

WINTER 2016



*The recognized advocate for rural health issues in Idaho*

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

## Idaho Rural Health Association Update

The Idaho Rural Health Association would like to welcome Resident Board Member,  
Catherine Doyle, MD



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Ted Epperly, M.D. FAAFP  
Family Medicine Residency of Idaho

**Past President**

Ted Epperly, M.D. FAAFP  
Family Medicine Residency of Idaho

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Mary Barinaga, M.D.  
Idaho WWAMI Program

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Syringa Hospital and Clinics

Kim Stutzman, M.D.  
Family Medicine Residency of Idaho

David Schmitz, M.D.  
Ex-Officio

**Student Board Members**

Catherine Doyle, MD  
Family Medicine Residency of Idaho

Gerald Cortright  
Boise State University

Catherine is from the small town of Goldendale, WA, the oldest daughter of an astronomer and a music teacher. She went to Pacific Lutheran University for undergrad, where she got a BS in Biology and minors in Chemistry, Music, and Religion. She got accepted to the University of Washington's School of Medicine as part of the Targeted Rural and Underserved Track where she was able to pursue her interest in rural medicine, and is currently nearing the end of her PGY2 year in the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho Magic Valley Rural Training Track. She lives in Twin Falls with her husband, Andrew, and her cat, Roger, and is passionate about her faith, rural medicine, and the cheap groceries at Winco.

Catherine enjoyed being active in state-level health policy in medical school, acting as student delegate to the WAFP House of Delegates for 2 years and student trustee to the WAFP Board of Directors for 1 year. She would love to be able use her skills and experience to contribute to the work of the IRHA as a resident in the coming year!

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**Our Vision is to be the recognized advocate for rural health**

**Collaborating for Health**  
 Building Blocks for a Healthier Idaho  
 MAY 24-25 2016  
 at the BOISE CENTRE

**REGISTER TODAY for the C4H Conference or for additional information visit us at**  
[www.collaborating4health.dhw.idaho.gov](http://www.collaborating4health.dhw.idaho.gov)

**Registration**  
 Students - \$50  
 Early bird until March 31st - \$75  
 Regular registration - \$100

The goal of this conference is to provide education and networking for healthcare and community professionals across Idaho.

Health Equity, Policy, Systems and Environmental Change, Collective Impact, Population Health

Nora Carpenter, Adewale Troutman, Darrin Anderson, Brian Smedley

**C4H** Collaborating for Health  
 IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE  
 DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**VENDOR SPACE AVAILABLE:** If you are interested in participating as a vendor please fill out an application at [bit.ly/C4H2016](http://bit.ly/C4H2016)

**NRHA's New Leaders**



As a former Washington "insider," it was exciting to attend the National Rural Health Association Policy Institute in Washington, DC in February with a fresh perspective from living in the great state of Idaho!

Conference presentations focused on barriers to keeping our communities healthy, including the opioid abuse epidemic and hospital closures in rural communities.

Representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services discussed opportunities to address these challenges and enhance our ability to provide high quality health services.

Speakers in Congress from both sides of the aisle, often from rural communities themselves, described their commitment to actions that support healthy rural communities. Using the knowledge and guidance from the National Rural Health Association, I joined Dr. David Schmitz and Shannon Schmitz for a day on Capitol Hill meeting with Idaho's Congressional delegation. We spoke with legislative assistants and Senator Risch about the importance of rural and frontier providers for the health and economic vitality of their communities and several legislative opportunities to strengthen the rural health infrastructure.

While our visits were productive, they highlighted some lack of awareness of the needs of small, isolated communities such as mine. During my former life in DC, I saw how strong relationships with legislators led to positive policy change for rural healthcare providers. I appreciate the connections that the Idaho Rural Health Association has made on behalf of Idaho's rural health community. And I encourage anyone with a passion for rural health to also make those connections and continue to grow them through IRHA.

**STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (SLRP)**

EXPANDED OPPORTUNITY! FUNDING AVAILABLE!

The Idaho Bureau of Rural Health & Primary Care invites you to explore this new opportunity for clinician and physician loan repayment. SLRP is a federal grant created to improve healthcare access in Health Professional Shortage Areas. Award amounts range from \$5,000-\$25,000 per year, depending on matching employer contributions.

**Eligible disciplines include:**

- MD
- DO
- NP
- CNM
- PA
- DDS/DMD
- RN (NEW)
- LCSW
- Psychologist
- Psychiatrist
- Pharmacist
- RDH

**Eligible facilities must:**

- Be a nonprofit or public entity located in an Idaho Health Professional Shortage Area
- Provide a sliding fee scale for low income and uninsured patients
- Must accept Medicare and Medicaid
- Provide 1:1 matching loan repayment funds

Apply Now!

Visit: [www.ruralhealth.dhw.idaho.gov](http://www.ruralhealth.dhw.idaho.gov)

Questions? Email: [ruralhealth@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:ruralhealth@dhw.idaho.gov)  
 Call: (208) 334-0669



Rural Issue

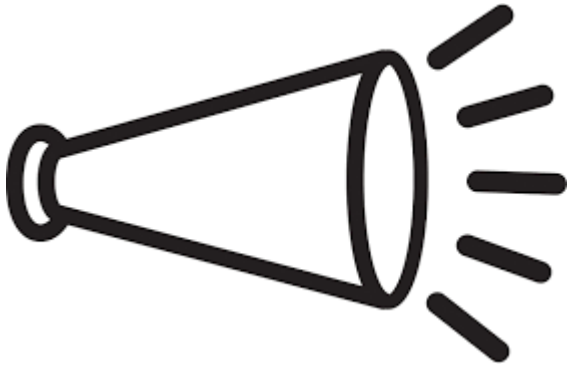
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Dropped Calls

**Have An Idea To Improve Rural Health?**

Do you have an idea – big or small – to change and improve health in rural communities? The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust is searching for innovative solutions from around the country that support rural health improvement. They're looking for original, innovative solutions to drive health improvement in rural communities. These don't have to be finalized projects – they are encouraging submissions that highlight new ideas and emerging innovations. Finalists will receive a \$7,500 award and one innovative and inspiring idea will win the [The New Rural: Innovations in Rural Health Award](#), and a total of \$25,000.

All submissions must be received by 11:59 p.m. EDT on April 29, 2016. For more information, visit the award's [information page](#). If you have any questions about the award, please contact Erin Barlow, [ruralprize@kbr.org](mailto:ruralprize@kbr.org).



### LET US KNOW!

Why is rural health important to you?

What is your passion in rural health?

We include your response in the next newsletter.

Send to Shannon at [idahorha@gmail.com](mailto:idahorha@gmail.com)

### 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 management system. Now you can join conveniently online.

Go to [www.idahorha.org](http://www.idahorha.org) to register or renew your membership.

**Annual Dues:**  
Individual \$25

Organization \$100  
(Up to 5 members)

Student \$15

### DON'T FORGET TO...

Follow us on Facebook  
and Check out our  
website:

<http://www.idaho.org>