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SOME PLANT, SOME WATER, BUT WE ALL MUST  
WORK TO BRING THE HARVEST...



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Lee County First Steps



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# AGENDA

- I. **Greetings**
- II. **A Charge To Keep...**
- III. **Acknowledgements**
- IV. **Brief History to The Work in Lee County**
- V. **Lee County First Steps Role**
- VI. **Shout Outs... (Partners, Individuals)**
- VII. **Snap Shot**
- VIII. **Inspirational Thoughts...**
- IX. **Closing: “We Are The World”**

# A CHARGE TO KEEP...

- A charge to keep I have,
  - A God to glorify,
- A never-dying soul to save,
  - And fit it for the sky.
  - To serve the present age,
    - My calling to fulfill:
- Oh, may it all my pow'rs engage
  - To do my Master's will!
  - Arm me with jealous care,
    - As in Thy sight to live;
- And O Thy servant, Lord, prepare
  - A strict account to give!
  - Help me to watch and pray,
    - And on Thyself rely,
- Assured, if I my trust betray,
  - I shall forever die.

# COLLABORATION

- Collaboration is more than just bringing various community-based organizations to the table to try and solve long-term problems from a short-term mindset (Forbes).

THE SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH (SCORH) IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WITH A MISSION TO CLOSE THE GAP IN HEALTH STATUS AND LIFE EXPECTANCY BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES IN THE PALMETTO STATE. SCORH HAS BEEN PROMOTING INVESTMENT, OPPORTUNITY AND HEALTH WITHIN RURAL COMMUNITIES SINCE 1991.

- Like its peer organizations in each state, SCORH is the sole organization in South Carolina that is federally designated to address the health needs in rural communities. SCORH works with local, state and national partners to:
  - • increase access to quality health care,
  - • improve the social determinants that contribute to a community's overall health, and
  - • connect available resources across the state with local needs in rural communities.
- **To accomplish these goals, SCORH:**
  - • provides technical and financial assistance to healthcare providers,
  - • advocates to local and state leaders to encourage rural-friendly policy, and
  - • invests in educational activities and health programs at the local level

## HOW RURAL IS SOUTH CAROLINA?

- **27% of residents living in rural areas**
- **SCORH believes in preserving the unique character of rural communities without compromising their opportunities and access to critical services**



# FORBES 3 KEY LEARNINGS ABOUT COMMUNITY COLLABORATION:

- **1. We need a change in how investments are being made by public and private funding institutions.**

Changing policies is essential in changing the systemic issues that are creating the problems in the first place.

- **2. Funders need to support enhancing the capacity of community-based organizations to track and report outputs and outcome measures.**

We need to call for a shared definition and understanding to measure collective assets and impact against health equity goals. Achieving equity is a win-win: higher corporate earnings, reduced healthcare costs, lower employee turnover, increased productivity, increased life expectancy and greater community resiliency to withstand crises, like the 2020 pandemic.

## FORBES 3 KEY LEARNINGS ABOUT COMMUNITY COLLABORATION:

### ■ 3. We need more systems-thinking approaches to collaboration and civic infrastructure.

More community-level leadership is needed to drive civic infrastructure improvements and create sustainable health equity coalitions. Plus, by working together, we can evolve our collaborations beyond “declarative advocacy” — conversations, meetings and clever marketing. We can identify and create clear plans of action that involve all stakeholders in real system change that creates equity in the workplace, government, community organizations, schools, healthcare and more.

“WE ALL HAVE WORK TO DO, AND IT WILL TAKE ALL OF US TO DO THIS WORK...”

