



# The Health Wagon: Nurses Empowering Rural Communities

Presenters:

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# Mission

The Health Wagon provides compassionate quality health care to the medically underserved people in the mountains of Appalachia.



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1998  
Sister Bernadette  
Kenny, MMM  
DIOCESE OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



# In the Beginning

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# The New York Times



The Early Days

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# Experienced Nurse Managed Leadership



# Innovation

- Nurse Practitioner Managed Clinic
- Health Wagon services comprised of a mobile unit and two stationary clinics
- Provide dedicated care to 10 sites in Dickenson, Buchanan, Russell, Lee, and Wise counties on a weekly to biweekly basis
- Services are rendered free of charge; however, patient co-pays for appointments (\$10)
- Use generic drugs when possible, rely on clinician's diagnostic abilities, unprecedented collaboration with multiple entities, holistic care





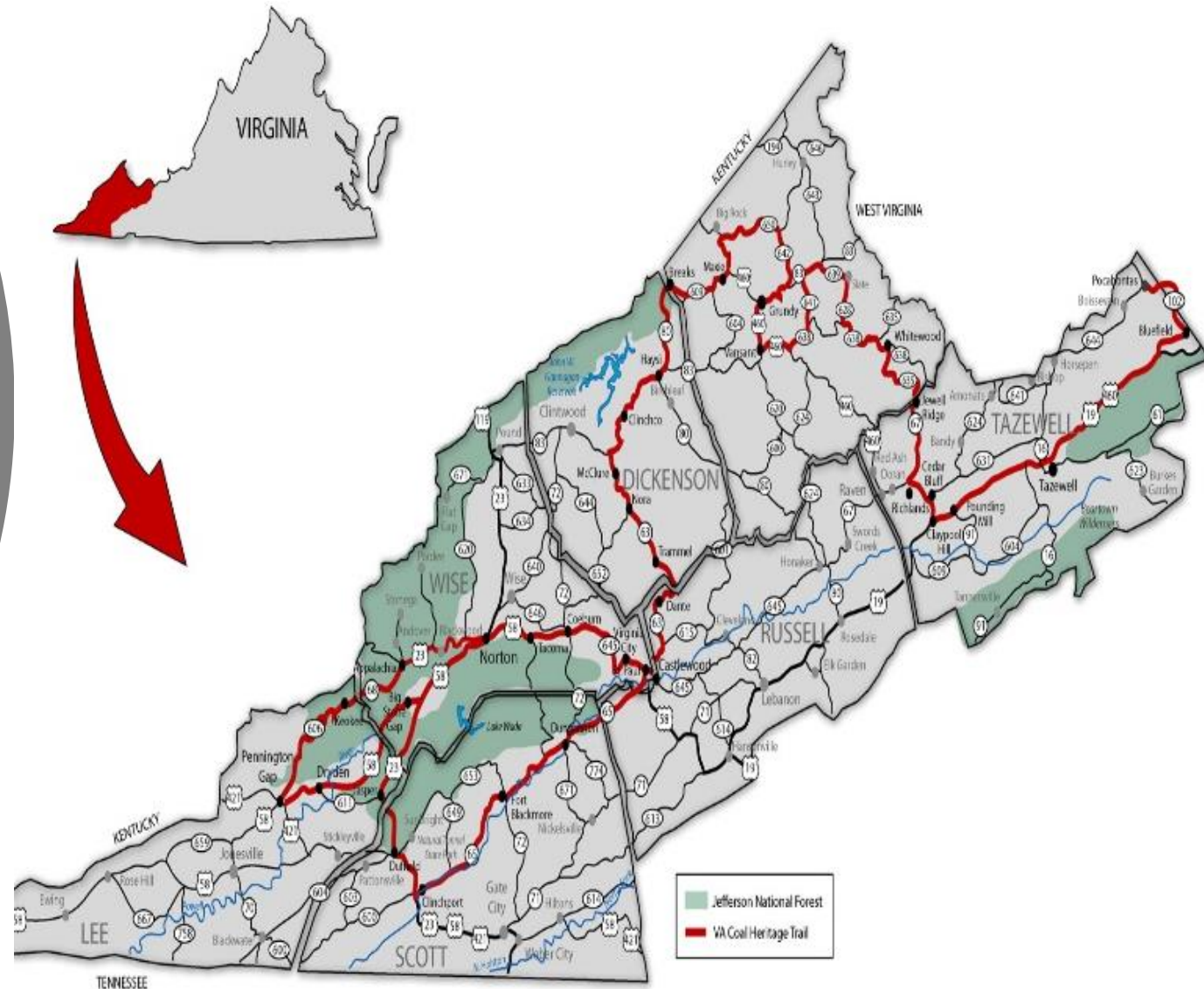
# Patients of the Health Wagon

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- The Health Wagon is a medical home to over 4,724 patients
- 16,670 patient encounters in 2018
- The average age of the Health Wagon patient is 46
- 86% of the Health Wagon's patients are uninsured, the remainder are considered under-insured, meaning they have health insurance but cannot afford patient pay responsibilities
- 60% are female
- 40% are male

# Service Area

- Lee, Scott, Wise, Dickenson, Buchanan and Russell Counties
- The terrain is mountainous, covering 1,715 square miles, with numerous locations being geographically isolated
- Many residents lack adequate transportation which results in lack of access to health care





# Health Wagon Challenges

- Small rural communities that do not attract the level of services available in urban developed communities,
- Tremendous need for primary and preventive health care,
- Economic disparity,
- Geographic isolation,
- Low level of education,
- High unemployment,
- Low rates of health insurance coverage,
- Lack of healthcare resources,
- Poor health status & disparities in Appalachian health care, and
- Increasing elderly population

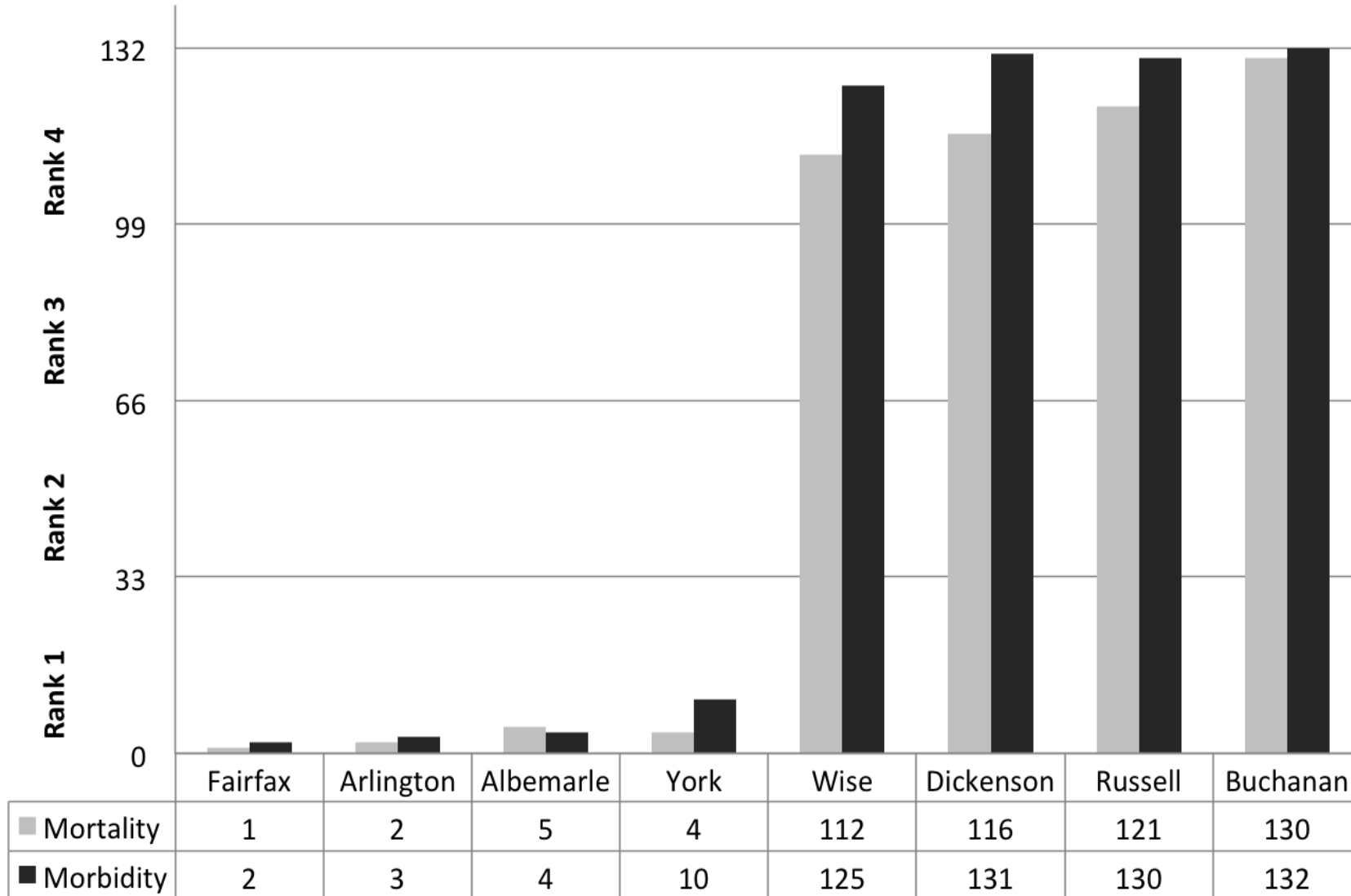
# Death rates from common causes are higher in the Health Wagon's service area than in Virginia overall

- People in the service area are:
- 25% more likely to die from heart disease
- 46% more likely to die from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- 47% more likely to die from pneumonia or influenza
- 34% more likely to die from diabetes
- 62% more likely to die from chronic liver disease
- 61% more likely to die from unintentional injuries and
- 72% more likely to commit suicide
- Data source: *Virginia Health Statistics, Volume I, 1999 – 2003. These are averages based on age-adjusted death rates for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.*



# Health Outcome Rank

Health Outcome Rank





# 2017 ARMY Innovative Readiness Training Event (IRT)

# Vision Services

927 patients seen



2017 ARMY Innovative  
Readiness Training Event  
(IRT)



# Veterinary Services

1759 procedures  
completed



2017 ARMY Innovative  
Readiness Training Event  
(IRT)



# Medical Services

305 total patients  
seen



2017 ARMY Innovative  
Readiness Training Event  
(IRT)

# Dental Services

459 total patients  
seen



2017 ARMY Innovative  
Readiness Training Event  
(IRT)



# Bishop Barry C. Knestout blesses the Health Wagon in 2018


“Then the King will answer, ‘Truly I tell you,  
whatever you did not do for one of the least of  
these, you did not do for Me” – Matthew 25:40



# Moral Imperative

- Liberty and Justice for all... includes concept of health care
- Don't stand idly by in your brother's blood (Concept Leviticus 19:16)
- Sr. Bernie responded to social injustice. She did not stand idly by.

*“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”*

*Jesus* 

*(Matt. 25:40)*

# Respond with Love

- Respond as Sr. Bernie did with an act of love
- Volunteer
  - Medical (Physicians, Specialists, NPs, PAs, Nurses, Scribes, any and all)
  - Non-medical
- Contribute hours as a group
- Donate gifts-in-kind from our wish list
- Participate in a fundraising event
- Invite us to speak
- Schedule a tour of the Health Wagon
- Tell someone about the Health Wagon
- Make a financial donation
- Like us on Facebook
- Involve students inter-professionally
- Pray for the mission

**To Donate, Text "Wagon" to 41444  
or Call (276) 328-8850**

**We Accept:**



[www.healthwagon.org](http://www.healthwagon.org)

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DONATE  
TO OUR CAUSE**

**To Donate \$10.00**  
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**To Donate \$25.00**  
Text WAGON to 41444

**To Donate over \$25.00**  
Text WAGON  
(insert amount) to 41444

# Donate

# Contact Us

The Health Wagon

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