

RURAL HEALTH BRIEFING

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Calendar 2

Grants and Opportunities 3

- CDC: Intervention through National Networking, Education, and Dissemination
- CDC: Effective Strategies to Reduce Motor Vehicle Injuries Among American Indians/ Alaska Natives
- SAMHSA: Community Resilience and Recovery Initiative
- Aetna Foundation: 2010 Grant Program

Arizona News 4

- Arizona Department of Health Services launches Arizona Health Matters web site

Items of Interest 5

- Future of KidsCare remains in question
- Arizona syphilis rates much higher than national average

ACROSS ARIZONA

Health Care Reform: How Does It Impact Rural Arizona?

On March 23 President Obama signed The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, followed by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act on March 30. This historic legislation provides for insurance market reforms, public health provisions, and workforce investment that will benefit all Americans. While the legislation does not provide for universal coverage, the individual mandate requires that all individuals have coverage or pay a modest penalty starting in 2014. By 2016, the penalty will be \$695 or 2.5% of taxable income. American Indians are exempt from the mandate. Employers will also be required to offer coverage or pay a fee. Individuals will be able to purchase insurance coverage through the state-based health insurance exchanges.

What provisions go into effect now?

- Inability to deny coverage to children with pre-existing conditions.
- Temporary coverage for Americans who currently lack insurance because of pre-existing conditions through a high-risk pool.
- By Sept. 2010, insurance companies will no longer be able to drop people who become sick (rescissions).
- By Sept. 2010, young adults will be allowed to stay on their parents' insurance through age 26.

How does health care reform affect rural Arizonans?

- Increases coverage for uninsured rural Arizonans and eliminates discriminatory insurance practices.
- Reauthorizes and amends the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.
- Increased funding to Community Health

Centers to allow a doubling in patients over the next 5 year.

- Provides for a 10 percent incentive payment for primary care doctors practicing in underserved areas to build workforce.
- Provides \$1.5 billion to expand the National Health Service Corps and supports training for rural primary care providers.
- Amends the Medicare reimbursement formula so that doctors practicing in rural areas receive comparable pay to urban doctors.
- Provides improvement to Medicare reimbursement for rural hospitals.

How does health care reform support public health?

- Establishes the National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council to coordinate federal prevention, wellness, and public health activities.

Continued page 4

CALENDAR

APRIL

2010 Symposium to Prevent Domestic Abuse – Prevention Is The Cure: Every Voice Counts

- **Presented by:** Purple Ribbon Council
- **Date:** April 21
- **Location:** Glendale Civic Center, 5750 West Glenn Ave, Glendale, AZ 85301
- **Contact:** Registration available at www.preventionisthecure.eventbrite.com

AzPHA 2010 Spring Conference: Public Health to Public Wellness

- **Presented by:** Arizona Public Health Association
- **Date:** April 23
- **Location:** Desert Banner Medical Center - Saguaro Room, 1400 S. Dobson Rd., Mesa, AZ
- **Contact:** Jennifer Bonnett at 602-258-3361 or jennifer@azpha.org, www.azpha.org

Diabetes Expo

- **Presented by:** American Diabetes Association
- **Date:** April 24
- **Location:** Phoenix Convention Center, Downtown Phoenix, AZ
- **Contact:** Register online at www.diabetes.org/expophoenix, contact Nicole Johnson at (602) 861-4731 X7098 or nijohnson@diabetes.org with questions

AIFC – Arizona Interagency Farmworker Coalition annual conference: United Through Challenges, We Build Strong Communities

- **Presented by:** Arizona Association of Community Health Center
- **Dates:** April 28-30
- **Location:** Yuma, AZ

- **Contact:** Lisa Nieri at lisan@aachc.org or 602.288.7557

Preconception Health Conference: A Life Course Perspective

- **Presented by:** March of Dimes Arizona Chapter
- **Dates:** April 30
- **Location:** Black Canyon Conference Center, 9440 N. 25th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ
- **Contact:** www.marchofdimes.com/arizona/38330_63152.asp

MAY

2010 Long Term Care Conference: Circles of Care: Providing Choices to Elders and Families

- **Presented by:** Administration on Aging
- **Dates:** May 4-6
- **Location:** Embassy Suites Scottsdale, Phoenix, AZ
- **Contact:** www.aianlongtermcare.org

17th Annual Arizona Immunization Conference

- **Presented by:** Arizona Immunization Program Office, Arizona Department of Health Services
- **Dates:** May 18-19
- **Location:** Black Canyon Conference Center, 9440 N. 25th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ
- **Contact:** www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/conf.htm

NRHA 33rd Annual Rural Health Conference

- **Presented by:** National Rural Health Association
- **Dates:** May 18-21
- **Location:** Savannah International Trade and Convention Center, Savannah, GA
- **Contact:** Gabriela Boscan,

202-639-0550, gboscan@NRHArural.org, www.ruralhealthweb.org/

JUNE

National Association for Rural Mental Health 2010 Conference

- **Presented by:** National Association for Rural Mental Health
- **Dates:** June 2-5
- **Location:** Hyatt Regency Denver Convention Center, Denver, CO
- **Contact:** info@narmh.org, <http://narmh.org/default.aspx>

Eight Annual Western Region Flex Conference

- **Presented by:** Nevada Office of Rural Health
- **Dates:** June 10-11
- **Location:** Omni Tucson National Resort, Tucson, AZ
- **Contact:** Jeanne Tremaine, 775-784-4782, jtremaine@medicine.nevada.edu, <http://www.medicine.nevada.edu/flex/wrfc10.html>

JULY

Rural Health Works Regional Workshop

- **Presented by:** National Center for Rural Health Works
- **Date:** July 7
- **Location:** Siena Hotel Spa Casino, Reno, NV
- **Contact:** Cheryl F. St. Clair, 405-744-6083, cheryl@okstate.edu

NACCHO Annual 2010 Conference

- **Presented by:** National Association of County and City Health Officials
- **Dates:** July 14-16



- **Location:** Memphis Cook Convention Center, Marriott Memphis Downtown, Memphis, TN
- **Contact:** 202-783-5550, info@naccho.org

AUGUST

37th Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference

- **Presented by:** Arizona Rural Health Office
- **Dates:** Aug 2-3
- **Location:** High Country Conference Center at NAU, Flagstaff, AZ
- **Contact:** Rebecca Ruiz, 520.626.2243, raruiz@email.arizona.edu
- **Call For Workshop & Student Poster Presentations:** Deadline: Apr 30

SEPTEMBER

Rural Behavioral Health Symposium

- **Presented by:** National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health
- **Dates:** Sept.. 21-23
- **Location:** Renaissance Glendale Hotel, Glendale, AZ
- **Contact:** Joyce Sebian, 202-687-8245, ks29@georgetown.edu, <http://gucchdtacenter.georgetown.edu/index.html>

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Technical assistance is available for the development of grant proposals and other funding applications from the professional staff of the Rural Health Office and the State Office of Rural Health Program. Please contact Jennifer Peters, petersjs@u.arizona.edu

CDC: Intervention through National Networking, Education, and Dissemination

- **Deadline:** April 26
- **Purpose:** to A) increase the availability and coordination of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders prevention, intervention and support services at the national, state and local levels, and B) increase awareness regarding FASDs through the distribution and dissemination of accurate information through professional and public health networks and the media.
- **Eligibility:** Nonprofit with 501c3 IRS status; Nonprofit without 501c3 IRS status; For-profit organizations; Small, minority and women-owned businesses; universities, colleges, research institutions; hospitals community-based organizations; faith-based organizations; Federally recognized or state-recognized American Indian/Alaska Native tribal governments; American Indian/Alaska native tribally designated organizations; Urban Indian health organizations; Tribal epidemiology centers; State and local governments or their Bonafide Agents
- **Amount:** \$250,000-\$500,000
- **More information**

CDC: Effective Strategies to Reduce Motor Vehicle Injuries Among American Indians/Alaska Natives

- **Deadline:** July 17
- **Purpose:** to design/tailor, implement and evaluate Native American community-based interventions with demonstrated effectiveness for preventing motor vehicle injuries within the following areas: 1) strategies to reduce alcohol-impaired driving among high risk groups; 2) strategies to increase

safety belt use among low use groups; and 3) strategies to increase the use of child safety seats among low use groups.

- **Eligibility:** Federally recognized or state-recognized American Indian/Alaska Native tribal governments; American Indian/Alaska native tribally designated organizations; Alaska Native health corporations; Urban Indian health organizations; Applicants may include tribal injury prevention programs, tribal health departments and groups of tribes.
- **Amount:** \$70,000
- **More information**

SAMHSA: Community Resilience and Recovery Initiative

- **Deadline:** May 28
- **Purpose:** To improve behavioral health outcomes through enhanced coordination and evidence-based health promotion, illness prevention, treatment, and recovery support services in communities affected by the recent economic downturn. Through coordinated services the CRRI will work in funded communities to a) Reduce depression and anxiety; b) Reduce excessive drinking; c) Reduce child maltreatment and family violence; d) Enable communities to better identify and respond to suicide risk; e) Build a sense of cohesiveness and connectedness; f) Enable coordination across service systems and community organizations; and g) Improve community resilience and reduce the impact of the economic downturn on behavioral health problems.
- **Eligibility:** Mayors' offices or the offices of county executives or Territorial governments, or the highest ranking official and/or the duly authorized official of a

federally recognized; American Indian/Alaska Native Tribe or tribal organization in communities of high levels of unemployment. To be eligible, applicants must propose to provide services in a geographic area with at least 60,000 residents, but no more than 100,000 residents. Eligible applicants must provide evidence that the communities they propose to serve had an unemployment rate of at least 12 %, in February of 2009 and that they had an unemployment rate of less than 10% in December of 2007.

- **Amount:** \$1,400,000
- **More information**

Aetna Foundation: 2010 Grant Program

- **Deadlines:** May 15, Aug. 15 or Nov. 15
- **Eligibility:** U.S.-based nonprofit organizations with evidence of IRS 501(c)(3) designation or de facto tax-exempt status.
- **Purpose:** Grant applications that address more than one of the following areas will receive priority consideration. Obesity; racial and ethnic healthcare equity; and integrated health care (advancing high-quality health care by improving care coordination and communications among healthcare professionals, creating informed and involved patients, and promoting cost effective, affordable care). The foundation will also consider applications for sponsorship of fundraising events, outreach activities (e.g., health fairs) and other community-based health and wellness initiatives.
- **Amount:** Up to \$250,000. For a request of more than \$50,000, applicants must first submit a letter of inquiry using the foundation's online application system.
- **More information**

ARIZONA NEWS

State, counties launch new web site with Arizona economic, social and health data in one location

Whether writing grants or conducting a survey of community health factors, having the right information at the right time is vital to those working in public health. To help facilitate the flow of information, the Arizona Department of Health Services and the 15 Arizona county health departments have launched www.arizonahealthmatters.org.

The website, operated by The Healthy Communities Network, allows anyone interested to access to data and resources in one location. Depending on the topic area, data are available from the state level all the way down to specific zip codes.

“Public Health is ready to move to the next level. We need to begin offering simple, practical public health ideas for decision makers to consider. Counties and communities need new tools to help develop priorities and goals for the people who live there,” said Director Will Humble, Arizona Department of Health Services in a press release. “This website provides easy access to the most up-to-date information in a simple, comprehensive manner.”

Arizona Health Matters seeks to empower communities by making information available about how public health is affecting the lives of residents.

Information is available about health, economics, government, natural environment, public safety, education, and transportation. The Report Assistant tool allows a user to type in key words and collect all the available data from the site into a single file.

The Community Snapshot function pulls together all the relevant data from a particular area, although the only infor-



Find the website at
www.arizonahealthmatters.org

mation available at the Zip code level is socioeconomic. Health indicators are only reported on a county basis.

The site will be continually updated as new information becomes available.

Continued from Page 1

- Creates the Prevention and Public Health fund that expands investments in prevention and wellness activities.
- Establishes a community transformation grant program to support the delivery of evidence-based and community-based prevention and wellness services

aimed at strengthening prevention activities, reducing chronic disease rates and addressing health disparities.

- 20 percent of community transformation grants are targeted to rural and frontier areas.

Health care reform is a complex topic, and this review does not encompass the breadth of the legislation. As the implica-

tions for improved care for rural Arizona women becomes clearer in the future, we will report on specific updates. In the meantime, more information is available online from the following resources:

Kaiser Family Foundation www.kff.org/healthreform

The White House www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform

ITEMS OF INTEREST

KidsCare program remains in legislative limbo

Arizona lawmakers have yet to act on restoring funding for KidsCare, the state's health insurance program for children. Because of the new federal health care law, elimination of KidsCare could cost the state \$7 billion for its AHCCCS indigent health plan. Gov. Jan Brewer is joining a lawsuit against the feds, hoping to overturn the requirement that the state maintain its funding levels for federal health programs. KidsCare, which covers about 38,000 Arizona children, is currently scheduled for elimination in less than two months.

Public News Service

Arizona, Pima County syphilis rates remain high

Pima County has one of the highest rates of congenital syphilis in the nation and its health department is urging widespread testing, particularly for pregnant women who are at risk of a stillbirth if infected. The disease is being blamed for at least two stillbirths in Pima County last year, when there were seven suspected cases of

State syphilis rate is high

Arizona syphilis rate per 100,000 people: **22**
U.S. syphilis rate per 100,000 people: **15.1**

congenital syphilis, in which babies are born with the disease. In 2008 there were 11 local congenital cases.

"The lack of access to prenatal care is likely to be a huge factor," said Dr. Michelle McDonald, chief medical officer for the Pima County Health Department.

A federal report released Thursday says an increasing number of U.S. babies are being born with syphilis, putting those infants at risk for hearing, nerve, bone and brain damage. Those infants are also at risk for death. Antibiotic treatments even a month before birth could prevent damage.

Arizona has been in the top five states for rate of congenital syphilis the last six years, McDonald said. Statewide, Arizona reports a disproportionately higher number of congenital syphilis cases among Hispanic women.

Arizona Daily Star

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