

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services
February 14, 2012

Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health

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- Executive Order 85: Consolidation and Reorganization (signed March 25, 2011) requires consolidation of the Division of Public Health and the Office of Rural Health and Community Care into the Division of Prevention, Access and Public Health Services.
- Actions taken thus far to facilitate this consolidation are:
 - October 31, 2011: Director of the N.C. Office of Rural Health and Community Care (ORHCC), presented to the Division of Public Health (DPH) section management team an overview of rural health programs and statewide supports to help communities get low cost access to medical care.
 - November 29-30, 2011: DPH sponsored a two-day strategic planning meeting including leadership from the DHHS Office of the Secretary, Division of Medical Assistance (DMA), the Association of Local Health Directors (ALHD), ORHCC, and DPH. The purpose of the planning sessions were to define a shared vision for the proposed new Division of Prevention, Access and Public Health Services, and to formulate two-year strategic priorities the proposed new division would pursue.
- Actions in process or under consideration are:
 - March 19, 2012: Presentation on ORHCC by the Director to DPH program managers. These efforts will orient DPH program manager on the roles and responsibilities of ORHCC and to investigate potential intersections of public health programs with rural health programs and services.
 - Implementation teams: Teams are being developed for the implementation of the two-year strategic priorities identified for the proposed new division. Teams will have representatives from ALHD, ORHCC, and DPH.
 - Communication Plan: A communication plan will be fully developed, to engage stakeholders and partners in this shared vision and priorities.
 - Implementation planning and communications will be focused on:
 - Assuring rural health partners that existing ORHCC relationships and innovation will be maintained and enhanced.
 - Identifying points of intersection between local health departments and rural health centers that address both access and prevention to meet the health needs of underserved North Carolinians.
 - Assessing staffing levels and business operations to investigate opportunities for improved efficiency and savings.