William B. Oley III, M.D.
Red Lodge, MT 59068

MEDICAL SCHOOL: Ohio State University College of Medicine, Columbus, OH

RESIDENCY: Riverside Family Practice Residency, Columbus, OH
2000-2003

PRACTICE SITE: Family Medicine and Emergency Services Coverage
Red Lodge, MT
Effective Date – May 3, 2010

SUPPORTING INSTITUTION: Beartooth Hospital and Health Care
Red Lodge, MT 59068

POPULATION: 9,800

PHYSICIAN/PATIENT RATIO: 1:2,450

BASIS FOR MRPIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The committee considered the size and location of the community, the physician-to-patient ratio, the difficulty the community is facing with retention of physicians, and the ongoing need to sustain adequate family practice and emergency care coverage services in the area. Although an attractive seasonal tourist location, Red Lodge is an isolated rural community that experiences difficulty with recruitment and retention of medical providers. Over the past year, the community experienced the shortage of two full-time practice physicians due to unplanned medical absences, only one of which has been able to return to practice following an extended leave. As a result, Dr. Oley assumed most of the overflow and call due to the shortage in addition to his patient load and continues to do so. Dr. Oley is an essential provider for the community and retention of his services is key to maintaining the necessary support and stability for medical services in the community. Availability of loan repayment to assist with Dr. Oley’s medical education loans would greatly benefit the community in retaining his services. Without loan repayment, the community risks losing his services to a neighboring community.