Building Partnerships in Rural Mental Health Workforce Development
March 4, 2005

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Rural Mental Health Workforce Development & Higher Education
WICHE & Mental Healthy: A HEALTHY relationship for FIFTY YEARS

- The Early Years – A comfortable fit
- Adolescence – Some disconnect
- Now, in modern maturity – real comfort, again
Why Now – A New Comfort Zone?

- Still real logical in frontier America
- The nexus “coming back” to academic ties
- We “suffer” similarly
Public support of the Public Good

- No argument on the basics – health and education are “public goods”
- But not borne out by support.
- Federal support has waned
- State support has as well
States whose effective tax rate exceeds the national average are plotted above the horizontal axis, and states with above average wealth (total taxable resources per capita) are plotted to the right of the vertical line.

Shaded states have tax revenues per capita within +/-10% of the national average.
Don’t count on improvement

State and local surplus or shortfall as a percent of baseline revenues

Source: National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)
Higher Education & Mental Health Lead
(or Trail) The Pack

- Higher Education “shows up” as the big loser.
From higher education’s perspective – why don’t they love us like they used to

Just look at our diminishing share of state resources

State appropriations for higher education as share of state expenditures

Maintaining 7.3% high point : $21 billion


Author’s calculations based on data from Center for Higher Education and Educational Finance; Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.
Higher Education & Mental Health Lead (or Trail) The Pack

- Higher Education “shows up” as the big loser.

- Mental Health doesn’t show up because buried in “health” generally, which has been eating everyone’s lunch.

- Why?
Are we still considered important parts of the Public Good?

- In Higher Education
  - Do we want to be considered *public or not*?
  - Are the benefits *public or private*?

- In Mental Health
  - Do our professionals care about *the public piece*?
  - If this is health, is it a public or private responsibility
If “they” will do it, let ‘um.

- In Higher Education – tuition rocks
- In Mental Health
  - Feds do health (through dollars and mandates)
  - If mental health is health, it’s their bag, not the states.
To do what they say, or to do what they do?

- They say they want us
- But, they won’t provide the resources to do so.
The New Public Policy Arena: Lots of Interest/Little Knowledge

- Term Limits reduce knowledge
- Limited time horizons force rapid fire
Strategies for this environment

- Good Information
  - Research
  - Interpretation
- Contemporary Preparation of Professionals
- Use of technology
- WICHE will help