

RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

IN THIS ISSUE:

- What's New
 - Mental Health HPSA Update
- Upcoming Events
 - National Public Health Week
 - Utah Public Health Association
- OPCRH Program Updates:
 - Health Systems Support
 - Workforce Development
- Statewide Announcements
 - Cedar City Hospital Nomination
- Webinar Opportunities
- Funding Opportunities
 - New Website Table
- Announcements/Reports from:
 - RHlhub
 - HRSA
 - 3RNet



What's New

Mental Health HPSA Update

The Four Corners Mental Health Catchment Area (Carbon, Emery, and Grand counties) just received an updated HPSA score of 19! This makes them a competitive area for NHSC providers. If you would like to have your HPSA score reviewed and updated, contact Holli: hchilds@utah.gov to be added to the list.

Upcoming Events

2019 Utah State of Reform
Health Policy Conference
April 24

The 2019 Utah State of Reform Health Policy Conference convenes stakeholders from across Utah's health care ecosystem. From the left and right, public and private sectors, State of Reform is a non-partisan, policy agnostic forum where about 300 of Utah's most senior health care executives and health policy leaders gather in a one-day conference. Too often, good ideas in health care may not understand the regulatory process that must be navigated to implement them. Or, the good policy ideas may not have a full understanding of the implications in the broader marketplace. State of Reform tries to bridge that gap, to create a gathering where some of Utah's best ideas in health care can be further informed by conversation, networking and dialog.

Information and registration for the conference can be found [here](#).

National Public Health Week April 1-5

National Public Health Week 2019 is fast approaching! Join us for a week of inspiring events, conversations and celebrations nationwide. Don't miss:

- The Billion Steps Challenge, going on right now! It's not too late to [start a team or join one](#). The Challenge continues until April 7. Share your progress using #APHABillionSteps.
- Our annual Twitter chat, a conversation with public health leaders from around the country. Mark your calendar for April 3, and don't forget to [RSVP](#).
- [NPHW's Student Day discussion](#) on April 4, when public health professionals will share tips on how to break into the field. You can join us in D.C. or watch the webcast.

The Great Utah Shakeout April 18

We all must get better prepared for major earthquakes, and practice how to protect ourselves when they happen. The purpose of the ShakeOut is to help people and organizations do both.

For more information on the event, please follow this [link](#).



2019 Utah Public Health Conference

April 24-26, 2019
Ogden Eccles Conference Center -
Ogden, UT

[For Additional Information](#)

OPCRH Program Updates

HEALTH SYSTEMS SUPPORT

The OPCRH has submitted the **Rural Veterans Health Access Program Grant**.

If you are a rural hospital Quality Manager, CNO, or CEO, please remember to register for the **FLEX Summit**, [here](#).

The Utah Office of Primary Care and Rural Health has incorporated the data from the **Utah Health Improvement Index (HII)** into our Data Portal as an interactive mapping application. The map can be viewed at [here](#).

Sponsorships are available for CAH employees to attend the **West Region Flex Conference**. Sponsorships will be given on a first come first serve basis. If interested, please fill out brief form ASAP:
<https://goo.gl/forms/LitsUWpePQuK1Gvw2>

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

If you haven't yet seen the **Primary Care Needs Assessment**, you can access it [here](#).

Funding is still available for the **Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program**.

Awards have been announced for the **Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program**. A total of 12 providers were awarded \$440,000.00 of state and federal funds. These funds can only be used for student loan debt in exchange for providing medical services in underserved areas in the state of Utah.

State Primary Care Grant cycle for FY 2020 will be opening in the near future. Please watch for updates on our website [here](#).

OPCRH is Hiring a *Workforce Development Specialist*

Are you interested in helping to increase healthcare access in rural communities? We are hiring a *Workforce Development Specialist* to assist with projects and activities that help expand access to primary care services by bringing healthcare providers to rural and underserved communities

Watch for the job announcement on statejobs.utah.gov in the coming weeks to



Statewide Announcements

Cedar City Hospital Ranked among Top 20 Rural Community Hospitals in the Nation

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) has named the 20 highest-ranked prospective payment system hospitals in the country based on an evaluation by The Chartis Center for Rural Health using iVantage Health Analytics' Hospital Strength Index. These rural community hospitals will be recognized in an awards ceremony during NRHA's Rural Hospital Innovation Summit May 9 in Atlanta. The determining factors for the top 20 rural community hospitals were based on eight indices: inpatient market share, outpatient market share, quality, outcomes, patient perspective, cost, charge, and financial stability.

Information about the nominations can be found [here](#).

Utah gets federal approval to launch 'bridge' Medicaid expansion on Monday.

Utah's "bridge" program to expand Medicaid to about 70,000 to 90,000 adult Utahns received federal approval Friday — eligible adults started applying on Monday. A link to the article about the expansion can be found [here](#).

Webinars

How to Reduce Labor Costs 15% Using Demand-based Staffing: Tested Tools and Best Practices for Hospitals and Health Systems

Labor expenses represent the largest – and often the most difficult – costs to monitor and manage. During this webinar, we'll provide a brief overview of Stroudwater's approach to helping hospitals and health systems sustainably realize staffing levels that adjust and respond to changing patient demand. The webinar will also review the tested tools and practices that have helped

organizations realize 10-to-15 percent reductions in labor costs.

Link to the webinar can be found [here](#).

Team-based Primary Care Redesign: How to Improve Your Practice's Financial Sustainability (& Succeed in Risk Bearing Models)

Implementing team-based primary care involves restructuring clinical workflows to promote increased sharing of responsibilities across the entire team. This approach enhances practice efficiency while improving provider, patient, and staff engagement. In this free webinar, we'll outline the four core principles of team-based care (co-location, pre-visit planning, daily morning huddle, four-stage office visit) and discuss how you can leverage these principles to enhance patient experience, improve clinical outcomes, and create more access for your primary care practice.

Link to the webinar can be found [here](#).

Winter Farm Flood Health Threats: Risk Factors During Recovery

Winter floods can heighten the risk of health threats such as mold, tetanus bacteria, contaminated well water, hypothermia and high stress. This is especially true on farms and ranches where inherent farm hazards such as machinery and equipment, livestock, and agriculture chemicals are displaced and co-mingle, putting all emergency response personnel, farm workers and family members in danger. The AgriSafe Network created this presentation to highlight basic precautions for preventing disease and injury during and after flooding.

Link to the webinar can be found [here](#).

Please check our website for updated funding opportunities. You can find the table by following the link [here](#).

National Organizations

[Human Services to Support Rural Health](#)

[Oral Health in Rural Communities](#)

[Overdose Data to Action \(RFA-CE19-1904\)](#)

[HRSA US Fact Sheet by State](#)

[Rural Health Care Professional Job Posting](#)



Find Us

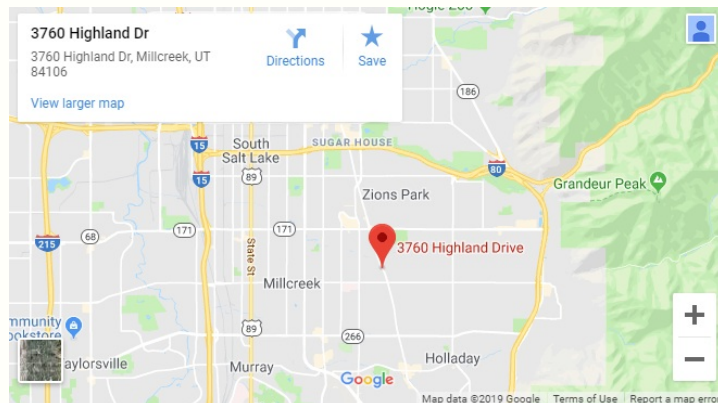
3760 South Highland Drive
Suite 361C
SLC, UT 84106

Call Us

Office: 801-273-6677
Fax: 801-273-6512

Email Us

opcrh@utah.gov



The OPCRH provides support to our stakeholders and clients in the form of hands-on support, economic impact analysis, research, community health needs assessments, and healthcare workforce needs assessment. We also provide technical assistance and pertinent information on student loan repayment programs and grant opportunities

If you would like to be a part of our newsletter in the future and/or would like to submit a success story, announcement, or communicate any other information to us or your rural health partners, please contact Colton Gordon Program Specialist 801-273-6618, coltongordon@utah.gov

Subscribe to this Newsletter