



# RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Statewide Updates & News
  - Health Equity Grant Program
  - Division of Adult & Aging Services
  - Utah VA Benefits Training
  - National Rural Health Day - Photo Contest
- OPCRH Program Updates
  - Health System Support Team
  - Workforce Development
- Webinars/Upcoming Events
  - August Project ECHOs
- Funding Opportunities
  - Teaching Health Center Planning and Development Program
- Toolkits
  - NOSORH: Connections for Community Care
  - NRTRC: Free Telehealth Courses
  - RHlhub: Rural Suicide Prevention Toolkit
- Announcements/Reports
  - RHlhub

- HRSA
- 3RNet

## Statewide Updates & News

### Health Equity Grant Program

The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is excited to announce the release of the Health Equity Grant Program! The Health Equity Grant Program is designed to address long-term health disparities caused or highlighted by COVID-19.

To apply for the grant and additional information, please follow the link [here](#).

For any questions related to the RFP, please email the OPCRH at [opcrh@utah.gov](mailto:opcrh@utah.gov). The OPCRH will host two online sessions to go over the requirements and answer questions:

- August 11, 10:30 – 11:30 am.
- August 11, 2:00 – 3:00 pm.

The information covered in both sessions will be the same. There is no need to register.

The OPCRH Request for Proposal Question and Answer Sessions

Google Meet joining info for both sessions

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/icw-iaua-dnd>

Or dial: (US) +1 401-702-0760 PIN: 464 984 308#

### Division of Adult and Aging Services Focus Groups

The Division of Aging & Adult Services (DAAS) is seeking your input regarding services and gaps for vulnerable adults. We would like your input on what service gaps exist that will keep someone safe in their home, what services are most needed in your area and those you serve, and the barriers to accessing those services.

If you are a service provider that works with Spanish-speaking vulnerable adults or families that care for a vulnerable adult, DAAS would like to invite you to participate in a focus group. The focus groups will be via google meets and will be bilingual.

Focus groups will be on the following dates:

**Monday, August 9 from 10:00am to 12:00 pm**

Tuesday, August 10 from 3:00am to 5:00 pm

Wednesday, August 11 from 2:00pm to 4:00 pm in Spanish for older adults

Click [here to register](#) for the focus group that you would like to attend.

## Utah VA Benefits Training

We are excited to announce VA Benefits Training!! Learn about Asking Veterans the Right Questions, Veteran Conversations, Basic VA Healthcare, Caregiver Support, and easy strategies to help Veterans get connected to VA healthcare and services. This training is targeted to any staff at your agency!

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



## National Rural Health Day - Photo Contest

It's that time of year again! In recognition of National Rural Health Day, the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is opening submissions for our Annual [Rural Health Photo Contest](#). Contestants are welcome to submit up to eight photos beginning September 10th until 5 p.m November 5, 2021.

Please submit up to eight photos in a JPEG format, up to size 5MB per picture to [opcrh@utah.gov](mailto:opcrh@utah.gov).

Please complete and include the [Media Consent](#) Form/Photo Entry with your submission.

If you have any questions, please email [coltongordon@utah.gov](mailto:coltongordon@utah.gov) or [opcrh@utah.gov](mailto:opcrh@utah.gov). We look forward to your submissions!

# OPCRH Program Updates

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- OPCRH is pleased to welcome Jazmin Letamendi, PhD, as our new Workforce Development Team Coordinator! Dr. Letamendi served as a COVID-19 Spanish Contact Tracer/Case Investigator for UDOH since November 2020, and brings diverse experience and a record of achievement to the team. She started on July 26.
- **Rural Transformational Leadership webinar series:** On July 13 and 27, OPCRH -- in partnership with the Center for Rural Health in North Dakota -- hosted two webinars for approximately 20 Utah participants, featuring Benjamin Anderson from the Colorado Hospital Association and Dr. Erin Sullivan from Harvard Medical School. Using an interactive discussion of a Harvard Business School-style case study, the first session explored the individual and structural issues that contribute to physician burnout in a rural setting. The July 27 webinar focused on the importance of a crisis communications strategy as part of a broader emergency preparedness plan. The three-part series concludes on August 10, with a case on Value-Based Care. To register for the Rural Transformational Leadership Series, please follow the link [here](#).
- **Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program (HCWFAP)** awards entire SFY2022 appropriation: In the 2021 General Session, the HCWFAP received a \$300,000 appropriation for the first time in three years. The state funds are matched 1:1 by the federal State Loan Repayment program. The Review Committee recommended 16 applicants for awards valued at \$549,850.

## HEALTH SYSTEM SUPPORT TEAM

- **Rural Veterans Health Access Program (RVHAP)** awards small grants: OPCRH awarded \$250,000 in sub-grants to four rural organizations who are working to provide services to veterans living in rural areas of the state. Projects ranged from directly providing dental care to veterans to supporting increased staffing to provide VA-certified providers and case management services to veterans.

## Webinars & Upcoming Events



## University of Utah Project ECHO

### Current Project ECHO Sessions

2021 Summertime Burn Safety and Prevention tips:

This year they are centered on campfire safety, firework injuries, and grilling safety.

[Burn Safety English Link](#)

[Burn Safety Spanish Link](#)

### [COVID-19](#)

August 23: COVID-19 and Back to School Panel Discussion

For questions reach out to Sarah Day, [sarah.day@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:sarah.day@hsc.utah.edu)

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN BY ZOOM](#)

### Pediatrics:

August 11: Dependence and Treatment, Marcela Smid, MD

August 18: TBD

August 25: Introduction to the Opioid Crisis and Social Determinants of Health, Heidi Petersen If you have pediatric questions please reach out to Jared Price, [jared.price@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:jared.price@hsc.utah.edu)

[CLICK HERE to SUBMIT a CASE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN BY ZOOM](#)

### Pregnancy Care:

August 13: Narrative Medicine, Michelanne Shields, MD

August 27 : Eating Disorders, Gabe Fette, MD

For questions reach out to Linda Sossenheimer at

[linda.sossenheimer@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:linda.sossenheimer@hsc.utah.edu)

[CLICK HERE to SUBMIT a CASE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN BY ZOOM](#)

## Funding Opportunities

[Teaching Health Center Planning and Development Program](#)

## Toolkit Highlight



## Free Telehealth Certification Courses

The Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center is offering multiple telehealth certification courses for free. You can find the resources by following the link [here](#).



## 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.](#)

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

Subscribe to this

