**Steal Sheet - December 2014**

NOSORH offers Steal Sheet articles for SORHs to distribute in emails, in your (or your partners’) newsletter, on web sites, Facebook pages, etc. The November Steal Sheet includes:

* AHRQ Using Health IT to Measure Practice Transformation Webinar
* AHRQ TeamSTEPPS in Primary Care Webinar
* RAC Resources
* Some CAHs Must Reclassify as Rural

**Using Health IT to Measure Practice Transformation**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is hosting a webinar Wednesday, November 19th from 3:00-4:30pm ET, on models that have been used by Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs) to measure practice transformation. The expert panel will discuss models including: the TRANSLATE Model; the Solberg-Mold Practice Change/Quality Improvement Model; the Improving Primary Care through Health Information Technology; and the Vermont Integration Project.

To register, select: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/679691944>.

**Register now to learn about participating in TeamSTEPPS in Primary Care**

AHRQ is hosting a webinar on November 12 from 1 to 2 p.m. ET on its TeamSTEPPS in Primary Care project. Chris Hund, associate director at the Health Research and Education Trust in Chicago and project director for AHRQ's TeamSTEPPS implementation contract, will facilitate a discussion about how office-based clinicans can participate in the newly launched TeamSTEPPS National Implementation of Primary Care project.

In addition, Joseph Montella, M.D., an obstetrician/gynecologist with Jefferson University Physician Group, will share his experience in implementing TeamSTEPPS in an outpatient setting. The speakers will:

* Provide an overview of the newly launched TeamSTEPPS National Implementation of Primary Care.
* Discuss lessons learned in implementing TeamSTEPPS in an outpatient/office setting.
* Discuss possible future directions for TeamSTEPPS in Primary Care.

There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. Register for the webinar [here](https://www.onlineregistrationcenter.com/register.asp?m=347&c=140&usc=november).

Rural Assistance Center Update

A new RAC topic guide, [Conducting Rural Health Research, Needs Assessment, and Program Evaluation](http://www.raconline.org/topics/rural-health-research-assessment-evaluation), is now available to SORHs as a resource to help organizations in their state learn about:

* The importance of community-based participatory research to rural communities
* Why a needs assessment should be conducted before you select a program intervention
* Tools for conducting Community Health Needs Assessments
* How hospitals and public health agencies can work together on CHNAs
* Tips for efficient and practical program evaluations
* And much more

The guide was developed by Maren Niemeier, RAC’s Information Resources Manager, with guidance from rural health experts including: Alana Knudson (NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis); Gerald Doeksen, Cheryl St. Clair, and Fred Eilrich (National Center for Rural Health Works); Paula Carter (National Resource Center on Native American Aging and University of North Dakota Center for Rural Health); Ralph Renger, Ken Hall, and Karin Becker (University of North Dakota Center for Rural Health).

**New in the Rural Health Models and Innovations Hub**

**Successful rural programs added recently include:**

* [HeartBeat Connections](http://www.raconline.org/success/project-examples/773), a telephone coaching program which complements and integrates with primary care to reduce heart disease.
* [LIFE - Living (well through) Intergenerational Fitness and Exercise](http://www.raconline.org/success/project-examples/774), an intergenerational “exergaming” program to encourage fun and safe physical fitness among rural older adults
* [Medical AIDS Outreach](http://www.raconline.org/success/project-examples/775), a telemedicine program that improves access and offers cost-effective care to rural patients with HIV

**Suggest Hub Additions for Your State**Please take a look at what RAC has listed [in the Rural Health Models and Innovations Hub for your state](http://www.raconline.org/success/project-examples/states). Do you have other examples from you'd like to share? You can [suggest an addition](http://www.raconline.org/success/project-examples/suggestion) to the Hub!

**Some CAHs Must Reclassify as Rural**

CMS just released a list of Critical Access Hospitals that are no longer located in rural areas. Here is a [link](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/Downloads/FY2015-CAH-Rural-to-Urban.pdf) to that list.

If a CAH is located in one of these counties, it must reclassify as rural using the regulations at 42 CFR §412.103 by **September 30, 2016** in order to be considered rural after September 30, 2016.

**HRSA Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant**

The purpose of the Network Planning program is to assist in the development of an integrated healthcare network, if the network participants do not have a history of formal collaborative efforts. Health care networks can be an effective strategy to help smaller rural health care providers and health care service organizations align resources and strategies, achieve economies of scale and efficiency, and address challenges more effectively as a group than as single providers. The Network Planning program promotes the planning and development of healthcare networks in order to: (i) achieve efficiencies; (ii) expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of essential health care services; and (iii) strengthen the rural health care system as a whole. The health care system is undergoing a significant amount of change and this can be particularly challenging for small rural providers. The goals of the Network Planning program represent ways to help rural providers better serve their communities given changes taking place in health care, as providers move from focusing on the volume of services to focusing on the value of services. This program brings together key parts of a rural health care delivery system, particularly those entities that may not have collaborated in the past under a formal relationship, to work together to establish and improve local capacity and coordination of care. Furthermore, this program supports one year of planning with the primary goal of helping networks create a foundation for their infrastructure and focusing member efforts to address important regional or local community health needs.

Application Deadline: January 9, 2015

[Link to full announcement](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=269291)