“What will the primary health care site for the newly insured be?” he said. “Federally Qualified Health Centers. There will be a ramp up in capital, workforce and operations support; \$11 billion in the next five years.”

In addition to the newly insured, Clancy said others will benefit from coming changes.

Educators trying to train more health care workers will receive more government support, he said. Primary care physicians will see a “bump” in reimbursement.

Many people are opposed to the health care reforms, Clancy said. He gave several reasons:

- Decreased reimbursements to hospitals.
- Higher taxes.
- Forced insurance coverage businesses have to offer employees.
- Forced mandates to the states.
- Big changes in how health care operates.

Martin Venneman, NSU dean of the College of Science and Health Professions, said much was accomplished during the first half of the summit he attended.



Related Photos



University of Oklahoma–Tulsa President Gerry Clancy speaks at the recent health care summit at Northeastern State University’s Muskogee campus.

Discussion

65°



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“(Highlights included) the conversation regarding the provider needs from the various groups: home health, hospice, hospitals and clinics,” he said. “We were also fortunate enough to receive the early release of data from the Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Center on overall health care shortage needs in the state and in eastern Oklahoma.”

Venneman said they then split into two discussion groups; health care providers and educators. He was in the educators group representing NSU.

“They identified a willingness to work together to address all the issues in eastern Oklahoma; the programming, the shared resources, and finding ways to address (health care) provider needs.”

The Eastern Regional Health Care Coalition and the Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Center sponsored the one-day summit.

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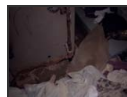
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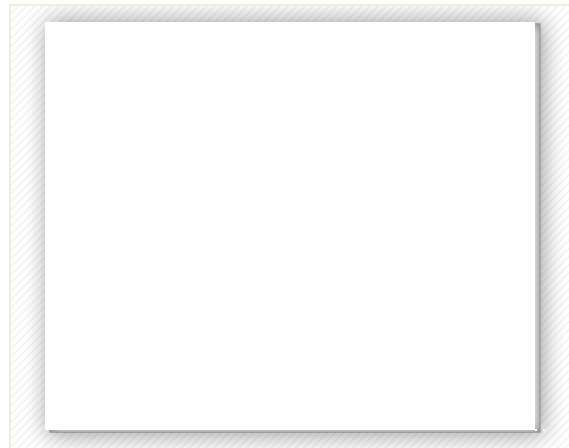
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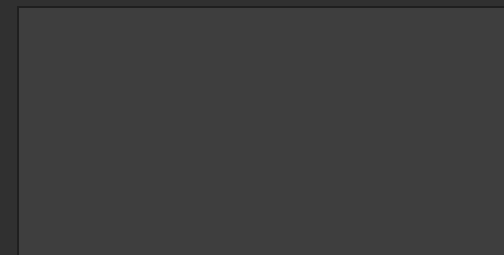
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