

## ACA Replace or Repeal

### Panel Speakers:

-Dr. Robert Eyler

-Marty Walters

-Robert J. Wentz

Significant impact: In our service region, the percentage of uninsured adults decreased from 12.5% down to 9% in 2015.

### Local economic effects as a result from being insured:

Dr. Eyler: More people are seeking healthcare plans before chronic illnesses arise.

Wentz: There was an expansion of Medicaid, but not enough staff to help patients.

### ACA Impact on Small Businesses:

Walters: Small businesses in service region employ less than 50 employees, leaving the employees to acquire insurance through Covered CA. Investors are now seeking for real estate for medical office buildings.

### Has lack of primary care been impacted?

Dr. Wentz: With ACA, more people seek medical care.

Walters: Plumas Hospital didn't have enough patients before ACA and were on the verge of shutting down the hospital. Now Plumas County residents can visit their local hospital without traveling outside the county.

### Will repealing ACA, bring down rural hospitals?

Walters: Cost of air ambulance has gone down because ACA has brought more patients to rural hospitals, meaning that there is no need to transfer patients to other hospitals since there is enough staff in rural hospitals.

Dr. Wentz: Multiple clinics can't be consolidated, for example, one HR office for seven rural clinics. Robotics can assist in shortage of doctors.

### Telehealth difficult in our region?

Walters: Good success in infrastructure set up for internet access, but it is hard to do so for mountainous regions.

Dr. Wentz: Technology allows for more things to get done with less. As long as we take advantage of healthcare, we must use technological advances.

Dr. Eyler: Attract specialists to where technology is accessible.

## Potential changes of ACA

### What will happen to the premiums for people already on a plan?

Dr. Eyler: premiums will rise and coverage will fall.

Walters: People who are going to have to pay the most will drop their coverage.

### What might an ACA look like if there is a replacement? In the North State? What is ideal?

Dr. Wentz: Most hospitals are mostly Medicaid. Government is the biggest customer, and will rely on technology in the future.

Walters: What is ideal for the social good is consolidation.

Dr. Eyler: Reduction of fragmentation should be the sole purpose. Both extremes will find it hard to find common ground.

### Questions from the audience

Q: I have a family member working for the VA. When they started working for the VA, they operated with 50 employees and 18 providers. Now there are 200 employees and 25 providers. Is this happening un all other medical sectors?

A: Dr. Wentz: They must be more efficient with less. The VA is bureaucratic.

Q: How do we get better results with low cost, more productivity?

A: Incentives have to change; politicians shouldn't make the decisions. Micromanaging is not a good idea.

Q: What is being done to increase the supply of healthcare?

A: Walters: Poor housing quality affects whether doctors move to rural regions.

Time was up; end of session.