

Rural People, Rural Policy Initiative
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Final Progress Report – Grant # P3005454
Project Year 4 and 5
April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2012

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Project Summary

For over twenty-seven years, the Arizona Rural Health Office (RHO) has served the State of Arizona. In 2010, the RHO revised its mission statement from “*to promote the health of rural and medically underserved individuals, families, and communities through service, education, and research*” to “*The Arizona Rural Health Office works to improve the health of rural people.*” In addition, in the summer of 2011, the RHO became the Center for Rural Health (CRH), hired a new Director, and is now organizationally placed under the Dean of the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH).

In 2011, management of the Rural People, Rural Policy Initiative transferred from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) to the Rural Policy Action Partnership, an intermediary group made up of four organizations – Center for Rural Strategies, Innovation Network for Communities – Network Impact, Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI), and MDC, Inc. WKKF remained the granting organization, although the Rural Policy Action Partnership was able to make grants directly to networks for network operations, procure technical assistance and engage in policy-related activities.

Over the course of the past five years of the CRH’s participation in the Rural People, Rural Policy Initiative, six project goals evolved and remained the same over the past two years.

1. Attain national recognition as a model and collaborator in assessing and impacting public policy.
2. Become a vigorous, informed, and successful coalition builder.
3. Develop skills and tools to function independently in order to be able to respond to complex challenges.
4. Use skills learned to significantly strengthen the Arizona Rural Women’s Health Network.
5. Educate CRH and MEZCOPH senior leadership and organizational staff about RPRP so synergistic benefits will be realized in the strategic focus and future direction of both entities¹.
6. Build the Southwest Rural Policy Network (SWRPN), a coalition of 14 diverse organizations from three states – Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico, into a viable, sustained, and influential regional and national entity focusing on selected policy issues².

Based on these goals, a summary of our participation and activities in the RPRP Initiative and our progress throughout the fourth and fifth year (April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2012) is presented below. In order to accomplish the goals outlined above, specific strategies were derived and employed by the CRH:

¹ This goal was added in 2008.

² This goal was added in 2009.

- Volunteering to participate in activities related/associated with RPRP (e.g., serving on the Rural Policy Action Partnership Branding Committee, the Huddle Platform Committee, the ruralXchange Development Committee, the planning committee for the 2010 Peer Learning Session, the planning committee for the 2011 National Rural Assembly, monthly cross-RPRP calls and the Reimagining Committee.)
- Supporting the SWRPN through participation in all meetings and providing leadership for several core activities identified during each year (specifically, CRH staff developed guidelines for and supervised the performance of the SWRPN Coordinator, a critical support position.)
- Providing leadership to the SWRPN's Health Action Team, Evaluation Committee, Sustainability Committee, and the Communication Committee, and playing a leadership role in the development of the agendas for the Network's face-to-face meetings.
- Taking maximum advantage of the supplemental resources offered by the Rural Policy Action Partnership to the RPRP grantees.
- Meeting with senior leadership of CRH and MEZCOPH as well as faculty, staff, and students to learn about their policy priorities and how it might be possible to integrate these priorities into RPRP at the national, regional, and local levels. This work resulted in collaborations specific to the Clean Water Act and Food Policy issues.

The approaches that the CRH continued to use over these past two years to track, monitor, and evaluate its efforts include the following:

- For each meeting, CRH staff summarized notes on key results, documented next steps, documented assignments, and identified new information gained.
- CRH staff developed an ongoing documentation system to record milestones achieved by the CRH by noting the date, organization, activity, and outcome.

Progress Towards Goals

1. Building and Strengthening Rural Policy Networks

a. Progress Achieved:

Over the past two years, the CRH worked closely with the other thirteen organizations that make up the SWRPN by participating in the following activities:

- **Network Connectivity and Alignment.** Two key accomplishments were achieved during the fourth year by the Network – all SWRPN member organizations attended the Peer Learning Session held in New Orleans, LA (November 2010) and signed an Addendum to the Statement of Intent that outlines the levels of membership between and among the members of the SWRPN. During this past year, the CRH along with other Network partners were

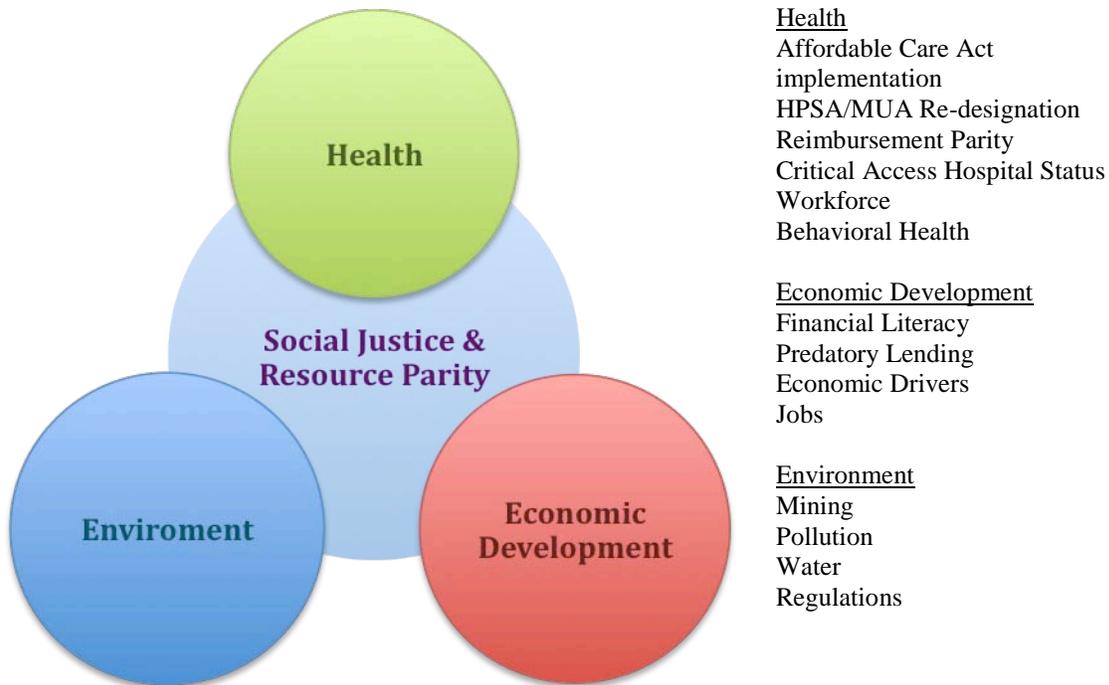
successful in receiving financial support from the Partners for each of the SWRPN Action Teams, totaling \$83,000.

Finally, the CRH staff joined our partners in the Network’s monthly phone meetings and quarterly face-to-face regional meetings. The SWRPN held six regional face-to-face meetings over the past two years: Tucson, AZ, (April 2010); Santa Fe, NM (July 2010); Nogales, AZ (February 2011); Tuba City, AZ (June 2011); Dolores, CO (September 2011); and, Albuquerque, NM (February 2012).

Each regional meeting was carefully planned to maximize learning opportunities, provide time for network infrastructure building, and discuss and provide group feedback towards elevating the policy work taken on by the Policy Action Teams. The SWRPN contracted coordinator worked with a subcommittee to plan logistics and conceptualize all meeting agendas. Specific desires for meeting content were vetted by the SWRPN “Point of Contact” Committee, which includes one key person from each Network partner organization.

Once consensus was reached regarding meeting agendas, the SWRPN empowered the planning subcommittee to retain consultants, if needed, to provide the necessary facilitation.

- **Network Alignment.** The SWRPN recognizes that it is not a single-issue network but rather that it collectively represents diverse yet interconnected interests. Over the course of the past two years, the Network continued to focus on three Policy Action areas – Health, Economic Development, and Environment. Each focus area is seen through the lens of Social Justice & Resource Parity and each is overlapping and interconnected with the others.



While all Network partners are engaged in learning about each focus area, the Network decided that organizations should select one or two of the Policy Action areas and the corresponding Action Teams in which to participate. So far, the Policy Action Teams contribute content and learning sessions for the regional meetings. The CRH staff actively participates in the Health Action Team and supports the other two action teams when appropriate.

One other area that was identified at the September 2011 face to face meeting was the convening of a Food Issues Group. This group received a Technical Assistance grant for the purpose of surveying Network member organizations to determine which organizations were addressing food policy and food-security related issues. The survey was conducted and a wide range of issues were identified. In addition, a number of areas of shared interest among Network members were identified, laying the foundation for possible future collaboration on projects.

- **Network Connectivity – Immigration**

At the April 2010 Tucson, AZ, face to face meeting, the SWRPN had a breakthrough event in collectively writing and issuing a press release on Arizona’s Senate Bill 1070 regarding immigration. The process required each of the member organizations to decide/get approval for signing on to endorse the press release.

Since then, CRH staff worked closely to guide a MEZCOPH-CRH graduate research student to develop a white paper summarizing the history of anti-immigrant policies and laws on national and state levels. This paper was distributed to SWRPN member organizations for their use in community and partner education. The Rural People, Rural Policy – Networks United for a Rural Voice (NURV) - group also used the paper to inform their position on realizing comprehensive immigration reform. Since the distribution of the white paper, the NURV group has spun off a new Immigration Reform Working Group, which has met regularly, developed an infrastructure, and presented a policy platform document to the Obama Administration.

- **Evaluation.** The SWRPN agreed that a meaningful evaluation of our individual and joint efforts associated with the Rural People, Rural Policy Initiative was desired and needed. In order to ensure that these evaluations are comprehensive, accurate, and timely, the Network also recognized the need to have an advance plan for accomplishing them. In response, the CRH staff volunteered to revise the evaluation plan along with Taos Health System and the Network Coordinator to better reflect the activities proposed under the \$75,000 “operational grant” awarded by WKKF in March 2009. The final report provided to the W.K. Kellogg

Foundation in September 2010 of this operational grant reflected the outcomes achieved by following the evaluation plan.

In addition, the use of the “network health scorecard” (developed and provided to all RPRP Networks by Arbor Consulting Partners and Cause Communications) was initiated at the Durango, CO, regional meeting held in June 2009 and has been subsequently used at each of the SWRPN face-to-face meetings. The CRH continues to code, track, analyze, present, and apply the results going forward at each of the face-to-face regional meetings.

One significant outcome of the SWRPN evaluation process was that the Rural Policy Action Partnership expressed interest in our “unique” use of the “network health scorecard” and asked the CRH to present a summary of the SWRPN quarterly results and an explanation of our use of the tool at the Evaluation breakout session at the November 2010, New Orleans, LA, Peer Learning Session.

Current evaluation work involves the drafting of an evaluation plan to meet the requirements stipulated by the Rural Policy Action Partnership for all of the 2010-2012 funded projects granted to the SWRPN. Further, the SWRPN is planning to implement the use of the PARTNER (Program to Analyze, Record, and Track Networks to Enhance Relationships) Tool to advance our monitoring of our Network efforts. The PARTNER Tool looks at measuring the success of partnerships and collaborations to demonstrate how members are connected, how resources are leveraged and exchanged and to link outcomes to the process of collaboration. This Tool will offer a deeper level of evaluating the SWRPN’s collaborative work.

- **Other activities.** The CRH continues to provide technical assistance to the statewide Arizona Rural Women’s Health Network, which was formalized through a Rural Health Network Development Planning grant from the Office of Rural Health Policy, DHHS-HRSA, and subsequently funded for three years in receipt of a Rural Health Network Development grant from the same agency. The role of the CRH has transitioned from being an initiator of the network to being a participatory member, particularly in regard to providing a liaison with Native American communities. The CRH used knowledge and skills gained as a result of participation in the Rural People, Rural Policy Initiative in order to more effectively present network concepts around communication, framing and evaluation to the grant partners. After addressing formative governance issues, the Network developed a yearlong work plan and developed a successful application, focusing on further developing sustainable partnerships and promoting a rural women’s health systems information network, to the Network Development Grant Program offered through the federal Office of Rural Health Policy. The Network also established greater visibility in the state through the development of a brochure and an informational website. Other areas of focus include the ongoing development of a statewide toolkit of resources for women’s health service

providers, participation in the National Cooperative of Health Networks, and supporting the delivery of sexual assault forensic training for health providers in rural communities.

CRH staff also worked closely with another MEZCOPH-CRH graduate research assistant and MPH candidate to provide her with a precept site for her culminating internship project. As a result, the student worked in the Sierra Vista community of Cochise County, AZ, to perform qualitative research into the public behavioral health services available to rural children in Southern Arizona. The resulting report and policy strategies toolkit was delivered to the SWRPN in January 2011, and helped to inform the SWRPN's inclusion of adverse childhood events and holistic views of health promotion as unifying concepts for all three focus areas (health, economic development, and the environment).

For two years, the PI of this initiative was a member of the Policy Committee of the CDC initiative in Pima County, AZ, called *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*. Finally, the CRH held several Regional Rural Policy Assemblies around the state that were either supported or facilitated by CRH staff.

b. Organizational Gains:

The CRH gained new insights and knowledge over these past two years from the various meetings and activities in which CRH staff participated. The main highlights from each are as follows:

When/Where	Description	Gains
April 28-30, 2010, Tucson, AZ	SWRPN quarterly face to face meeting, hosted by the CRH, Tucson, AZ. <u>Focus:</u> Plans to access additional funds from the Rural Policy Action Partnership; response to AZ SB1070.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Teams developed specific project plans for requesting funds from the Rural Policy Action Partnership. (<i>Three projects were funded as of March 2011 totaling \$83,166.</i>) • Collective Network development of a press release on immigration. • Development and definition of Levels of Membership for the SWRPN.
July 26-28, 2010, Santa Fe, NM	SWRPN quarterly face to face regional meeting, hosted by the SWRPN Coordinator. <u>Focus:</u> Plan to complete activities and spend remaining funds of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final workplan and submission of final report of the activities and expenses associated with the closing out of the WKKF SWRPN Operations Grant occurred, meeting the 9/30/10 deadline. • Agreement by all SWRPN members

	2009 SWRPN Operations grant; Action Teams continued defining priorities.	<p>to sign the Addendum to the Statement of Intent defining “Levels of Membership”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated the use of a “focused conversation” method to help the Health Action Team members identify and prioritize policy areas to focus on.
November 3-5, 2010, New Orleans, LA	<p>SWRPN attended the Peer Learning Session, hosted by the Rural Policy Action Partnership.</p> <p><u>Focus:</u> Enhancing cross-network policy discussions and learning about new tools and approaches for advancing policy work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRH and the SWRPN received recognition of the application and use of the “network health scorecard”. CRH staff made a presentation at one of the evaluation break-out sessions. • Attended core sessions on network sustainability, network evaluation, and strategies directly related to policy actions. • CRH staff attended key cross-network policy sessions around immigration and health. • The SWRPN had an opportunity for another face to face meeting after the end of the PLS.
January 24-26, 2011 Washington, DC	<p>Attended the National Rural Health Association’s 22nd Annual Policy Institute (a member of the RPRP National Network.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heard and received information on the NRHA 2011 Legislative and Regulatory Agenda. • Participated in face-to-face meetings with Arizona legislative staff from the following legislators: Congressman Raul Grijalva, Congressman Ben Quayle, Congressman Ed Pastor, and Senator John Kyl. Information plus brief discussions about the CRH and the projects we are involved in were provided.
February 15-17, 2011, Nogales, AZ	<p>SWRPN quarterly face-to-face meeting, hosted by Nogales Community Development Corporation.</p> <p><u>Focus:</u> Continuing work on the SWRPN’s sustainability plan, establishing a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each SWRPN Action Team provided an update on the current work/progress each has been making regarding rural policy initiatives. • Presentation by the MEZCOPH MPH candidate, Renee Fullerton, on her internship project for the SWRPN entitled, “Mental Health

	<p>monitoring and evaluation process for funds received from the Rural Policy Action Partnership, and hearing from the AmeriCorps Volunteer and the MEZCOPH MPH student about their SWRPN focused projects.</p>	<p>Services for Children in Rural Southern Arizona – Opportunities for Advocacy”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Kaitlin High, the SWRPN’s AmeriCorps volunteer, on her work in creating and implementing the SWRPN’s social and mobile media infrastructure for use in online advocacy actions. In March 2011, Ms. High was asked by the Rural Policy Action Partnership to share her powerpoint presentation so it can be posted onto the Huddle site. In addition, she was asked to possibly conduct future trainings for all other regional network organizations. • Approval by Network members to assess each member organization on (1) the value of the SWRPN to your organization and (2) ideas of what to do “post” Kellogg and Partnership funding.
<p>June 28-30, 2011, St. Paul, Minnesota</p>	<p>Attended the 2011 Gathering, Building An Inclusive Nation, National Rural Assembly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Featured a SWRPN member organization (Southwest Center for Economic Integrity) on the use of Digital Stories and its use on policy change work. • Attended session on Affordable Care Act to help in the Network’s funded project.
<p>June 7-9, 2011, Tuba City, AZ</p>	<p>SWRPN quarterly face to face meeting, hosted by McKinley Community Health Alliance. <u>Focus:</u> Website launch and review of sustainability options to consider.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received an overview from the SWRPN Coordinator of the accomplishments of the SWRPN from 1/1/10 to 5/31/11. • Hosted a potential new organization considering joining the SWRPN (NM Center on Law and Poverty) • Assessed member organizations working on food policy issues.
<p>September 12-14, 2011, Dolores, CO</p>	<p>SWRPN quarterly face to face meeting, hosted by Southwest Colorado</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heard a review of the Learning Team Activities and the results of the reimagining survey by John

	Prevention Policy Network, Cortez, CO <u>Focus:</u> Progressing on the work of each Action Team and identifying a clear strategy for working with the Partnership and the Network’s cross-network collaboration.	Cooper. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided a learning opportunity on the topic of Social Enterprise via a webinar. • Introduced the PARTNER Tool as an option for the Network to consider. • Made progress on the Health Action Team project – Navigating the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
February 21-23, 2012, Albuquerque, NM	SWRPN Quarterly face to face meeting, hosted by New Mexico Voices for Children and Co-Hosted by the other NM based organizations. <u>Focus:</u> Identifying the future direction of the SWRPN.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised the scope of the Network Coordinator position. • Developed an agreed upon strategy to combine the efforts of the three established action teams and use in the development of a comprehensive proposal. • Started a dialogue about the “next evolution” of the SWRPN.

2. *Unanticipated Outcomes*

a. Yes, there were several unanticipated, highly positive outcomes.

b. *What are they?*

- The Director of the CRH signed the Addendum to the Statement of Intent of the SWRPN, August 2010.
- Continued enhancing the working relationships and connections among the SWRPN member organizations.
- Facilitated the relationship between Network member organization Amigos Bravos and the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA), which resulted in Amigos Bravos conducting a successful Clean Water workshop in Patagonia , April 12, 2012, and PARA expressing interest in becoming a member of the SWRPN.
- Continued interest from MEZCOPH faculty, staff, and students in supporting and becoming involved in future RPRP activities. For example, in 2011 the CRH had one MEZCOPH MPH student do her internship project in Sierra Vista, AZ, working with Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona, on the mental health services needs of children in rural southern Arizona. Another MEZCOPH MPH student did a White Paper on immigration entitled “The Impact of SB1070 and Other Immigration Policies on Women’s Health in Arizona”. Both students encouraged other MPH candidates to consider doing their internship projects with the SWRPN. For Spring 2012, the SWRPN has one UA MEZCOPH doctoral student doing a one-credit Practicum course with Amigos Bravos, Taos, NM,

entitled ‘Water Impact Assessment: Building a Toolkit for Rural Communities’. Another MPH student is doing both a practicum and her internship with the Arizona Women’s Rural Health Network.

- The CRH along with the other SWRPN member organizations continue to enhance relationships with other regional and national networks. CRH has taken the lead in convening two cross-RPRP calls in an effort to determine which RPRP networks are working on health and healthcare issues and in an effort to build a cross-RPRP collaboration on common issues.

3. Activities and Lessons Learned

a. The following are the key grant-related activities that the CRH staff participated in over the past two years.

- Supervised the Network Coordinator regarding network operations and technical overview.
- Attended the Peer Learning Session and six regional network face-to-face meetings (each is described above).
- Joined and participated in the weekly National Rural Health Association’s Grassroots Strategy calls on health care reform.
- Participated in monthly teleconference call meetings of the SWRPN – Point of Contact calls.
- Participated in the following SWRPN sub-committees: Membership, Sustainability, Evaluation, Communications, and Inter-Network Communications.
- Planned and participated in the annual Arizona Rural and Public Health Policy Forum, sponsored by the CRH, the Arizona Rural Health Association, and the Arizona Public Health Association, Phoenix, AZ, January 2010, February 2011, and February 2012.
- Facilitated the Southern Arizona Rural Policy Assembly, held in Bisbee, AZ, Monday, July 19, 2010.
- Became a member of the Policy Committee of the CDC funded project, *Putting Prevention to Work*, Pima County, AZ. In addition, connected the SWRPN member, International Sonoran Desert Alliance, Ajo, AZ, to the project lead as ISDA is located in Pima County.
- Continued promotion of RPRP to other AZ, CO, and NM organizations and individuals throughout the last two years.
- Continued to educate MEZCOPH and CRH staff about RPRP and how the initiative may help in supporting their individual advocacy/policy priorities.
- Helped plan and participated in a community forum in Marana, AZ, February 17, 2012, with Children’s Action Alliance, a SWRPN member organization.
- Secured an AZ site for a Clean Water Workshop led by Amigos Bravos, Taos, NM, (another SWRPN member organization) with the Patagonia Area Resource Alliance, Patagonia, AZ, held April 12, 2012.
- Assisted in the supervision of the final phases of the Network’s Social Media Technical Assistance grant.

b. Lessons Learned -What worked for us? What did not work for us?

Worked for us

- Access to information within a relevant context and delivered by peers.
- Opportunity to build relationships and connections to other organizations.
- Sharing of best practices.
- Working with others in smaller work groups, which helped to move specific agenda items forward.
- Face-to-face regional meetings continued to establish stronger connection between and among Network members.
- Ability to use the RPRP Initiative to open discussions internally at MEZCOPH and the CRH about potential policies that may impact our state's rural communities and our capacity to effect policy change.

Did not work for us

- Throughout the life of the initiative, there have been periods in which it was difficult to ascertain the overall goals, expectations, and benchmarks that would determine use of available funds from the sponsor.
- The development of and expectation to use varying web-enabled communication and evaluation platforms presented challenges in terms of losing productivity and momentum whenever new platforms were introduced.

4. Other Observations/Accomplishments

- Both internal and external communication strategies are important and must be carefully considered and implemented.
- It is possible, if thoughtfully considered, to bridge the apparent gap between grass roots organizations that focus mainly on coalition building and direct action for policy change versus organizations, such as the CRH, that have had more experience with providing data and technical assistance, as well as interacting with policymakers in more of an advocacy role.
- It will take time to fully integrate a new paradigm of policy involvement into the institutional infrastructure of the CRH. One activity, though, that may help move this concept forward is that the CRH completed a five year Strategic Plan through the financial support of the Kellogg Action Lab. Addressing the role of the CRH in direct policy work was identified as an area that needs to be clarified and defined as to what activities the CRH can directly support and become involved in. Now that the CRH has a new Director, clarifying the role of the CRH in direct policy work is high on the Director's agenda.

5. Collaborations

- The CRH has representation on the board of the Arizona Rural Women's Health Network, a formal collaboration among eleven agencies and organizations. This effort will be effective in helping coordinate and shape rural women's health services in Arizona. The CRH specifically provides the network with a liaison to Native American communities, as well as providing technical assistance based on

skills acquired through RPRP Peer Learning Sessions and CRH expertise in program development, grant writing, and project evaluation. The Arizona Rural Women's Health Network was successful in receiving a three-year Rural Health Network Development grant from the federal Office of Rural Health Policy in 2010. In addition, a MPH student is working with the Network on a one credit Rural Health Policy practicum course as well as for a semester internship project. The project is entitled 'Examining the Needs and Assets in Healthcare for Women in Rural Arizona'.

Future Plans

A. Project Sustainability and Continued Activities

The CRH is committed to continuing its involvement with the Southwest Rural Policy Network despite the ending of the 5 year WKKF RPRP Initiative. Staff time will be absorbed into other CRH activities as the efforts of the SWRPN are directly in line to the ongoing work of the organization. Further, the SWRPN Health Action Team's project regarding the Affordable Care Act is still in process and it is anticipated that additional funds will be sought to continue our efforts locally, regionally and possibly nationally.

B. Structure to Continue Project

The SWRPN has operational funds to support the Network Coordinator until March 31, 2013. The CRH staff member will continue the role of overseeing the work of the Network Coordinator as well as being committed to participate in all future Network activities. Also, collectively, the Network will continue to seek additional financial support through writing grants, seeking other foundation support, as well as looking to the use of social media to raise funds supporting our specific policy work.

C. Feasibility of Adoption Elsewhere

The CRH believes the model of bringing together diverse organizations to work on policy issues is feasible. However, it does take time to learn from each other, establish what role each organization can or cannot take on policy action, and be able to get the needed resources to sustain activity.

The SWRPN continues to seek out other local, state, and/or regional organizations to join the SWRPN. At the February 2011 SWRPN face to face meeting all Network members learned that two New Mexico organizations expressed interest in joining the SWRPN. Member organizations followed up in March 2011 to assess this potential opportunity. No commitment has been made though as of April 2012. However, there is another Arizona organization (Patagonia Area Resource Alliance) interested in joining the Network and has been invited to the next face to face meeting scheduled for June 28-29, 2012, in Albuquerque, NM, to learn more about the Network and for the Network members to learn more about them.

Dissemination

A. Information and Evaluation Findings

- June 2010 Press Release issued by the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, Center for Rural Health, to the MEZCOPH website and the national COPH website on the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's grant to the 4 organizations that make up the Rural Policy Action Partnership.
- Handout, entitled "Southwest Rural Policy Network Overview, Fall 2010", was distributed at the November 2010 Peer Learning Session.
- A RPRP section was included in the Arizona Rural Health Office 2010 Report and will be included in the 2012 Center for Rural Health report. The new version will be distributed widely and will be included on the CRH website – www.crh.arizona.edu
- The CRH website is updated when needed profiling the activities of the SWRPN.
- Continued availability of all materials received from each of the RPRP Peer Learning Sessions organized and made available to MEZCOPH faculty and students.
- Please note: *No specific evaluation findings have yet been publicly reported.*

B. Information Dissemination Plans

- Continue to include more information about milestones reached, current and future activities, and a profile of all SWRPN members on the CRH website.
- Continue to work with the National Rural Health Association, a RPRP member of the national network, as well as other local, state, regional and national groups.
- Distribute SWRPN regional quarterly network newsletter to appropriate audiences.
- Identify appropriate regional and national meetings to speak at and/or create a poster display of activities so more diverse audiences can learn more about the SWRPN and RPRP.
- Continue to promote the SWRPN website and wiki through other avenues including a direct link on the CRH website.
- Post information on the RPRP Extranet.

Project Director's Opinion

1. Important Outcomes and "Lessons Learned"

Outcomes:

- Relationships have been formed locally, regionally, and nationally that would not have occurred if it were not for the RPRP Initiative.
- Goals established by the CRH for the RPRP Initiative have been met but there is still definitely more that needs to be done.

- Projects have been initiated that would have otherwise not taken place such as the community dialogs on predatory lending, workshops on the Clean Water Act and the information dissemination project around the Affordable Care Act.

Lessons Learned:

- Bringing together a mix blend of organizations over the first three years made it difficult for the Network to move forward on direct policy work.
- Sustaining a network with operational support is a significant challenge.
- Changing the mission focus of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation mid-stream of this 5-year initiative added another level of complexity to proceed in organizing the SWRPN to work on common policy issues.
- Staffing changes at member organizations over the five years compounded the ability to move forward and keep momentum on specific activities.

2. Recommendations to Foundation

The financial and technical support provided by WKKF over the past five years provided a “base” of resources to help in the development of a sustainable network. However, one significant recommendation for WKKF is to make available names of other potential funding partners that focus on rural interests and who see the value of diverse organizations working together on common issues around rural policy. As well, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation might consider the valuable asset it created in building regional networks and see how the structure, resources and community and political capital built by the Networks can be used to support other Kellogg Foundation efforts going forward.

Other

1. Issues to discuss with Foundation Program Officer

- The CRH had found the financial support and technical assistance provided by the four intermediary organizations retained by WKKF to be very open, responsive, and willing to work with the SWRPN as well as supporting the other regional and national networks.
- The CRH was pleased to get approval from the Foundation Program Officer that the SWRPN and the other regional and national networks could continue to use the Rural People, Rural Policy tagline.
- On behalf of the CRH, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, The University of Arizona, this 5 year initiative has brought increased visibility and recognition to us both locally and nationally. I want to personally thank the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Ali Webb, and the other supporting staff for this exceptional opportunity.

Joyce A. Hospodar, Principal Investigator

The CRH was pleased to be a partner in this initiative and we will continue to engage in knowledge translation activities to ensure that the lessons learned are

effectively disseminated to end-users. While the formal funded phase of this initiative has concluded, it is our hope that the relationships built through this process will continue and we would be interested in pursuing funding for phase 2.
Dr. Neil MacKinnon, CRH Director

2. Appendices - None