RURAL HEALTH CONNECT
Improving the Health of Rural Communities

What's New

Utah's Mental Health System Report

The University of Utah's Ken C. Gardner Policy Institute and the Utah Hospital Association have published a report analyzing Utah's mental health services. The report focuses on gaps in services, barriers to providing and accessing care, and considerations for improving Utah's mental health system. The report includes qualitative research from discussion groups and interviews with stakeholders throughout the state.

To access the report, please click here.

Critical Access Hospital Community Profiles

The Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Community Profiles provide an up-to-date view of the overall health of a CAH hospital's service area

population and a measurement of general population health and community specific health outcomes. The results of this report can assist in identifying poor health outcomes in a hospital's surrounding community and guide decisions about where to focus resources.

If you are a Critical Access Hospital and would like to read your profile, please follow the link here.

Continuing Distance Education Program

Get the tools necessary to help farmers and ranchers in your community, while earning 18 Continuing Nursing Education hours. The Nurse Scholar program is a distance learning opportunity available to rural nurses provided by experienced health & safety educators. Increase your knowledge base in prevention, identification, and assessment of diseases related to agricultural work exposures. Classes are in the form of webinars that can be viewed live or OnDemand.

Training Topics Include:
Integration of Ag Health into Practice
Zoonotic Diseases
Hearing Conservation
Chemical/Pesticide Exposures
Women's Health Special Populations (youth, older adults, immigrant, and migrant workers)
Respiratory Health
Ergonomics
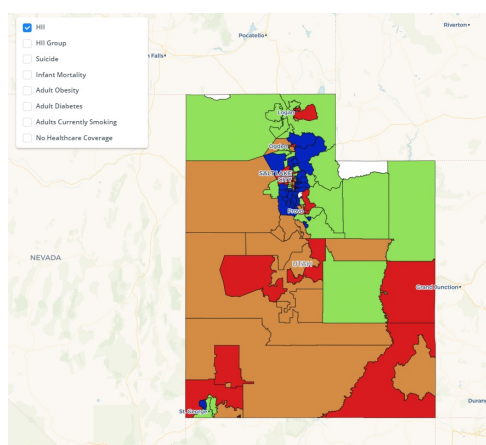Personal Protective Equipment
Skin Disorders
Behavioral Health
Emerging and Regional Issues

For more information, please click here.

OPCRH Office Highlight:

Each month the OPCRH team highlights a map or project in our office. This month, we're highlighting the Utah Health Improvement Index Map that was developed by the Utah Department of Health and is a composite measure of social determinants of health by geographic area.
To access the map, please follow the link here.

Upcoming Events

National Rural

Health Week Photo Contest

Each year for National Rural Health Week, the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health judges a photo contest based on creativity, originality, photo quality, and how well the pictures communicate the concept of "rural." We will open photo submissions *September 1, 2019.* If you have any photos you would like to submit, please send them to opcrh@utah.gov.

For more information, and to view last year's winning photos, please follow the link here.

2019 HRSA Behavioral Health Integration Summit

Attendees of this one-day conference in Anchorage, Alaska will learn about pathways to integrations, discuss the evolutionary journey of behavioral health integration (BHI) in Alaska, and develop a BHI Action Plan for the state of Alaska

The summit will be held September 17, 2019.

To register, please click here

OPCRH Program Updates

HEALTH SYSTEMS SUPPORT

- We are excited to announce the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health has been *awarded* the **Rural Veteran Health Access Program** grant! If you have any questions or comments regarding the award, please contact our office at opcrh@utah.gov.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- The **NHSC Site Recertification** is currently open. Please submit your information before **Tuesday, October 1 at 11:59pm ET.**

- The **auto-HPSA update** is complete and the portal for all auto-HPSA points of

- The OPCRH team is establishing the *Utah Rural Veteran Coalition (URVC)* to collaborate on care coordination and share resources for Utah's rural veterans. If you would like more information on the URVC, please email **opcrh@utah.gov**.

contact is live. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Holli Mills hmills@utah.gov**.

- We are looking for interested providers, administrators, and others who would be willing to serve on the **review committee** for one of our state funded programs. For more information, or to indicate your interest, please click here.

Statewide Announcements

Southern Utah University and Utah State University Extension Awarded $1 million grant for Opioid Initiative

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded nearly $1 million to SUU's Utah Center for Rural Health. This investment will enable the HRSA-funded rural organizations to establish and expand access to integrated substance use disorder and mental health services.

Utah State University Extension was also awarded a $1 million grant for the Tribal and Rural Opioid Initiative from the (HRSA). The grant will fund an integrated opioid response effort that bridges prevention, treatment and recovery in Tooele County, with additional tribal outreach in the Uintah Basin area.

Rural Health Network Development Program

The Rural Health Network Development Program provides grants to promote the planning, access, coordination, and development of healthcare networks in rural areas. Applicants can be a public or non-profit organization in a rural area with a formal network and composed of three separate, existing healthcare provider entities. This year, HRSA anticipates making up to 46 awards to a variety of eligible networks in order to address the needs of their communities. **The application deadline is November 25, 2019.**

For more information, please click here.

Utah Medicaid Expansion Plan

Please click on the following links for updates on the Utah Medicaid Expansion Plan:

- [Deseret News](#)
- [Governor's Office](#)

Utah Medical Cannabis Program 4-Hr Required Course

This course introduces the reader to the endocannabinoid system and its interaction with the components of the cannabis plant, and addresses administration, therapeutic use, drug metabolism, physiologic and cognitive effects, potential risks, and drug interactions.

The use of marijuana in obstetric patients, pediatric patients, adolescent patients and elderly patients is discussed in detail. In addition, the health effects of marijuana and cannabinoids in epilepsy are reviewed. Important considerations for patients with ischemic heart disease, hepatic disease, psychotic illness, and those with a history of drug dependence are provided.

This course also informs the reader about the legal and medical considerations in the recommendation of medical marijuana, and addresses the parts of H.B. 3001, including the Utah Medical Cannabis Act, that would be of interest to a Utah healthcare provider.

For more information about the course, please follow the link [here.](#)

HRSA Virtual Job Fair

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s virtual job fairs connect healthcare sites with job-seeking primary care trainees and practicing clinicians. HRSA invites medical, nursing, dental, and mental/behavioral health clinicians and trainees to attend, and learn about hundreds of opportunities.

Each site representatives will have 15 minutes to present inside a "virtual breakout room." There, the participating sites discuss
- their site,
- the community they serve, and
- their currently available positions.

Those seeking career opportunities are able to interact with up to 100 organizations during one event.

The Virtual Job Fair will take place October 16, 2019 7:00 to 10:15 PM ET

For more information on the event, please follow the link here.

Fostering Resiliency in Your Workplace

The webinar recording and related materials address workforce burnout during healthcare transformation with a focus on rural health networks. The material address causes of burnout, tools for encouraging positive psychology and resiliency, organizational culture, and workflow to help improve retention and productivity.

Access to recording and materials can be found here.

Funding Opportunities

Please check our website for updated

funding opportunities. You can find the table by following the link [here](#).

[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](#)

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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

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