A LOOK AT TELECOMMUNICATIONS, HEALTHCARE & COMMUNITY FACILITIES TO MAKE RURAL TOWNS MORE Viable

Presented By:
Margo Harrison, CEO
Clark Fork Valley Hospital Plains, MT
Where is Plains, Montana?
Clark Fork Valley Hospital & Family Medicine Network Locations

From Plains to:
Kalispell - 79 miles
Missoula - 74 miles
Spokane - 150 miles
Clark Fork Valley Hospital (CFVH) is a Critical Access Hospital (CAH)

- Located in Sanders County, Montana.
- The county had 10,896 residents in 2004.
- It is a depressed, resource-based economy.
- It is currently experiencing an influx of retirees.
- CFVH is the only Hospital in the County with the closest alternate healthcare facility greater than sixty (60) miles away.
CFVH recently replaced its aging facility through a 10 million dollar new building and renovation project funded by the USDA.
WHY ?
• Our area is attracting retirees with relatively high incomes who value health care quality & availability
• As other hospitals around us invested in upgrading their facilities, our market share was shrinking
• Although we provide a high quality of care, patrons are apt to judge the quality of care by the appearance of the surroundings
• The state of our physical plant was impacting staff morale and our ability to recruit much needed staff

*Our existing facility was not designed to deliver care in the 21st century*
CFVH is now the largest employer in the county.
Sanders County Income Demographics

### Sanders County Households by Income:

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0 - $15,000</td>
<td>1,292</td>
<td>1,468</td>
<td>1,482</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000 - $24,999</td>
<td>1,019</td>
<td>1,018</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 - $34,999</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>848</td>
<td>911</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000 - $49,999</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>72.9%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000 - $74,999</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>116.2%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 - $99,999</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>180.8%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 - $149,999</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000 +</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Average Hhld Income**: $24,106, $28,921, $30,052 (20.0%, 3.9%)
- **Median Hhld Income**: $18,616, $21,802, $22,267 (17.1%, 2.1%)
- **Per Capita Income**: $9,446, $12,269, $12,903 (29.9%, 5.2%)

*Source: CompData*
The Census Bureau estimated that there were 10,896 residents of Sanders County on July 1, 2004. Sanders County’s age profile is similar to that of many rural Montana counties. In 2004, baby boomers were between the ages of 40 and 54. Following the baby boom came the “baby bust,” which is evidenced by the lack of 25 to 39 year olds in the county. In many rural Montana counties, the baby bust is exacerbated by out-migration of young adults.
Age Distribution of Sanders County Residents

- 0 to 4
- 5 to 9
- 10 to 14
- 15 to 19
- 20 to 24
- 25 to 29
- 30 to 34
- 35 to 39
- 40 to 44
- 45 to 49
- 50 to 54
- 55 to 59
- 60 to 64
- 65 to 69
- 70 to 74
- 75 to 79
- 80 to 84
- 85+
This graph shows how Sanders County’s population distribution compares to Montana’s. Sanders County has a median age of 44.2, making it the fourth oldest county in the state. Since older populations have higher rates of healthcare utilization, these demographics are important when planning for healthcare delivery now and in the future.
## Sanders Co. Age Demographics

### Sanders County Population by Age:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 5</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 13</td>
<td>1,173</td>
<td>1,282</td>
<td>1,158</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>-9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 to 17</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>-15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 24</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>1,016</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>108.2%</td>
<td>-6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 34</td>
<td>1,074</td>
<td>1,004</td>
<td>1,262</td>
<td>-6.5%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 44</td>
<td>1,381</td>
<td>1,463</td>
<td>1,143</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>-21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 54</td>
<td>971</td>
<td>1,585</td>
<td>1,595</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 to 64</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>1,093</td>
<td>1,615</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>1,055</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 to 84</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>-0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85+</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>60.3%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CompData
Recent advances in technology and telecommunications allow small community Hospitals like CFVH to provide up-to-date services locally.

- (HIS) electronic Health Information System
- (EMR) electronic medical record
- (PACS) Picture Archiving & Communications System/Telemedicine/Teleradiology

*Networking* with Urban providers
Economic Impacts

*Businesses have an economic impact on their local communities that exceeds the direct amount of people they employ or wages they pay.*

- Individuals employed at Clark Fork Valley Hospital spend a portion of their salary on goods and services produced in Sanders County, thus supporting jobs and income in those local businesses.

- The hospital itself may purchase goods and services from local suppliers. These businesses and employees then spend a portion of their income on local goods and services, which in turn supports other local jobs and companies.

- The effect of one dollar of wages is multiplied as it circulates through the community.
Economic Impacts

The relatively high wages earned by hospital employees also tend to boost hospitals’ multipliers.

Multipliers are calculated using a methodology called *input-output analysis*. 
According to the input-output analysis, the hospital industry sector in Sanders County has the following multipliers:

- Hospital Employment Multiplier = 1.56
- Hospital Employee Compensation Multiplier = 1.21
- Hospital Output Multiplier = 1.43
What do these numbers mean?

- The employment multiplier of 1.56 can be interpreted to mean that for every job at Clark Fork Valley Hospital, another 0.56 jobs are supported in Sanders County.
- The employee compensation multiplier of 1.21 simply states that for every dollar in wages and benefits paid to the hospital’s employees, another 21 cents of wages and benefits are created in other local jobs in Sanders County.
- The output multiplier of 1.43 indicates that for every dollar of goods and services produced by Clark Fork Valley Hospital, output in the county increases by another 43 cents.
Other Economic Impacts

There are other potential economic impacts of hospitals beyond those identified by the input-output analysis.

Novak (2003) observes that “…a good healthcare system is an important indication of an area’s quality of life. Healthcare, like education, is important to people and businesses when deciding where to locate”. *

Other Economic Impacts

The presence of a quality healthcare system gives communities advantages:

– When competing for new businesses.
– Attracting retirees to the community.
– Providing opportunities for young people to stay in the communities where they were raised and still earn a high wage.
Rural healthcare providers improve the quality of life and viability of their communities through the:

– direct provision of jobs,

– indirect support of local services and community initiatives

– hospital and employee spending on goods and services locally,

– greater access to Healthcare

– increased real estate values
Big Horn Sheep

Clark Fork River, Plains MT