Rural Dentistry
Need, Challenges, and Options

Recommendations for new initiatives

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Where do we go from here?

Someone has to take the first step
Proposed Program Goals

• Career guidance and placement services for all students & spouses

• Recruitment to and retention in rural areas

• Produce graduates confident in their ability to address majority of oral health care needs

• Responsive to professional and community needs

• Promote integration of the health care team –
  • Hygienists, therapists, dentists, and beyond
Considerations

• School of Dentistry (in-house), separate centralized facility (Duluth?), dispersed locations (MNSCU or outreach expansion)

• Curriculum focus - Rural Track; alternate tracks (teaching, research, pre-specialty training, general dentistry,???)

• Expand enrollment; integration of Hygiene and Therapy

• Institute career counselling and placement services for students and spouses; educate communities-in-need (and health systems) about recruitment and retention

• Role of organized dentistry
Discussion and alternative ideas

Thank you