

## Washington & Idaho Regional Extension Center (WIREC): Helping Providers to Meaningful Use

Peggy Evans, PhD, CPHIT  
WIREC Director

Idaho Healthcare Coordination Council Workshop  
June 29, 2011



## Regional Extension Center Background

- Obama Administration signs into legislation ARRA in February, 2009
- HITECH Act = Allows CMS to provide financial incentives to EPs for reaching "meaningful use" of EHRs
- HITECH = creation of Regional Extension Center (REC) Program, along with other programs to support health IT adoption
- REC = Provide technical assistance to primary care providers for the purposes of successful EHR adoption and attainment of meaningful use

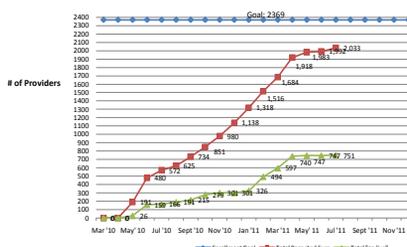


## WIREC Structure & Strategy

- Led by Qualis Health with strategic partners
- Goal: 2,369 priority providers in WA & ID
- Strategy:
  - Consulting at no charge to practices
  - Direct and customized assistance to practices
  - Broad Education (webinars, forums)
  - Peer to Peer Networking (group purchase, regional workshops)



## Meeting the Enrollment Target



### Other Health IT/Quality Improvement Programs Starting Up Supported through Qualis Health



### Outpatient QI Program

- Support of providers in reporting to Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) through EHRs
- Adoption of Patient Centered Medical Homes/Health Homes – the next step after MU
- Focus on using EHR for Prevention – cardiac health, cancer screening, immunizations
  - Data Benchmarking
- *Facilitation of work through Learning & Action Networks*



### Care Transitions

- Improve care transitions and reduce readmissions
- Support communities pursuing ACA Section 3026 grants (community-based care transitions)
- Provide additional technical assistance for select communities
- *Establish a statewide Learning & Action Network*



### Hospital and Nursing Homes

#### Hospitals

- Reduce healthcare-associated infections (HAIs)
- Improve quality through value-based purchasing
  - Technical assistance with quality reporting

#### Nursing Homes

- Reduce healthcare-acquired conditions (HACs)
- *Work for both programs supported through statewide Learning & Action Network*



### Summary

- WIREC on its way to reaching enrollment goals
- Outreach to as many eligible Idaho providers as possible to assure they are receiving the help they want/need.
- Continued provision of WIREC services for the next several years
- New Medicare outpatient program on the horizon that complements WIREC technical assistance

