National Rural Health Association: An Introduction

State Offices of Rural Health Orientation Meeting
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NRHA Mission

The National Rural Health Association is a national membership organization with more than 21,000 members whose mission is to provide leadership on rural issues through advocacy, communications, education and research.
Improving the health of the 62 million who call rural America home.

NRHA is non-profit and non-partisan.
To resolve the health care crisis in rural America, the rural health care safety net must be prevented from crumbling. Four reforms are crucial:

- The workforce shortage crisis must be abated;
- Equity in reimbursement must occur;
- Decaying rural health care infrastructure must be repaired and non-existent infrastructure must be created; and
- Health disparities among vulnerable populations must be corrected.
The NRHA Offers...

Educational Opportunities

- 28th Rural Health Policy Institute: February 7-9, 2017, Washington, DC
- 22nd Health Equity Conference: May 9, 2017, San Diego, CA
- Rural Medical Education: May 9, 2017, San Diego, CA
- 40th Annual Conference: May 9-12, 2017, San Diego, CA
- Rural Hospital Innovation Summit: May 9-12, 2017, San Diego, CA
- SRHA Leadership Conference: July 13-14, 2017, Nashville, TN
The NRHA Offers...

Communications and Information Access:

- Weekly E-News
- Quarterly publication: *Rural Roads*
- Journal of Rural Health
- Other publications
- Policy experts
- Organization linkages
- NRHAConnect
- Rural Health Blog

Website: [www.RuralHealthWeb.org](http://www.RuralHealthWeb.org)
The NRHA Offers...

Advocacy and Policy Development
- Legislative development, strategy & tracking
- Action Alerts
- Information Alerts
- Congressional testimony
- Appropriations tracking
- Comments on regulations
- Policy briefs and papers
The NRHA Offers...

Leadership Opportunities:
- Rural Health Fellows Program
- Constituency Groups, Issue Groups
- Develop papers for review by Rural Health Congress
- Provide issue expertise to NRHA staff
The NRHA Offers...

Networking Opportunities

- Sharing of information, best practices, experiences
- Innovative ideas
- Research
- Build contacts among peers
Organizational Structure

- Board of Trustees
- Rural Health Congress
- Government Affairs Committee
- Constituency Groups
Rural Health Congress &
Government Affairs Committee

Rural Health Congress
The Rural Health Congress is the policy-making body of the National Rural Health Association. Includes representatives from the constituency groups, State Association Council, State Office Council, and the Association’s officers. The Rural Health Congress determines the association's positions on public policy.

Government Affairs Committee
The NRHA's Government Affairs Committee works with the NRHA's Government Affairs staff to develop the association's legislative agenda. The committee develops and implements strategies to ensure that the association's public policies and government affairs activities are fully addressed and communicated.
Constituency Groups and Councils

- **Clinical Services**: Members interested in clinical issues, including proprietary and non-proprietary practices.

- **Federally Qualified Health Centers**: Members affiliated with a primary care practice operated and governed by a community board of directors, such as a community health center.

- **Frontier**: Diverse membership (clinicians, researchers, statewide organizations) united because they work or live in sparsely populated areas.

- **Hospitals & Health Systems**: rural hospitals or hospitals with significant interest in rural areas.

- **Research and Education**: practitioners and scientists located at academic medical centers as well as persons involved in health professions education in rural communities.
Constituency Groups and Councils

- **Rural Health Clinics**: Members of both freestanding and provider based clinics.

- **Statewide Health Resources**: Members interested in building or strengthening statewide rural health care systems.

- **Public Health**: Members interested in rural public health issues.

- **Healthy Equity Council**: Members with an interest in eliminating health disparities and improving access to quality health care for rural multiracial, multicultural, underserved LGBTQ, veterans and homeless populations.

- **State Office Council**: Members from State Offices of Rural Health.

- **State Association Council**: Members representing State Rural Health Associations.

- **Student**: Members who are full-time students.
State Rural Health Associations

- 40 State Rural Health Associations
- Advocacy
- Annual SRHA Leadership Conference
- Technical Assistance Grants
Rural Health Fellows Program

- The Rural Health Fellows Program (RHF) is a year long, intensive program that will develop leaders who can articulate a clear and compelling vision for rural America.

- Fellows will gain valuable insights and build critical skills in three primary domains:
  1) Personal, Team, and Strategic leadership;
  2) Health policy analysis and advocacy;
  3) National Rural Health Association governance and structure.
National Rural Health Policy and Community Development Cooperative Agreement

- Highlight best practices
- Support for students, rural medical educators, SRHAs, multiracial and multicultural health issues
- Quality and clinical initiatives
- Rural hospital issues and rural primary care
- Rural philanthropy collaboration
- Veterans rural health
- Subcontracts with rural health organizations
NRHA Border Health Initiative

Began in 2008 to:

• Highlight best practices, policy, education and research

• Annual meetings (11 since inception)

• Official Border Health Policy brief developed

• Quarterly expert calls

• Collaboration with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, US-Mexico Border Health Commission, State Offices of Border Health and Community Health Worker networks
Rural Community Health Worker Training Network

- CHW trainings on the Border
- CHW trainings in Appalachia-Verizon
- Utilization of technology to improve health outcomes
- Networking
- Over 350 trained
Rural Training Track Technical Assistance Demonstration Program

• Cooperative agreement to support rural training track residency programs as a national strategy in training physicians for rural practice.

➢ Improve fill rates of RTT programs.

➢ Increase the sustainability of existing RTT programs.

➢ Help new RTT sites get started.

➢ Analyze program characteristics
  [www.raconline.org/rtt/](http://www.raconline.org/rtt/)
  [www.traindocsrural.org](http://www.traindocsrural.org)
Rural Oral Health Initiative

Purpose: *provide leadership on rural oral health care with the intent to establish oral health care as part of primary care, thereby increasing health care access for all rural Americans.*

Year-long initiative in collaboration with the DentaQuest Foundation with a focus on:

- **Policy:** Development of a Special Rural Oral Health Interest Group to provide policy recommendations/analysis that target legislative and regulatory barriers.
- **Communications:** Disseminate rural oral health information and a compendium of best practices via NRHA avenues.
- **Education:** Integrate rural oral health related tracks within NRHA conferences, Rural Community Health Worker Training, and within strategies utilized by State Rural Health Associations.
- **Research:** Advance rural oral health related research and policy.
About Rural Health
Career Center
Networking & Programs
Government Affairs
Conferences & Webinars
Publications & News
Partnership Program

The early bird gets the discount.

Register early to save.

Take a ride with the latest Rural Roads

The latest issue of Rural Roads is now online, featuring: a rural doctor’s take on what a hospital closure really means for a community; teaching mental health crisis skills to rural law enforcement; physicians writing about why they choose rural practice; and more. Share feedback on this magazine and opinions on rural health issues, plus your career-related accomplishments with the editor today.
Our Grassroots Effort

- NRHA does not have a PAC
- Website: ruralhealthweb.org
- Depends solely on grassroots advocacy
- Members have access to:
  - Periodic Washington Updates (webinars): join-grassroots@lists.wisc.edu
  - Rural Health Blog: http://blog.ruralhealthweb.org
- Join NRHA today at ruralhealthweb.org
Questions?

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