



# RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Statewide Updates & News:
  - CMS Rural Hospital and CAH Reporting
  - NHSC Application Opening
  - RHAU Job Opening
  - SUU Community Health Care Certificate
- OPCRH Program Updates:
  - Health Systems Support
  - Workforce Development
- Webinar/Upcoming Events:
  - NRHD & Photo Contest
  - 3RNet
  - NRHA
- Toolkits:
  - NOSORH
  - RHihub
- Announcements/Reports from:
  - RHihub
  - HRSA
  - 3RNet

## Statewide Updates & News

### [CMS Interim Final Rule: Hospital & CAH COVID Reporting](#)

Hospitals and critical access hospitals will be required to report data daily, including but not limited to elements such as the number of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 positive patients, intensive care unit beds occupied, and availability of essential supplies and equipment such as ventilators and personal protective equipment (PPE). Click the header above for more information.

### [NHSC Students to Service Loan Repayment Program](#)

The application for the National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program is now open and includes new nursing disciplines. The program now includes Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs). The application cycle closes on **November 5 at 7:30 p.m. ET**. For more information, click the header above.

### [Rural Health Association Job Opening](#)

The Rural Health Association of Utah (RHAU) is hiring for a Program Manager of Healthcare Pathways Program. Please click the header above to apply.

### **Southern Utah University Online Community Health Worker Certificate Program**

For more information, please visit [suu.edu/learnandwork](https://suu.edu/learnandwork)



## COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AT SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

Do you have a love for your community and a desire to help others get the help they may need? Are you looking to develop new skills in the health care field? Our Community Health Worker program is for you.

- The "Learn & Work In Utah" initiative was launched by the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) and its Talent Ready Utah team, in partnership with the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE).
- This certificate program may be completed online
- Program starts September 23, 2020
- Space is limited
- For more information and to register for this no cost certificate program visit [suu.edu/learnandwork](http://suu.edu/learnandwork)

**LEARN  
& WORK** **IN  
UT**

**SUU** SOUTHERN  
UTAH  
UNIVERSITY

## OPCRH Program Updates

### HEALTH SYSTEMS SUPPORT

- The OPCRH team is proud to deliver the FLEX Summit Awards to **Eric Packer**, CEO of Cedar City Hospital, for *CEO of the Year*; **Lori Weston**, CEO of Park City Hospital, for *Community Benefit & Engagement*; and **Brenda Bartholomew**, CNO of Gunnison Valley Memorial Hospital, for *COVID Response and Preparedness*. To view the awards and comments in full, please visit our awards page [here](#).

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- The draft rule **R434-20** covering the **Behavioral Health Workforce Reinvestment Initiative**, which provides loan repayment assistance to behavioral health professionals to work in publicly-funded facilities in the state, was published in the [Utah State Bulletin](#) on August 15 (*see p. 59*). Please address any questions or comments regarding the draft rule or the notice to [OPCRH@utah.gov](mailto:OPCRH@utah.gov) prior to September 14, 2020.
- On August 19, the OPCRH organized the initial meeting of a **Health Workforce Coalition** to develop a coordinated approach to addressing health workforce issues in rural and underserved Utah. The coalition will focus on the root causes of health workforce shortages, identify emerging issues affecting Utah's health workforce, and share successful models and opportunities to scale them. If you would like to learn more about this initiative, please contact **Ashley Moretz** ([amoretz@utah.gov](mailto:amoretz@utah.gov)) or **Mason Payne** ([mapayne@utah.gov](mailto:mapayne@utah.gov)).

## Webinars & Upcoming Events



## National Rural Health Day & Utah Rural Health Photo Contest

Rural communities are wonderful places to live and work, which is why approximately 57 million people – one in five Americans – call them home. These rural communities also have unique healthcare needs. National Rural Health Day is an opportunity to celebrate the “Power of Rural”, bringing to light the unique healthcare challenges that rural citizens face and showcasing the efforts of rural healthcare providers, State Offices of Rural Health and other rural stakeholders to address those challenges.

Visit [www.PowerofRural.org](http://www.PowerofRural.org) for more information.

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is excited to announce our annual Rural Photo Contest in celebration of Rural Health Week! For more information on this year's photo contest, please visit our Photo Contest page [here](#).



## Recruiting for Retention Hierarchy: Strategically Market Using Candidate Motivations

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health (OPCRH) is pleased to provide access to the 2020 3RNet Academy - *Recruiting for Retention Hierarchy: Strategically Market Using Candidate Motivations* - at no cost to participants! This is the only online training specific to rural and underserved communities.

Join 3RNet for a six-part webinar series starting [October 6, 2020](#).

Please email [opcrh@utah.gov](mailto:opcrh@utah.gov) for the free registration code, or contact Mason Payne ([mapayne@utah.gov](mailto:mapayne@utah.gov)) for more details.



## Managing the Challenges of Care Coordination in Rural Facilities

The National Rural Health Association will explore the complexities and importance of automation in care management, patient safety and quality management. In particular, attendees will learn more about the impact of automation on assisting rural facilities to be more efficient in their workflow tasks while identifying trends for process improvement.

Key takeaways and consideration that will be demonstrated in this webinar:

- How to identify key areas where intervention by the care coordinator can minimize gaps in processes and care
- Why providing ongoing "Medical Necessity" education with the Clinical Care team is important, in the ongoing effort to avoid denials

- How Tracking Patient Safety and Quality events lead to process improvement, improved outcomes, and overall patient and staff satisfaction
- How and why identifying post-discharge challenges will allow you to gauge efforts or assign resources appropriately to help prevent a readmission
- Why there is a need to help bridge barriers to patients' post-discharge needs and how to achieve effective patient/caregiver handoffs
- Why care coordination programs should adopt a "whole person" mindset to focus on diverse patient needs (e.g., transportation, home safety, nutrition, and literacy)

**Tuesday, Sept 15 2:00 - 3:00 pm CST**

[Register here](#)

## Toolkit Highlight



### Connections for Community Care Project

Funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), this project will provide Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) across the nation with easy access to and technical assistance (TA) for comprehensive, community-centric COVID-19 onsite testing and is *available at no cost*.

National Organization of State Office of Rural Health (NOSORH) will work with State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) to develop and implement strategies to enhance local, state, and national collaboration as well as provide targeted, individualized, community centric technical assistance (TA) to participating RHCs.

Accessing additional information or getting started with the program is as simple as sending an email expressing interest to [rhccovidtestinginfo@nosorh.org](mailto:rhccovidtestinginfo@nosorh.org).



### Rural Suicide Prevention Toolkit

The Rural Suicide Prevention Toolkit compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support organizations implementing suicide prevention programs in rural communities across the United States.

The modules in the toolkit contain resources and information focused on developing, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining rural suicide prevention programs. There are more resources on general community health strategies available in the [Rural Community Health Toolkit](#).



[To access the toolkit, please follow the link here.](#)

## Funding Opportunities

[Rural Health Network Development Planning \(Network Planning\) Program](#)

## 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](#)



## [CONTACT US](#)

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 801-230-6570, [coltongordon@utah.gov](mailto:coltongordon@utah.gov)

Subscribe to this  
Newsletter