



Iowa Rural Health Association

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2006

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Does IRHA Membership Matter?

IRHA President, Jack Cameron

Imagine a rural Iowa high school class reunion; the future 2031:

"Sara, we're so proud of you. You did it, you passed the bar exam first try!"

"Emily that's sweet of you. But as my mother would always remind me if I had been born a few weeks earlier things may have turned out very different."

"That's right you had that, what was it, some kind of metabolic disorder?"

"MCAD. I was Friday's child; Mom took me home from the hospital Saturday. Sunday afternoon she got a call saying that the lab tests showed I needed to be watched and fed because my body couldn't turn fat into the energy to keep my heart pumping."

"So they just began offering this test when you were born?"

"Actually, Mom said the test itself had been around for years. But the blood spot had to be mailed off to the lab in Ankeny and that could delay the testing by a week. So when I got colicky that Sunday night I might have died."

"So what changed?"

"The lab began sending a courier to pickup the blood spots and drive them back to the lab where they had staff to do the testing everyday of the year including Christmas."

Coralville, Iowa; the present 2006:

Did IRHA play a role in making Sara's dream come true?

Yes, Sara and Emily are fictional characters. However the story about MCAD, blood spots, courier service and the newborn screening lab working 365 days a year are true facts. IRHA helped in two critical areas.

First, IRHA helped focus attention on comparing risk in rural and urban birthing hospitals. The data showed a significant difference in the time delay based on location and weekday of birth.

Second, IRHA helped develop the understanding that rural communities lack many of the services taken for granted in urban areas. Services like FedEx and UPS may be absent or available on a limited schedule. So a 'solution' which works in West Des Moines would not necessarily work in Elkader.

So to each and every one of you who renewed your membership and to all of you thinking about becoming a member I say: Yes, IRHA membership matters, thank you very much on behalf the next generation of Iowans.

All the best. All the time.

Jack Cameron

Free Training and Tech Assistance for Rural Providers

Through a grant from SAMHSA there is free training and technical assistance to individuals and organizations serving children including health and mental health facilities, schools, faith-based organizations, etc. To participate, you need to be located in or serve predominantly rural, frontier and/or Tribal peoples. We invite you to help us learn more about how best to support trauma-informed care. In exchange for free training and technical assistance, we ask that you participate in our data collection process.

Project Description

What is it about?

The objective of the project is to assist rural, frontier, and Tribal communities in the treatment of child traumatic stress through technology-augmented resources. This effort offers rural health professionals tools for optimal practice management, evidence-based clinical protocols, effective personnel recruiting, up-to-date reimbursement knowledge, and telehealth innovations.

Health professionals who have better resources and feel better about their work will have better professional quality of life. As a result, clinicians can provide improved care, and practice management will be optimized. Consumers and family members will benefit from improved care.

Physicians, nurses, mental health providers, even teachers and community leaders—anyone who deals with child trauma in rural communities. Consultations also are available to schools, parents, and other community groups to address access and other barriers to child trauma treatment.

ISU-IRH is offering providers in rural, frontier, and Tribal areas with FREE training and consultation regarding:

- * Assessment tools for traumatic stress.
- * Educational resources about trauma, including your own access to Internet databases and video-streaming presentations that may offer free continuing-education credits.
- * Reimbursement programs for mental health services to rural clients.
- * Financial incentive assistance for recruiting and retaining rural mental health providers.
- * Financial assistance for telecommunication technology.

* Resource tools to lessen stigma for seeking and utilizing mental health treatment.

Please note that much of the information about assessment and intervention available on this archive is intended for professionals with clinical training. Utilization of such information should be consistent with your areas of licensed or certified expertise. It is strongly recommended that professionals seek additional supervision when incorporating any new assessment or therapeutic techniques if they do not already have appropriate prerequisite training that would enable them to learn about and incorporate such skills independently.

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For further, more detailed information, go to <http://telida.isu.edu/telida/childtsbeta/index.php>

Funding Available

WASHINGTON, April 13, 2006- Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr today announced the availability of \$20 million in grants to rural communities to strengthen distance learning and telemedicine programs in rural America. "The specialized health care and enhanced educational opportunities brought by modern technologies saves lives and promotes opportunities essential to the advancement of rural areas," said Dorr. "USDA Rural Development's funding for distance learning and telemedicine will help to bring technology into rural America to build strong and vibrant communities." Telemedicine technology makes it possible for doctors to examine and direct the treatment of patients without being physically present. The distance learning program finances equipment to expand educational resources to students and educational institutions in isolated rural areas. Since the beginning of the Bush Administration, over \$177 million has been invested in local distance learning and telemedicine programs, allowing 3,635 rural educational facilities to expand their access to modern telecommunications Applications for the \$20 million in grants must be received by June 12, 2006 and will compete nationally for funding. View <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> for additional information on the distance learning and telemedicine program.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$63 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. As a result, over 1.1 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

Grant Writing Workshop

The Iowa Office of Rural Health will be partnering with the Wellmark Foundation and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque to sponsor a grant writing workshop on June 5. Ron Mirr will be the presenter. Contact Kathy Williams at Kathy.Williams@idph.state.ia.us or Mary Forbes at 563-588-2700.

Mumps

Mumps update - IDPH, local public health departments and CDC are working to address the largest outbreak of mumps in the country in almost 20 years. We are constantly providing current information and fact sheets that can be accessed at www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/mumps.asp.

Cover the Uninsured

Health coverage is a topic that is very important to the Governor, Lt. Governor and those in health and public health. Currently, 9.5 percent of the population in Iowa (277,000 people) do not have health insurance. This year Des Moines was selected as one of nine target markets for the national Cover the Uninsured Week campaign, May 1-7. Iowa's events included a kick-off news conference, interfaith events, health screening and enrollment fairs, a business summit and a campus event. For more information about the campaign and activities that can be done the year around, visit <http://covertheuninsured.org/> and www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids/.

Depression Toolkits

Beyond Depression Toolkits have been developed under a grant from the Wellmark Foundation by Higher Plain, Inc. The tool kits can be downloaded at www.higherplain.org. These peer reviewed Toolkits are based on best practice research and are customized for three groups: Consumers and Families, Community Members, and Medical Providers.

For more information, contact:
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Save the Date

EXPLOSIVE CHILD CONFERENCE

The Explosive Child Conference still has openings. There are still seats available and the registration deadline is nearing. To view the Explosive Child Conference Brochure go to <http://www.iffcmh.org/calendar.htm> if that link does not work go to www.iffcmh.org then go to calendar of events. You can download the full conference brochure including the registration form.

If you or someone you know would like to attend please share this information with them. To view the conference brochure go to www.iffcmh.org then go to calendar of events. The brochure is available in word and pdf file.

E-mail and share this information to other families, educators, providers, and community members including the faith community.

SUMMIT ON HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN IOWA

Hosted by the Iowa Health Information Technology (HIT) Initiative and sponsored by the Iowa Foundation for Medical Care (IFMC) and the Iowa Medical Society (IMS), the 2nd Annual Summit on Health Information Technology in Iowa is scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2006, at the Sheraton West Des Moines. The Summit is to engage, motivate and educate health care professionals from a variety of settings as well as key stakeholders from across Iowa regarding the importance of health information technology and the exchange of clinical information between providers.

The Iowa HIT Initiative is a statewide collaboration of more than 20 organizations founded and led by IFMC and IMS. The Initiative is working to advance an innovative health care environment in Iowa that employs an electronic health record as a tool for improving quality, safety and value.

We are seeking your organization's support through endorsement of the 2nd Annual Summit on Health Information Technology in Iowa. There is no cost associated with endorsement. The names of all endorsing organizations will be recognized during the 2006 Summit. If you decide to endorse the event, our only request is that you share information about the Summit in correspondence (e.g., newsletter publications, Web sites, Email lists, blast faxes) distributed to your membership. IFMC will provide you electronic copies of a "Save the Date" flyer and brochure (forthcoming) for the event. If you would like IFMC to send Summit invitations to your members, we request a current electronic contact list to facilitate the process. To endorse this event, contact Kim Downs, IFMC, kdowns@iaqio.sdps.org, 515-223-2883. The deadline is Monday, June 5.

GREAT PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Tuition assistance available for this valuable institute

How effective is your leadership for the public's health?

Would you like to strengthen your knowledge, skills, and competencies in public health leadership here in the Great Plains region? Are you interested in increasing the value of public health within your organization and/or community? Could you benefit from expanded relationships with other public health leaders in the region? Are you ready to lead your organization and community during uncertain and threatening times?

Interested but trying to figure out the costs?

Partial stipends may be available – be sure to indicate your interest on your application. In addition, the Great Plains PHLI is making a very enticing offer to pairs and teams from the same organization who participate together. When two leaders from the same department, organization, or system apply as a "learning pair," the total fee for both will be \$4000. Preferably the learning pair will include a senior and an emerging leader.

If so, APPLY TODAY to the Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute

The Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute is designed for senior and emerging leaders from Nebraska, South Dakota, and Iowa who play essential roles in organizations whose primary mission is to improve the health and well being of populations and communities. More information and application materials are available below and at www.greatplainsleadership.org. Don't miss your opportunity to join the Institute's second year — application deadline is June 1, 2006

RURAL WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) will sponsor this conference, "Expanding the Agenda for Rural Mental Health Services Research: Focus on the Rural Woman," November 16-18, 2006, Westin Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. The program audience is intended to be higher education faculty, researchers, psychologists, physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors, educators, consumers, policy makers, government officials, policy makers, government officials, and others focused on enhancing the health status of rural women.

For more information go to www.hmc.psu.edu/ce/RWH2006 or call the Penn State College of Medicine Continuing Education Office at 717-531-6483.

NRHA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Rural Health Policy Institute
Annual Conference

February 24-28, 2007

May 7-9, 2007

Check www.NRHArural.org for more information on these events.
