Az CRH Highlights

Save the Date! 47th Annual Rural Health Conference

On **July 30 & 31, 2020**, AzCRH will convene its *47th Annual Rural Health Conference* at High Country Conference Center in Flagstaff, AZ. The Conference brings together a statewide audience of health providers, health professional educators, students and staff, county and community health professionals, clinic and hospital administrators, state and local leaders, CEOs, CFOs, and others to network, foster collaboration, discuss ideas and solutions, and showcase best practices to improve the health and wellness of Arizona’s rural populations.

Click for more information

Round up of COVID-19 Resources
Arizona
Tomorrow, Friday, March 13, 2020 | 10:00 - 11:00 AM
the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) will be hosting a COVID-19 webinar for faith-based organizations and social services. The purpose is to cover disease background, Arizona’s response activities, what we know, what you should do, and allow time for questions and answers.

In addition, partners are welcome to submit questions to ADHS in advance through this form, which we can work to address on the call. There will also be a Q&A session available during the call.

Join the Webinar:
By Computer: Azgov.webex.com Meeting number: 800 469 973 Password: FAI2020
By Phone: Call: 415-655-0003 Access code: 800 469 973

ADHS is developing some specific guidance for partners, which will be published on our website later this week - www.azhealth.gov/coronavirus. The webinar will be recorded and will also be posted on this site.

Updates on the Coronavirus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides daily updates on the Coronavirus with guidance for health providers and local public health officials.

Preparing for Coronavirus in the United States – Thursday, March 5 at 2:00 pm ET. During this hour-long call, clinicians will learn what they can do to prepare for Coronavirus Disease, including identifying persons under investigation, applying infection prevention and control measures, assessing risks for exposures, optimizing the use of personal protective equipment, and caring for patients.

Join our next AzCRH Webinar on March 19

CSPMP, Statutes, EPCS, and Resources for You with presenter, Lynn Curtis a marketing specialist for the Prescription Monitoring Program at the Arizona State Board of Pharmacy. His principal responsibility is education and outreach with the medical and public safety communities.

Click for more information
Check out the AZ Telemedicine Program Blog - The Power of Rural: A Virtual Road Trip Around Arizona

By Rebecca Ruiz & Jane Erikson

Arizona’s strength in rural is our many partnerships. Arizona is the 6th largest state in the U.S. by area, and over 81.8 percent of all Arizona land is state, federal or tribal controlled; there is a lot of area to cover. Plus, there is a lot of great work going on in all regions of Arizona, and we thought “let’s share this, let’s go on a “Virtual Road Trip”” Via a webinar. We reached out to folks and before we knew it, 12 groups volunteered to share their vision.

The 2020 Census has begun!

Ninety-five percent or about 143 million households in the country will receive an initial invitation to respond to the 2020 Census in their mailboxes between March 12 and 20. Households are encouraged to respond when they receive their invitation at www.my2020census.gov. Prompt and accurate responses help determine Arizona's congressional representation and federal funding for key programs, including those impacting public health.

Az CRH NEWS

Mar 12, 2020 : Advocates think health care funds safe – for now – but worry about trend
Mar 10, 2020 : Rural Areas at Less Risk of Coronavirus Currently
Feb 11, 2020: Miles from Recovery: How distance and stigma keep rural Arizonans from opioid treatment
Jan 31, 2020: New University of Arizona program offers some medical students free tuition
Jan 31, 2020: University of Arizona Medical School will award new scholarships
Jan 29, 2020: In Rural Areas Without Pain Or Addiction Specialists, Family Doctors Fill In The Gaps
Jan 25, 2020: Arizona ‘Obamacare’ enrollment dropped in 2020. Could that be a good thing?
Jan 10, 2020: ‘We can help ourselves:’ Native women come together to confront high rates of maternal mortality

UPCOMING RURAL EVENTS
Mar 13 2020: COVID-19 Update for Faith-Based Organizations and Social Services
Mar 19 2020: AzCRH Webinar: CSPMP, Statutes, EPCS, and Resources for You
Mar 23 2020: Arizona Telemedicine Program - Telemedicine Applications (Phoenix & Tucson)
Mar 24 2020: Chronic Disease Prevention Working Group
Mar 27 2020: Trauma Managers Group Quarterly meeting
Mar 29 2020: 2020 16th Annual American Indian Disability Summit
Mar 31 2020: Arizona Base Hospital Workshop
Mar 31 2020: Abstraction Workshop
Mar 31 2020: Arizona Base Hospital Workshop

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
Arizona Rural Prenatal Telemedicine Program
In the Spring of 2019, the Arizona legislature passed a Budget Feed Bill, Laws 2019, First Regular Session, Chapter 263, that provides funding for the purchase of sonograms and telemedicine equipment or reimbursement of prenatal telemedicine services. The bill specifies that funding be distributed to rural hospitals in federally
designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) in Arizona. The Rural Prenatal Telemedicine Program (RPTP) was created through this funding opportunity to develop or expand telemedicine infrastructures in rural areas for prenatal care. Funding may be used for reimbursement and/or purchase of equipment for prenatal services provided via telemedicine.

ADHS is seeking to contract with rural hospitals that meet at least one (1) of the following requirements:

- Equipped to provide prenatal services in the rural areas and are interested to start a prenatal telemedicine program,
- Has an existing prenatal telemedicine infrastructure and interested to expand services to provide comprehensive prenatal screenings and assessments,
- Plans to sub-contract prenatal telemedicine services using a third-party prenatal telemedicine provider/contractor; and/or
- Has a full functioning prenatal telemedicine infrastructure and has a need to expand services to other necessary services to improve the health outcomes of pregnant women such as but not limited to tele-dentistry or tele-psychiatry.

Solicitation for (Request for Proposal) Rural Prenatal Telemedicine Program is now available to access at APP (Arizona Procurement Portal). The purpose of this solicitation is to contract with rural hospitals that can provide prenatal services in the rural areas and are interested in starting a prenatal telemedicine program.

Closing Date: March 25, 2020 at 3:00:59 p.m. Local Arizona Time

https://azdhs.gov/operations/financial-services/procurement/index.php#rfp

**HRSA Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project** – April 17

Rural communities face complex challenges when it comes to accessing health care. To improve the delivery of health care in rural areas, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently announced its intent to support a new cooperative agreement to provide technical assistance to help small rural hospitals and rural health clinics strengthen their ability to deliver value-based care.

**CDC Research to Prevent Firearm-Related Violence and Injuries** – May 5. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will make 20 awards with total funding of $24 million to support research into firearm-related injuries, deaths, and crime, including mass shooting incidents, suicides/self-harm, and unintentional firearm deaths and injury. Eligible applicants include public and private higher education institutions, nonprofit organizations, Native American tribal organizations,
and governments at the state and local levels.

**Recommended Resources**

**Healthy People 2020 Progress for Leading Causes of Death in Rural and Urban America: A Chartbook**
Rural Americans have historically faced significant challenges in accessing healthcare and preventive healthcare services, including ambulatory care, dental care, emergency services, and pharmaceutical services. Rural Americans are more likely to die from conditions generally considered self-manageable or preventable. This study examines rural versus urban differences in how the U.S. is meeting the Healthy People 2020 mortality objectives for many of the leading causes of death. Our analyses use national vital statistics mortality data available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Wonder website. Overall, our findings indicate rural America is lagging behind urban America in achieving these objectives. Furthermore, key findings indicate men have been less likely than women to achieve these objectives, the rural South has seen less progress than other regions toward many of the objectives, and suicide mortality has increased across all levels of rurality.

**HRSA on National Poison Prevention Week** – Monday, March 16 at 2:00 pm ET.
Among the leading causes of death for rural Americans identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, unintentional poisoning is a high risk with a low level of attention and care. In this 90-minute webinar, the Office of Regional Operations at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will share information on the network of local Poison Control Centers and ways to raise awareness of poison prevention efforts.

**PCORI Research on Community Health Worker/Peer Provider Programs**. This report reviews results from nine recent studies funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) on community health workers (CHWs) and peer providers (PPs) as effective participants in addressing health and healthcare inequities, particularly for diverse communities. Each study presented focuses on a distinct function of utilizing CHWs and/or PPs such as mentoring, managing chronic conditions, and navigator support for serious mental illness and depression.
From National Institutes of Health:

Developmental Disability Prevalence in Rural and Urban Children

Developmental disabilities are a collection of conditions resulting from physical, learning, language, or behavioral impairments. Typically, these disabilities persist throughout a person's lifetime. New 2015-to-2018 data from the National Health Statistics Report indicate that 17.8% of all children between the ages of 3 and 17 have been diagnosed with a developmental disability, and shine a light on differences for children living in urban versus rural areas. At 19.8%, diagnosis prevalence is significantly higher among rural children, but they are less likely to see medical professionals or receive special education support services. Early intervention and connection to services is key to helping vulnerable children and families get the support they need.
Please send your comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter to Jennifer Peters, Arizona State Office of Rural Health Program Manager (petersjs@email.arizona.edu). Thank you.

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