

PC4AA Key Policy Ideas

1. Primary care is an essential service, like police and fire protection, roads, garbage pickup, clean water supply, or public education, one that that communities can and should provide for themselves. (The cost of primary care is actually similar to or less than the cost of those other services, when measured per-resident per-year.)
2. Primary care for all is a critical part of public health. It is a necessary condition to produce the best public health outcomes at the lowest cost, because it can deliver evidence-based prevention and cost-effective community-located urgent and chronic care medical services to the entire population, if adequately resourced. Lacking universal primary care, we overspend on Emergency Rooms, specialty and hospital care, and undersupply prevention and chronic care management that works.
3. State and Federal health policy should focus on the delivery system. Payment reform is critical but can't be effective at addressing the health needs of the population without a well-articulated, well-designed, and well-deployed primary care-based delivery system.
4. Workforce is a state level responsibility and focused state-level advocacy is needed to address it. There is a largely unaddressed opportunity for Federal support of state workforce initiatives, as well as Federal policy changes around Graduate Medical Education funding to address workforce, and Medicare and Medicaid payment policy, which advocacy can help address.