

*West Virginia Rural Health Education Partnerships  
State Rural Health Advisory Panel*

*Resolution*

*Whereas*, the Rural Health Advisory Panel is empowered by the RHI Act and its subsequent reauthorizations to designate rural health training sites, and

*Whereas*, the Rural Health Advisory Panel oversees the administration of the West Virginia Rural Health Education Partnerships (WVRHEP) and advises the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences of the Higher Education Policy Commission, and

*Whereas*, the Rural Health Advisory Panel encourages all partners and consortia within the WVRHEP to explore new and innovative methods to meet the mission of the RHI Act, and

*Whereas*, the Rural Health Advisory Panel encourages all partners and consortia within the WVRHEP to adhere to the principles of partnerships, use all resources wisely, and to adhere to the highest levels of accountability for the use of state funding, and

*Whereas*, the Rural Health Advisory Panel is cognizant of the state's current financial crisis,

*Therefore, be it resolved that The State Rural Health Advisory Panel requests:*

1. All current WVRHEP consortia throughout the state seek methods to achieve greater economies of scale, through whatever means are appropriate and relevant to their respective locations and health care markets, and
2. Each current WVRHEP consortia explore consolidation, merger, and/or other forms of collaboration with other WVRHEP consortia, AHEC Centers, health professional schools and programs, and/or other organizations with the same mission, and
3. That such exploration have the joint purposes of improving the quality of educational and community services through new and innovative approaches *AND* the savings of operational funds.

Each consortium shall submit, in writing, the findings of their work regarding this request to the WVRHEP Executive Director on or before May 1, 2004 for presentation to the State Rural Health Advisory Panel on May 17, 2004. Should any of the findings call for the merger or consolidation of consortia or parts of current consortia, the approval for such changes will be presented to the Panel on May 17, 2004 and be effective July 1, 2004.

*Approved by the State Rural Health Panel on November 17, 2003*

  
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Dennis McCutcheon, Chair