

RURAL HEALTH BRIEFING

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ACROSS ARIZONA

Tribal outreach project wins national award from n4a

The InterTribal Council of Arizona, Inc., was honored with an Aging Innovation Award by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging for its ITCA-AAA Public Benefits Outreach Project. Only 16 Aging Innovation Awards were presented to the best aging programs in the country. The InterTribal Council's program works to educate and provide advice to tribal elders and disabled individuals about public benefits and Medicare.

[More information](#)

Maricopa County mental health system is failing its vulnerable clients

According to the Arizona Republic: "The number of seriously mentally ill people in Maricopa County has exploded in recent years, growing by 94 percent since 2000. It will grow another 45 percent by 2015, according to state estimates ... The annual state audit of the system's performance that was released this year found it fails nearly all of its patients on key measures: placing them in stable housing and providing them with a job or other meaningful activity. Among those who have not been in jail or hospitalized for their illness, the system failed 86 percent. Among those who have, it failed 83 percent ... Nationally, the life expectancy of a mentally ill person is 25 years shorter than that of a healthy person. In Maricopa County, their life expectancy is 32 years shorter. (Casey Newton, "County's mental-health system failing" August 30, 2009) [More information](#)

Elimination of AHCCCS Health Insurance for Parents

As of October 1, 2009, the AHCCCS Health Insurance for Parents program will end. This program typically covers parents of KidsCare children who have income between 100% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. The State does not have enough funds to keep paying its portion of this program. This program was funded jointly by the State and federal government under Title XXI of the Social Security Act. AHCCCS will be sending letters to members in September to inform them of the program ending and provide information about other resources. [More information](#)

Medicaid population increases in Arizona

Over the past two months alone, the AHCCCS program has grown by about 49,000 members and in the last 12 months 120,700 new members have enrolled in the program.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Arizona Cancer Control Program

- **Date:** Sept. 9
- **Location:** Scottsdale Healthcare Shea Conference Center 9003 East Shea Blvd. Scottsdale, AZ
- **Contact:** Kendra Sabol at 602-542-2808 or sabolk@azdhs.gov

West Coast Conference on Aging

- **Presented by:** American Society on Aging
- **Dates:** Sept. 8-11
- **Location:** Oakland Marriott City Center, Oakland, CA
- **Contact:** www.asaging.org

AzPHA 81st Annual Meeting & Conference: The Dollars & Sense of Public Health: Connecting the Economy to Arizona's Health

- **Dates:** Sept. 10 – 11 (Managed Care Section Pre-Conference Sept. 9)
- **Location:** Crowne Plaza Phoenix Airport, 4300 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ
- **Contact:** www.azpha.org

Building a Community through the Message of Trust – The impact of social marketing and partnering relationships on our services and our communities' families

- **Presented by:** South Phoenix Healthy Start
- **Dates:** Sept. 16-17
- **Location:** Hope VI Emmett C. McLoughlin Education and Training Center, 1150 S. 7th Avenue), Phoenix
- **Cost:** Free, including lunch, refreshment and materials
- **Register:** Lynita Baker at 602-304-1166 or iynitabaker@mail.maricopa.gov



PHOTO COURTESY ALISON HUGHES

3RNet 2009 Annual Conference and Membership Meeting

- **Presented by:** National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network
- **Dates:** Sept. 23-25
- **Location:** Hyatt Regency Albuquerque at Albuquerque Convention Center 330 Tijeras NW, Albuquerque, NM
- **Contact:** www.3rnet.org

3rd Annual Take Charge! – Native American Leadership Today Conference

- **Presented by:** SIENA
- **Date:** Sept. 25
- **Location:** Desert Willow Conference Center, 4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd., Phoenix, AZ
- **Contact:** Nadine Groenig at 623-670-3561 or nadine@siena-az.org; www.siena-az.org

Native American Suicide Prevention and Awareness Conference: MBACE Life Summit 2009

- **Presented by:** MBACE Life
- **Dates:** Sept. 25-26
- **Location:** Lodge at Cliff Castle, 555 Middle Verde Road, Camp Verde
- **Contact:** Amy Ehrenreich at 877-923-1400

OCTOBER

2009 Hispanic Women's Conference - Latina Power: Rising to Service and Change

- **Dates:** October 1-2
- **Location:** Phoenix Convention Center, South Building, 33 South Third St., Phoenix, AZ
- **Contact:** 602-954-7995 / 888-388-4HWC or www.hispanicwomen.org

Re-Making the World of the Trauma Survivor: Training Conference on the Treatment of Trauma

- **Presented by:** Hopi Foundation & The Barbara Chester Award
- **Dates:** Oct. 2-3
- **Location:** High Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Ave, Flagstaff, AZ
- **Contact:** www.barbarachesteraward.org

Rural Health Clinic and Critical Access Hospital Conferences

- **Presented by:** National Rural Health Association
- **Dates:** RHC Conference, Oct 6-7. CAH Conference, Oct 7-9
- **Location:** Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront, 1401 SW Naito Parkway Portland, OR

- **Contact:** www.ruralhealthweb.org

2009 Annual Leadership Conference "A Challenge at Every Turn"

- **Presented by:** AzHHA
- **Dates:** Oct. 22-23
- **Location:** Orange Tree Golf Resort, Scottsdale, AZ
- **Contact:** Gina Moon or LeAnn Swanson at 602-445-4300; email questions to edservices@azhha.org; register www.azhha.org

NOVEMBER

Faces of a Healthy Future: National Conference to End Health Disparities II

- **Presented by:** The Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Health Disparities at Winston-Salem State University
- **Dates:** Nov. 3-6
- **Location:** Twin Quarters, Winston-Salem, NC.
- **Contact:** www.ceeht.com

IHS Adolescent Health Conference

- **Presented by:** The Navajo Area, Kayenta Service Unit and the Adolescent Reproductive Health Project
- **Dates:** Nov. 13 - 14
- **Location:** Window Rock, AZ
- **Contact:** Andrew Terranella at atandrew.terranelle@ihs.gov or 928-697-4203

12th Annual EMTALA Workshop

- **Presented by:** AzHHA
- **Date:** Nov. 17
- **Location:** Hilton Phoenix Airport 2435 S. 47th St. Phoenix, AZ
- **Contact:** Gina Moon or LeAnn Swanson at 602-445-4300; email questions to edservices@azhha.org; register www.azhha.org

NATIONAL NEWS

National pharmacy benefit manager to strengthen non-English language services

National pharmacy benefit management company Medco will significantly improve access to its services for limited English proficient members in 2009, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has announced. MeAs the nation's largest mail-order pharmacy operation, Medco dispenses more than one hundred million prescriptions a year through the mail. Following an investigation of a complaint filed on behalf of a Spanish-speaking member with HHS'Office for Civil Rights, Medco developed a multi-faceted plan to improve services to non-English speakers.

Report shows recessions almost immediately lead to a loss in health insurance coverage

A briefing from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation finds studies that conclude a one percent increase in the unemployment rate leads to a .59 percent increase in the number of uninsured. Few employers drop coverage, but they find ways to limit costs by changing the benefit paid and/or increasing the amount paid by the employees. Typically, employers in low-wage jobs (or those working in small firms) are most likely to be uninsured after losing their job, but this recession is affecting a broader swath of the workforce

[More information](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

CDC: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Prevention Projects for Community-Based Organizations

- **Deadlines:** Letters of Intent, Sept. 9; Application, Oct. 26
- **FOA:** PS10-1003
- **Funding Opportunity Number:** CDC-RFA-PS10-1003
- **More information**

Home Depot: Building Healthy Communities Grant Program

- **Deadline:** Sept. 15 and Dec. 15
- **Amount:** up to \$2,500 each
- **Eligibility:** nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations, public schools, or tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their community. Grants are made in the form of the Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools or materials. All applicants are required to pass an eligibility quiz before being considered for a grant.
- **Purpose:** Grants are for community improvement projects. Grants must support work completed by community

volunteers in the United States.

- **More information**

USDA Rural Utilities Service: Notice of Funds Availability Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, 2009

- **Deadline:** Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Program funding expires September 30, 2010
- **Amount:** \$1.19 billion in grants and loans
- **Purpose:** to build or improve health care facilities in low-income, rural communities
- **Contact for Arizona:** USDA Rural Development State Office, 230 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 206, Phoenix, AZ 85003, 602-280-8701 / TDD 602-280-8705
- **More information**

RWJF's Vulnerable Populations Portfolio and Ashoka's Changemakers: Rethinking Mental Health: Improving Community Wellbeing

- **Deadline:** Oct. 14
- **Amount:** Three competition winners will each receive \$5,000 from Changemakers

- **Eligibility:** all types of organizations (charitable organizations, private companies or public entities) from all countries.
- **Purpose:** 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.
- **More information**

UnitedHealth Group and Youth Service America: Health Heroes funding opportunity

- **Deadline:** Oct. 22
- **Amount:** \$1,000 in support of service-learning projects that focus on childhood obesity, engage youth between the ages of 5 and 25 in the planning and implementation process, and take place during Semester of Service (MLK Day, January 18, to Global Youth Service Day, April 23-25, 2010).
- **Eligibility:** educators, service-learning coordinators, and students in the health professions.
- **More information**

ITEMS OF INTEREST

AHRQ report: Community health workers can improve health knowledge

A new AHRQ evidence report, Outcomes of Community Health Worker Interventions, says that community health workers can improve appropriate use of some cancer screening services among minority and low-income patients and may improve their health knowledge. However, the report could not determine other ways these workers impact health behaviors, health outcomes, or utilization of other health services because of conflicting or absent study findings.

[More information](#)

Obesity rates higher among hispanics than whites

A CDC article about obesity rates nationwide compared blacks, Hispanics and whites. Blacks had 51% higher and Hispanics had 21% higher obesity rates than whites. Recommendations to reduce this disparity include intensifying efforts to create healthy living environments.

[More information](#)

Workforce issues among sole community pharmacies

Pharmacy services are delivered through a sole community pharmacy in over 1000 small rural communities nationwide. This brief presents the findings from 401 telephone interviews of sole community pharmacist-owners nationwide about their current staffing and future plans. Thirty percent of those interviewed would like to retire in five years or fewer, and most would like to sell their pharmacies upon retirement.

[More information](#)

New census data available for U.S. counties

This latest update features more than 6,000 data items at the national, state and county level from a variety of sources. New and revised data items include 2008 age, sex, race and Hispanic origin; 2006 births, deaths and infant deaths; 2007 Census of Agriculture; 2008 civilian labor force; 2007 personal income and earnings; 2007 total employment by industry; and 2008 building permits. [More information](#)

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 Grant Program
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- USDA Rural Indicator Map Machine
- Veteran Affairs State Summary Fact Sheets

EDITOR'S NOTE

This online 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 mission of the Rural Health Office is to promote the health of rural and medically underserved individuals, families, and communities through service, education and research. The Arizona Rural Health Association, Inc. advocates on behalf of the health needs of rural Arizonans at national, state and local levels. Its multidisciplinary membership

provides a respected and highly effective group of rural health practitioners and rural community residents. For example, the AzRHA, Inc. has actively and successfully advocated with the state legislature for funding for telemedicine and mobile clinics in all fifteen counties of the state. Your questions (or answers) are always welcome. Please send them as well as address changes to Renee Fullerton, RHO publications coordinator, rfullert@email.arizona.edu