RURAL HEALTH BRIEFING

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ACROSS ARIZONA

Rural Health Policy Assembly focuses on American Indian Health Care

The Northern Arizona Rural Health Policy Assembly, held on December 13 at the Moenkopi Legacy Inn in Tuba City, brought together stakeholders in the health care services arena to explore regional issues that affect health care delivery. The information gathered will be used to shape policy recommendations and/or programmatic solutions in line with the challenges identified in the meeting. The topics discussed included Research Ethics and American Indians, Protections for Native American Women, and Broadband and Rural Reservations. More than 46 community members attended the event. The Rural Health Policy Assembly will enable residents, policy-makers, health care providers and administrators in tribal communities in Navajo, Apache, Coconino, and Mohave counties to engage in positive dialogue that highlights crucial rural health challenges, explores programmatic interventions and develops policy recommendations that support change.

Copper Queen CEO is award finalist

Jim Dickson, chief executive officer of Copper Queen Community Hospital in Bisbee, was recently honored as a finalist for the 2010 Shirley Ann Munroe Leadership Award. This national award recognizes small or rural hospital leaders who have improved healthcare delivery in their communities through innovative efforts. Dickson was nominated for the award by the hospital’s board of directors based on commitment to the community, innovation, improving access to care and growing the hospital into a technologically sophisticated source for specialty care.

ADHS releases annual report on all child deaths in Arizona

The Arizona Department of Health Services recently published the 17th Annual Child Fatality Review Report. While the number of deaths among children declined, 33 percent of the childhood deaths in 2009 were preventable. Three-fourths of the deaths among children ages 15-17 were from non-medical causes and 70 percent of these deaths were preventable. The report is available at http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/pdf/cfr2010.pdf
JANUARY

SHARE Conference: Sharing Information on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault – Gathering the Strength of Native and Indigenous Women
• Presented by: American Indian Prevention Coalition
• Date: Jan. 6
• Location: 6th Floor North Conference Room, 4520 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ
• Contact: To register please contact Danielle Hagerty at dhagerty@aipcaz.org or (480) 528-7954

Meeting of the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on Designation of Medically Underserved Populations and Health Professional Shortage Areas
• Presented by: Health Resources and Services Administration
• Date: Jan 18 - 20
• Location: Radisson Hotel Reagan National Airport, Arlington, VA
• Contact: Nicole Patterson, (301) 443-9027, npatterson@hrsa.gov

2011 Annual Coordinated School Health Conference
• Presented by: the Arizona Department of Education and the Arizona Department of Health Services
• Date: Jan. 21
• Location: Westin La Paloma Resort, Tucson, AZ

FEBRUARY

Rural Health Policy Institute
• Presented by: National Rural Health Association
• Dates: Jan. 24-26
• Location: Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036
• Contact: www.ruralhealth-web.org/pi

Health Disparities & Social Justice Conference 2011: A Focus on Women’s Health
• Presented by: DePaul University’s Master of Public Health (MPH) Program
• Date: Jan. 28
• Location: DePaul University’s DePaul Center, 1E. Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL
• Contact: Leah Neubauer at lneubaue@depaul.edu or (773) 325-4768

24th Annual Rural Health Care Leadership Conference
• Presented by: Health Forum/ American Hospital Association
• Dates: Jan. 30 - Feb. 2

MARCH

23rd Annual Arizona Indian Council on Aging Conference: Strengthening our Culture through our Elders
• Presented by: Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. Area Agency on Aging, Region 8
• Date: March 21-24
• Location: Radisson Ft. McDowell Resort & Casino, 10438 N. Ft. McDowell Road, Scottsdale/Fountain Hills, AZ
• Contact: (602) 258-4822

JUNE

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 Health Care Initiative steering committee
• Dates: June 12-14
• Location: Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida
• Contact: The conference is calling for abstracts, which need to be submitted by January 15. http://beforeandbeyond.org/?page=preconception-summit#
Association of American Indian Physicians: Healthy, Active Native Communities Mini-Grant
• Deadline: Jan. 14
• Purpose: Implement and disseminate community wide policies, systems, and environmental changes related to obesity prevention through improved nutrition and increased physical activity.
• Eligibility: American Indian organizations and tribes
• Amount: $2,500
• More information: Contact: (877) 943-4299 or Kristy Smithson at (405) 946-7072 or ksmithson@aaip.org, www.aaip.org/?page=ARRAMiniGrant

Special Olympics and Youth Service America: Get Into It Grants
• Deadline: Jan. 19
• Purpose: To bring together students of all abilities to fight childhood obesity in their schools and communities. The application must be completed by a teacher and a unified pair of students (one with and one without an intellectual disability).
• Eligibility: All 50 states and the District of Columbia
• Amount: $500 or $1,000
• More information: www.YSA.org/get-intoit

Ben & Jerry’s Foundation: National Grassroots Grant Program
• Deadline: Ongoing
• Purpose: to supports nonprofit community organizations throughout the United States that bring about progressive social change by addressing the underlying conditions of societal and environmental problems. The broad goals of the program are to further social justice, protect the environment, and support sustainable food systems. The Foundation does not make grants to support social service programs.
• Eligibility: Grassroots, constituent-led organizations that are using community organizing strategies to accomplish their goals as well as organizations that provide technical support and/or resources to such groups.
• Amount: up to $15,000
• More information: www.benandjerrys-foundation.org/the-national-grassroots-grant-program.html

GE Healthcare and ARRA HITECH meaningful use EMR incentives
• Deadline: Ongoing
• Purpose: Financing program designed to help hospitals and physician offices accelerate Electronic Medical Records (EMR) adoption by taking advantage of zero percent financing with deferred payments from GE Capital along with a certification warranty for the EMR solutions from GE Healthcare. It addresses the current obstacles to EMR adoption of stimulus complexity, uncertainty around future standards and affordability.
• Eligibility: Hospitals and physician offices.
• Amount: Varies
• More information: https://www2.gehealthcare.com/portal/site/usen/InfoDetail?vgnextoid=a33b2ba18c1f0210VgnVCM10000024dd1403RCRD

Rural Emergency Responders Initiative
• Deadlines: Applications accepted on an ongoing basis
• Purpose: The Rural Development, through its community facilities program, provides funding for the Rural Emergency Responders Initiative to specifically strengthen the ability of rural communities to respond to local emergencies. The community facilities program funds are used to support rural emergency responder efforts by financing needed equipment and services. Purchase or construction includes: Jail, fire trucks, fire department buildings, police stations, multi service buildings, mobile communications center, civil defense buildings, rescue and ambulance service buildings, rescue and ambulance and equipment, service communications centers, architectural and engineering fees, right of way and easements.
• Eligibility: Non-profit corporations, federally recognized Indian Tribes, public bodies, special purpose districts, and authorities.
• Amount: Varies
• More information: www.raonline.org/pdf/cf_fire_rescue.pdf
ITEMS OF INTEREST

Census releases American Community Survey data

The U.S. Census is making American Community Survey (ACS) estimates available for the first time. These data include social, economic, housing and demographic statistics for every community in the nation. Previously, small geographic areas had to rely on outdated 2000 Census figures for detailed information about the characteristics of their communities. The new 2005-2009 ACS estimates are not related to the 2010 Census population counts that was released Dec. 21. Find the ACS online at http://factfinder.census.gov.

Publication examines rural-urban health disparities

The Chartbook, published by the South Carolina Rural Health Research Center, seeks to expand the work of the National Healthcare Disparities Reports, issued annually by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The present Chartbook examines potential disparities among rural populations in health, health behaviors, preventive services and diabetes care. The chartbook is available online at http://rhr.sph.sc.edu/report_by_topic.html#1-09

Give your input into Rural Healthy People 2020

Public health researchers are looking for ideas on the most important health issues facing rural residents. This is a chance to help shape health goals that will guide rural leaders and researchers for the next decade. Rural Healthy People 2020, is designed to identify the most significant preventable threats to the health of rural people and to establish goals for reducing these threats. The starting point for this conversation is an online survey available at http://www.chontsf.org/survey/rhp2020/ruralhealthypeople2020.htm.

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

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 mission of the Rural Health Office is to promote the health of rural and medically undeserved 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. Your input is always welcome. Contact Renee Fullerton, RHO publications coordinator, at rfullert@email.arizona.edu