



RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Statewide Updates & News
 - Primary Care Grant Program (R434-40)
 - Utah Health Workforce Act (HB-176)
 - Health Equity Program
- Webinars/Upcoming Events
 - Utah Medical Cannabis Program
 - NCCDP
 - University of Utah Transgender Health
 - Project ECHO
- Funding Opportunities
 - Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program
- Toolkits
 - NRTRC: Free Telehealth Courses
 - RHlhub: MOUD Toolkit
- Announcements/Reports
 - RHlhub
 - HRSA
 - 3RNet

State Primary Care Grant Program Comment Period

The Utah Department of Health, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health is notifying stakeholders that the public comment period for the Primary Care Grant Program draft R434-30 rule closes on February 14, 2022. You can find the proposed changes to the rule and the Regulatory Impact Summary in the [January 15, 2022 edition of the Utah State Bulletin](#).

Utah Health Workforce Act (HB-176) progresses in Legislature:

Rep. Norman Thurston sponsors HB-176, which would formalize and elevate Utah's expertise in health workforce data analysis and reporting and ensure collaboration between state government and the private sector in health workforce planning. Recommendations from the Utah Health Workforce Coalition convened by OPCRH informed the draft legislation. On Jan 28, the bill passed out of the House Social Service Committee with a favorable recommendation, and on received its second reading on January 31.

Health Equity Program

The OCPRH, in collaboration with the Office of Health Disparities, awarded \$934,415 to six community-based organizations and one educational institution to address health equity issues worsened by the COVID pandemic.

Awardees and rural locations where they work:

- Dove Center—St. George/Washington County
- Holy Cross Ministries—Park City/Summit County
- Latino Behavioral Health Services—Washington, Tooele, Carbon, Grand and Emery Counties
- Moab Free Health Clinic —Moab/Grand County
- People's Health Clinic—Park City/Summit County
- PIK2AR (Pacific Island Knowledge to Action Resources)—Tooele County
- Southern Utah University Utah Center for Rural Health—statewide and focus on rural counties

The objectives of the Addressing Health Equity in a Post-COVID Landscape funding opportunity are to build capacity within the community to address and mitigate health inequities highlighted by or exacerbated by COVID-19, promote health

equity, and link communities and individuals to social resources to meet their needs.

Webinars & Upcoming Events

UTAH MEDICAL CANNABIS PROGRAM

More Utah Clinicians Now Eligible to Recommend Medical Cannabis

In 2021 the Utah Legislature passed a law increasing the number of clinicians available to recommend medical cannabis. The Utah Medical Cannabis Act (26-61a) classified a Limited Medical Provider (LMP) as any Utah-licensed MD, DO, APRN, PA or DPM with a controlled substance license. An LMP may recommend medical cannabis to up to 15 patients with qualifying conditions at one time. The LMP recommendation process is now established and ready for providers.

The State of Utah's recommendation form is available [here](#) for you to use. Once completed, the form must be sent securely (encrypted email from your electronic health record or secure fax) to a licensed medical cannabis pharmacy. The clinician may also send the recommendation with the patient for the patient to hand-deliver to one of 14 licensed medical cannabis pharmacies located in Utah. The clinician's office will be contacted by the medical cannabis pharmacy to verify the recommendation.

One-hour educational sessions on how to recommend as an LMP will be held Thursday, February 3rd at 7am, 12pm, and 6pm. [Register today for this virtual session](#). We will also record it for viewing and post at our website by February 10, 2022.

More information about the Utah Medical Cannabis program can be found [here](#).

Please email us, medicalcannabis@utah.gov, or call 801-538-6504 with questions.



National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners

Dear Rural Health Stakeholders,

The National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP) is hosting a webinar on

Depression & Suicide in the Elderly.

Did you know that suicide is more frequent in the elderly than any other population, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention? Join our Chief Operations Officer/Founder Lynn Biot Gordon for this interactive webinar as she discusses this important topic.

Lynn will discuss how to recognize the signs to look out for and practical interventions for the elderly in your care as well as discussing the impact of the

Covid-19 era on depression and suicide in the elderly.

Details are as follows:

Date: February 8, 2022

Time: Eastern Time 12:00pm – 1:30pm

Location: Live-Online (Zoom login provided a few days before the webinar)

Price: \$35.00

CEU's: 1.5 hours approved for NCCDP certification renewals event page.

[Register here](#)



**UNIVERSITY OF
UTAH HEALTH**

University of Utah Health Transgender Health Program

Dear Rural Health Stakeholders,

We invite you to join the University of Utah Health Transgender Health Program for our upcoming conference! See the attached conference flyer.

Mountain West Transforming Care Conference

A conference on gender-affirming care, sexual health, and HIV prevention in primary care

Virtual via the conference platform Whova

March 31 - April 2, 2022

8am – 1pm MDT each day

For a list of topics, speakers, and instructions on how to register, visit this [link](#).

To download the flier for distribution, please click [here](#).



University of Utah Project ECHO

Dear Rural Health Stakeholders,

University of Utah Health, Project ECHO Program has released new sessions for Pediatric care and their scheduled sessions for February. You can find the each individual session and additional information on University of Utah's Project ECHO program [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

[Click here for more information on:](#)
Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program

Toolkit Highlight



Booster Messaging Toolkit: We Can Do This

Health and Human Services (HHS) is expanding its vaccine toolkit for community messaging to include new materials available to educate your community about who is eligible for a booster (all adults!) and when they are eligible.

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



Rural Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Toolkit

This toolkit compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support organizations implementation of rural MOUD programs across the United States.

The modules in the toolkit contain resources and information focused on how to develop, implement, evaluate, and sustain a rural MOUD program.

The target audiences for this toolkit are rural organizations including: healthcare providers, such as hospitals and clinics; non-profit organizations; faith-based organizations; businesses; and community-based organizations.

There are more resources on general community health strategies available in the [Rural Community Health Toolkit](#).

[To access this toolkit please click here.](#)



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](#).

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

Subscribe to this
Newsletter