

Idaho Rural Health Association

Quarterly Newsletter

The Mission of the Idaho Rural Health Association is to provide leadership on issues related to rural health in Idaho through advocacy, communication, and education.



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Quarterly newsletter focused on IRHA's interests
- Networking opportunities
- One time Introductory subscription to NRHA's magazine *Rural Roads*
- NRHA's Action Alerts
- NRHA's Media Alerts
- Discounted fees to attend IRHA conferences and other events
- Rural Health Forums
- NRHA membership discount

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Voters will decide on HJR4 Constitutional Amendment on Nov 2

Since the 2006 court decision that reinterpreted Article VIII, Section 3, hospitals have been limited in their ability to replace or acquire new medical equipment, improve facilities and technology, or expand services without a vote to approve these improvements when financed for over 12 months.

With the current interpretation of the law, public hospitals are not allowed to enter into purchasing agreements exceeding 12 months. That means anything from leasing a copier or patient transport van to purchasing advanced imaging equipment, expanding emergency rooms or adding needed services like dialysis or cancer treatments, hospitals need to either pay the entire amount up front to purchase or enter into small leases less than 1 year that don't provide hospitals with the most cost effective terms.

Without the amendment, hospitals are required to get a 2/3 approval of the electorate in each instance where financing in excess of 12 months would be needed, despite the fact that no additional tax dollars will be required. Learn more about this issue at www.whatisHJR4.com.

Idaho Rural Health Association Update

The IRHA is currently planning a legislative breakfast at the state capital in Boise whereby IRHA members can meet and discuss rural health issues with their state legislators. Also, the IRHA will be sending a delegation to the Rural Health Policy Institute January 24-26, 2011 in Washington DC. The Policy Institute provides a forum for our representative IRHA members to meet with U.S. House Representatives and Senators to discuss pertinent rural health issues. For more information about the Rural Health Policy Institute, visit the National Rural Health Association website, www.ruralhealthweb.org.

The next board meeting is on:

Thursday, October 28 from 11 AM to 4 PM—Pocatello, Idaho

Check out the IRHA website for further details by going to:

<http://www.idahorha.org/>

For Your Information...

ICD-10 Changes coming! Many of you are familiar with ICD-9 which is coding information for reimbursement procedures. For more information about the changes, go to www.cms.gov/icd10

Our Vision is to be the recognized advocate for rural health

IRHA Welcomes New Board Members

We are pleased to announce two new members to the IRHA board, Dr. Ted Epperly and Dr. Molinari. Both board members bring a tremendous amount of experience to this organization. Please join us in welcoming them!



Ted Epperly, M.D., FAAFP, Program Director and CEO, Family Medicine Residency of Idaho - Dr. Epperly is a family physician in Boise, Idaho and is board chair of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Previously, he served one-year terms as president and president-elect and three years as a member of the AAFP Board of Directors. He also is Clinical Professor of

Family Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle. As AAFP board chair, Dr. Epperly advocates on behalf of family physicians and patients nationwide to inspire positive change in the U.S. health care system.



Dr Deana Molinari PhD, RN, CNE, Associate Professor, ISU School of Nursing - Dr. Molinari is the coordinator for the Office of Professional Development with many years of nursing experience in a variety of health care settings. She currently directs the Northwest Rural Nurse Residency, a distance education transition-to-practice col-

laborative for rural families across the United States. The research and education goal is to improve nurse recruitment and retention. She is the current president of the Rural Nurse Organization.

Rural Outreach Grant - Summer 2011

HRSA will be making available the Rural Outreach Grant applications in Summer 2011. The purpose of the Outreach program is to promote rural health care services outreach by expanding the delivery of health care services to include new and enhanced services in rural areas. Applicants may propose projects to address the needs of a wide range of population groups including, but not limited to, low-income populations, the elderly, pregnant women, infants, adolescents, rural minority populations and rural populations with special health care needs. The services may include: health education and promotion, health screenings, health fairs, and training and education to providers, among other activities. Typically, this grant opportunity is for a three-year grant and approximately \$150,000 a year for the project. Contact Rhiannon Avery, Health Program Specialist, State Office of Rural Health averyr@dhw.idaho.gov or (208) 332-7363.

IRHA Models Youth Suicide Prevention Forum in Maine

Shannen Schmitz, on behalf of IRHA and in partnership with the Jason Foundation, has been holding Youth Suicide Prevention forums across Idaho this past year. This innovative program provides rural communities with information addressing youth suicide awareness and prevention. Now, through the Maine Primary Care Association, she is taking that information to the east coast to educate rural health professionals on how to replicate the successful program in their state.

In Idaho, the program has been presented in Eagle, Plummer, Emmett, St. Maries and Meridian. The information is geared towards adults and is offered at no cost to communities. Continuing education credits are available for attendees.

Would You Like to Host a Health Forum in your Community? IRHA Can Help...

If you are an IRHA member and interested in hosting a meth education or suicide prevention forum in your community, IRHA can assist you in organizing your event. Please contact David Schmitz at: dave.schmitz@fmridaho.org

Join Us Today!

By joining IRHA you become part of nearly 100 professional and organizational members statewide who are working to improve the health and quality of life of rural Idahoans. Members have come to rely on IRHA to be the voice for rural communities through advocacy, information exchange and collaboration.

IRHA has moved to a new web-based member management system. Now you can join conveniently online. Go to www.idahorha.org to register or renew your membership.

Annual Dues:

Individuals \$25

Organizations \$100 (maximum of 5 members)

Students \$15