Az CRH Highlights

Arizona Rural & Public Health Policy Forum - Jan. 28, 2019

The decisions of law makers have a profound effect on the health of rural Arizonans. Recognizing the key role public policy plays in health, the Az Center for Rural Health sponsors an annual Arizona Rural and Public Health Policy Forum at the state capitol in Phoenix. Policymakers, county health administrators, state, local and community leaders, health care providers and others are encouraged to join us for what always promises to be a very engaging event! » Registration and more information.

A Visit to Banner-Payson Medical Center
Dan Derksen, MD, Director AzCRH and Ariel Tarango, AzCRH Health Educator visited Banner-Payson Medical Center on Thursday, Dec. 14 to provide information and give a presentation on “Arizona’s Opioid Epidemic: Approaches to Policy & Treatment”. Payson has a vibrant medical community and its hospital is a federally designated Critical Access Hospital (CAH) which means it has 25 acute care inpatient beds or less, is 35 miles or more from another hospital, and provides 24/7 emergency care services. Located in northern Gila County, the hospital, clinics, physicians, nurses, health providers and staff serve patients from an enormous geographic catchment area.

« Jerri Byrne, Director of the Eastern Arizona AHEC helps support the education offerings there, including longitudinal health professional student rotations with physicians and other health providers.

In commemoration of Veterans' Day, Leonard Kirschner, MD, MPH, board member of the Wickenburg Community Hospital, and veteran, talks about a friend he lost in the war while on a recent visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. » View video. » Read PDF article.

UA to Provide Free Training to Increase Number of Certified
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners in Rural, Underserved Areas

The University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, in collaboration with the UA College of Nursing, received a $1.49 million federal grant to provide training to increase the number of certified sexual assault nurse examiners in four states and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands.

The Western Region Public Health Training Center at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, in collaboration with the UA College of Nursing, has received a $1.49 million, three-year federal grant to provide sexual assault nurse examiners training and certification to expand services to sexual assault victims in rural areas. » Read more

Happy Holidays
From all of us at the AzCRH

Photo by Ernie Schloss

AzCRH News and Updates

Dec 16, 2018 : Enrollment in Arizona 'Obamacare' plans is lagging. Here are possible reasons why
Dec 12, 2018 : Taking Flight: Charity Airplane Services Transport Patients to Medical Care
Dec 11, 2018 : Webinar video: Mandating Health Workforce Data Collection in Arizona
Dec 03, 2018 : Buprenorphine Training for AZ Physicians
Nov 30, 2018 : Health Insurance Open Enrollment Slow So Far in Arizona
Nov 29, 2018 : Number Of U.S. Kids Who Don't Have Health Insurance Is On The
Tribal Behavioral Health Grant Program – January 4. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will make 51 awards of up to $250,000 each to prevent and reduce suicidal behavior and substance use among AI/AN youth through the age of 24 years. Successful applicants will be federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes and tribal organizations that can demonstrate an ability to develop and implement services to prevent suicide and reduce the impact of mental and substance use disorders and trauma. AI/AN community members should be involved in all grant activities, including planning, program implementation, and evaluation. At a minimum, community members should include youth, family members, tribal leaders, and spiritual advisors.
students for ten-week internships in environmental health during the summer of 2019. Interns will gain a firsthand perspective on the day-to-day responsibilities of environmental health professionals and receive a stipend of $400-600 per week to cover lodging, food, and incidental expenses. Rural populations are exposed to environmental risks from agricultural, mining, and other sources, but research has shown that the environmental health workforce in rural areas is underdeveloped.

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**Recommended Resources**

**New Projections for the Behavioral Health Workforce.** HRSA’s National Center for Health Workforce Analysis recently released its updates and projections for the nation’s behavioral health workforce from the year 2016 through 2030. The report includes updated fact sheets and state-level projections on the supply and demand for eight occupations: addiction counselors, marriage and family therapists, mental health and school counselors, psychiatric technicians and psychiatric aides, psychiatric nurse practitioners and psychiatric physician assistants, psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers. There is a significant need for mental health services in rural America. According to the Results from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 19 percent of residents aged 18 or older in nonmetropolitan counties had Any Mental Illness (AMI) in 2017, approximately 6.8 million people. In addition, 4.9 percent, or nearly 1.7 million, of residents of nonmetropolitan counties experienced serious thoughts of suicide during the year. Visit the Rural Health Information Hub for programs, toolkits, and other resources for behavioral health workforce in rural areas.

**Suicide Surveillance Strategies for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities.** The Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) is a federally-supported organization working to advance the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. This November 2018 report from the SPRC summarizes their findings on suicide prevention research, in an effort “to better understand how American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities can gather information about suicide—in ways that are feasible and culturally appropriate.” The report acknowledges the difficulty of collecting data around the sensitive topic of suicide, and also that “each tribe is different and has its own unique culture, so what works in one community might not work in another.” Their findings and recommended strategies are meant to
form a foundation for suicide surveillance in tribal communities, but the report stresses that local adaptation is critical to success. Earlier this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued research indicating that an estimated 70 percent of AI/AN who died by suicide lived in rural areas and more than a third of suicide deaths occurred among young people, ages 10-24 years. See the Funding Opportunities section for notices related to this topic.

**Five-Year Trends Available for Median Household Income, Poverty Rates and Computer and Internet Use**
- U.S. Census Bureau

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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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