Mark your calendars for the annual Arizona Rural Health Conference, Aug. 2-3

The 38th Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference provides an environment to network, develop partnerships and exchange information with community members, health care and academic professionals, key state leaders, public, county and community health professionals and others representing rural, border and tribal communities. Learn more and register online at http://www.rho.arizona.edu/Events/2011rhc/38thAnnualArizonaRuralHealthConference.aspx

ACROSS ARIZONA

New workforce report reveals trends among rural healthcare providers

The Arizona Rural Health Office recently completed a report for the Arizona Area Health Education Center about the rural healthcare workforce. Trends in the numbers of licensed health care professionals relative to the population in Arizona from 2002 to 2006 have generally been stable or have increased. The rural areas have fewer licensed professionals relative to the population than the urban areas. The workforce trends for many professions show that the inequalities between urban and rural areas are increasing, especially for the most rural areas of Arizona. There were statewide and urban increases in the numbers of all the health care professionals studied. Arizona will face greater competition with other states in recruiting and retaining health professionals due to expected increase in demand for services through implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Maintaining the current number of health professionals relative to the population will be especially difficult since the large proportion of professionals from the “baby boomer” generation are starting to retire. To read the complete report, visit http://www.azahec.org/regions/po/index.cfm/2011/4/29/Arizona-Workforce-Study-Report

Arizona rural health webinar series

The Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Health Systems Development and the Arizona Rural Health Office are collaborating to present a free webinar series covering “Issues in Rural Health Planning.” Topics vary and include: Shortage Designations in Arizona; Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas; Recruiting and Retaining Health Professionals: An Overview of ADHS Workforce Programs; and Understand the Pros and Cons of Rural Health Clinics: Registration will be required. For more information visit http://www.rho.arizona.edu/default.aspx

State seeking input on health insurance exchange system

Arizona is in the initial research and planning stages in the creation of a state health insurance exchange. As part of that process, the Governor’s Office is seeking input from stakeholders about key design and operational decisions. There will be additional opportunities to provide feedback on specific areas in the future. The questionnaire is available online at http://www.azgovernor.gov/hix/
JUNE
Arizona Hospital Evacuation Conference
• Presented by: ADHS
• Dates: June 7-8
• Location: Black Canyon Conference Center, Phoenix, AZ
• Contact: www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx?EID=ARIZ43E

3rd National Summit on Preconception Health and Health Care: Improving Preconception Health in a New Era of Health Care
• Presented by: Florida Department of Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Resources and Services Administration and the National Preconception Health and Care Initiative steering committee
• Dates: June 12-14
• Location: Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida
• Contact: http://beforeandbeyond.org/?page=preconception-summit#

• Presented by: Native Research Network
• Dates: June 27-30
• Location: Niagara Falls Conference Center, Niagara Falls, NY
• Contact: http://nationalresearchnetwork.org/National%20Conference.htm

National Rural Assembly 2011 Gathering
• Presented by: National Rural Assembly
• Dates: June 28-30
• Location: Crowne Plaza, St. Paul on the Riverfront, St. Paul, MN
• Contact: http://2011.ruralassembly.org/

36th National Institute on Social Work and Human Services in Rural Areas: A Place to Call Home: Honoring Family and Culture in Rural Social Work Practice
• Presented by: Northwestern State University, Department of Social Work
• Dates: July 14-16
• Location: Natchitoches, LA
• Contact: http://socialwork.nsula.edu/conference-201/

NACCHO Annual 2011 Conference
• Presented by: National Association of County and City Health Officials
• Dates: July 20-22
• Location: Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, CT
• Contact: www.naccho.org/na/2011/

AUGUST
Arizona Rural Health Conference
• Presented by: Arizona Rural Health Office, UA MEZCOPH
• Date: Aug. 2-3
• Location: Litchfield Park, AZ
• Contact: www.rho.arizona.edu/Events/2011rhc/38thAnnualAZRuralHealthConference.aspx+

2011 National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media
• Presented by: CDC

SEPTEMBER
Rural Health Clinic and Critical Access Hospital Conferences
• Presented by: National Rural Health Association
• Dates: Sept. 27-30
• Location: Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, MO
• Contact: http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/kc
Saucony Run For Good Foundation: Youth Running Programs
• Deadline: June 13
• Purpose: Initiate and support running and fitness programs for kids. Program selection criteria include: uses running participation for health and/or well-being in children; serves youth populations not traditionally exposed to running programs; and demonstrates support and inspiration in creating a program that exemplifies the Saucony Run For Good Foundation’s mission of improving the lives of children through running.
• Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations whose participants are 18 years of age or younger, have 501(c)(3) status, and can demonstrate that their program positively impacts the lives of participants through increased participation in running.
• Amount: up to $10,000
• More information: www.sauconyrunfor-good.com/how-to-apply/

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Programs
• Deadline: July 5
• Purpose: Provide financial support to selected Tribes, Tribal Organizations and Migrant Programs for child abuse prevention programs and activities that are consistent with the goals outlined by Title II of Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. The goal of the programs and activities supported by these funds is to prevent the occurrence or recurrence of abuse or neglect within the Tribal and Migrant populations. The funds must support more effective and comprehensive child abuse prevention activities and family support services.
• Eligibility: Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized); Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments); Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations, and Migrant Programs with the capacity to establish, maintain and evaluate community-based programs for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
• Amount: Estimated Total Program Funding: $416,889, ceiling of $138,963
• More information: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=85653

CDC: Community Transformation Grant
• Deadline: July 15
• Purpose: to create healthier communities by 1) building capacity to implement broad evidence and practice-based policy, environmental, programmatic and infrastructure changes, as appropriate, in large counties, and in states, tribes and territories, including in rural and frontier areas and 2) supporting implementation of such interventions in five strategic areas (Strategic Directions) aligning with Healthy People 2020 focus areas and achieving demonstrated progress in the following five performance measures outlined in the Affordable Care Act.
• Eligibility: Local and state government, local nonprofit organizations, Federally-recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, Tribal organizations and Urban Indian Health Programs, Tribal, and inter-tribal consortia
• Amount: 75 expected number of awards, total program funding: $900,000
• More information: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW

RWJF and Changemakers: Rethinking Mental Health: Improving Community Wellbeing
• Deadline: Oct. 14
• Purpose: It is an online, open source competition to challenge organizations to explore innovations that allow individuals, families, communities and society to move past narrow perceptions of mental health and expand our understanding and collective involvement in finding solutions. Entries will demonstrate system-changing solutions that boldly move past narrow perceptions of mental health to expand our understanding and our collective involvement; indicate growth beyond the stage of idea, concept, or research. At a minimum, entries should be at the demonstration stage and indicate success. While RWJF and Changemakers support new ideas at every stage and encourage their entry, the judges are only able to evaluate programs that are beyond the conceptual stage, and have demonstrated a proof of impact, even at small scale.
• Eligibility: The competition is open to all types of organizations (charitable organizations, private companies or public entities) from all countries.
• Amount: $5,000
• More information: http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?id=20881
ITEMS OF INTEREST

Lawsuit aims to block AHCCCS cuts

Attorney Tim Hogan has filed a request for a special action with Arizona Supreme Court aimed at blocking cuts to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, a move that could unbalance the fiscal year 2012 budget by hundreds of millions of dollars. In his petition, Hogan argued that the proposed cuts would violate Proposition 204, a 2000 ballot measure that dramatically expanded AHCCCS coverage. He asked the court to block a provision in the budget that would freeze enrollment for childless adults, a move that AHCCCS expects to cut 100,000 people from the state’s Medicaid rolls over the next year, as well as another provision that reduces eligibility for parents of children on AHCCCS.

“Proposition 204 was designed to ensure that this could not and would not happen. It expressly provides that neither the executive branch nor the Legislature could establish a cap on the number of eligible persons who may enroll in the system,” wrote Hogan, of the liberal advocacy group Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest.

If Hogan is successful in getting an injunction from the Arizona Supreme Court, it would unbalance the budget by about $207 million.

— Arizona Capitol Times

UA Phoenix campus graduates first class of MDs

In May, degrees were conferred on the first class of 24 students at the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix by Meredith Hay, executive vice president and provost of UA, and then the students recited the oath they developed when they entered the downtown Phoenix medical school in July 2007 to cap a ceremony that included speeches from world-renowned neurosurgeon Dr. Robert Spetzler, campus leadership and graduating student Casey Solem. The 24 students entered in 2007 after the school was quickly begun as a way for the state to address the critical shortage of physicians in Arizona. More than half of the first cohort of graduates will be staying in Arizona for their residencies.

National Health Service Corps accepting applications

The NHSC Scholarship Program application cycle is now open. NHSC Scholars receive: Payment for tuition, required fees, and other reasonable educational costs, a monthly support stipend, and assistance in finding a practice site. Scholars are committed to serve one year for each year of support at an approved site in a high-need Health Professional Shortage Area. http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarship/

IMPORTANT LINKS

- Administration on Aging
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- America’s Health Rankings: Our Nation at a Glance
- American Indian and Alaska Native Information (CMS)
- Arizona Critical Access Hospital Program
- AHCCCS
- Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association
- Arizona Rural Health Association, Inc.
- Critical Access Hospital Information (CMS)
- Critical Access Hospitals Financial Performance Indicators by State
- Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI)
- Federal Funding Opportunities
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (CMS)
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Health Services Advisory Group
- HRSA Geospatial Data Warehouse
- Indian Health Service, Navajo Area Office
- Indian Health Service, Phoenix Area Office
- Indian Health Service, Tucson Area Office
- Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
- Kaiser Family Foundation: Fast Facts
- Local Community Resource Finder
- Medicare Learning Network (CMS)
- National Association of Community Health Centers
- National Association of Rural Health Clinics
- National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health
- National Rural Health Association
- Office of Rural Health Policy, HHS
- Rural Assistance Center
- Rural Health Information (CMS)
- Rural Health Research Gateway
- Rural Health Resource Center - TASC
- RUPRI State Profiles
- State Health Facts Online
- State Offices of Rural Health
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Agriculture

This newsletter is a joint project of the Rural Health Office housed at the UA Zuckerman College of Public Health, and the Arizona Rural Health Association, Inc. The Arizona Rural Health Office works to improve the health of rural people. The Arizona Rural Health Association, Inc. advocates on behalf of the health needs of rural Arizonans at national, state and local levels. Your input is always welcome. Contact Sharon van Skiver, RHO Administrative Associate, at sharonv@email.arizona.edu