

Montana Rural Health Association

Montana HealthCare Forum Annual Conference



Montana Rural Health
Summer 2010

The Montana HealthCare Forum held its 4th annual conference June 9th and 10th at the Gateway Center in Helena, Montana.

The theme for the meeting was, "Health Care Reform... Montana Style." Throughout the conference participants gained insight on the federal health care reform bill, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

The Montana HealthCare Forum is a diverse assembly of more than 400 Montanans and 50 organizations committed to developing innovative changes to the health care system in Montana through the engagement of healthcare stakeholders.

Beginning the morning of the 9th, various workgroups met and discussed strategies to improve Montana's health, increase affordable coverage, control health care cost, ensure quality of care and build Montana's health provider work force. Workgroup meetings were open to the public and were established to help increase the value Montanans receive for the money they put into health care.

Following these workgroups, Liz Fowler, Chief Health and Senior Counsel to Chairman Max Baucus of the Senate Finance Committee

presented a federal perspective on health care reform. Ms. Fowler gave detailed overviews of coverage expansion, proposed financing of the bill and specific impacts on Montana.



Ms. Fowler's presentations can be viewed at:
www.montanahealthcareforum.com/conference/2010-conference-handouts/

After each section, a panel of local experts convened to provide personal expertise and experience on specific topics echoing those Ms. Fowler covered. Panel topics included rural impacts, the new high-risk pool, affects on Montana businesses, financing reform, delivery and quality of care, changes in insurance, impacts to consumers

and the Montana legislative perspective. A question and answer session followed each panel.

Overall, the conference was praised by many for the clear and concise presentation of how the new health care reform bill will impact Montana.

If you missed the conference or want to encourage others to watch the conference, the Forum Conference will air on over 50 cable channels across the state via the Legislative Services TVMT cable network. The first broadcast of the Forum in its entirety was on Saturday, June 19th beginning at 9:00 am. To find your local station, visit <http://leg.mt.gov/css/Services%20Division/tvmt.asp>

If you have any further questions or wish to get involved please contact the Montana HealthCare Forum:
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Or view the website at www.montanahealthcareforum.com

A New Regional AHEC Office Near You!

Introducing the North Central Area Health Education Center

A new regional Area Health Education Center (AHEC) office for the North Central region opened January 2010 in Cut Bank, with Cherie Taylor hired as its Director. Previously, Cherie was the Chief Executive Officer of Northern Rockies Medical Center in Cut Bank and had been involved in healthcare for 10 years as a Patient Accounts Services Director, Chief Financial Officer and finally a Chief Executive Officer. Cherie enjoys providing valuable resources to the healthcare field.

The new regional office has been busy since the beginning of the year forming its advisory council, informing organizations and individuals of the resources available through the AHEC and developing a work plan for the year. Recently, the Director started assisting the South Central AHEC office with recruitment and the Western AHEC office with bringing *Hands on Health* to North Central communities. The office has had the privilege of working with five healthcare facilities on detailed community assessments completed by the Office of Rural Health to put together a regional snapshot of healthcare needs.

For the next 6 months, the focus of the North Central AHEC will be on recruitment, working with all groups/organizations (Critical Access Hospitals, Indian Health Services, Tribal, Prospective Payment Systems (PPS), K-12 Schools, and Post-Secondary Schools) to address healthcare workforce issues, increasing HOSA Chapters in the region, and rolling out as many pipeline programs like R.E.A.C.H and *Hands On Health* as possible.

For more information, please contact Cherie Taylor, Director of the North Central MT AHEC: cherie@mtha.org

Or visit their website at: mtahec.org



What is HOSA?

HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) is a national student organization whose mission is to **promote career opportunities in healthcare and to enhance the delivery of quality healthcare to all people.**

HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition exclusively for high school and post secondary students. Since its inception in 1976, HOSA has grown steadily reaching nearly 100,000 members through 47 chartered HOSA State Associations.

Currently in Montana we have high school level HOSA Chapters located in the following schools/communities:

- Augusta
- Billings
- Capital High Helena
- CMR Great Falls
- Great Falls High
- Helena High
- Kalispell
- Missoula

As of November 2009, Bergen Morehouse, Program Coordinator for the



South Central MT AHEC, took over the role of State HOSA Advisor. This transition came as a result of the strong AHEC partnership with the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and specifically with Renee Harris, Health Science Education Specialist at OPI.

Ms. Morehouse's primary duties for South Central AHEC include work on "pipeline programs" for K-12 students to generate an interest in healthcare careers. These responsibilities tie nicely into the mission of HOSA and the two positions fold well into each other.

For more information about HOSA, please contact Bergen Morehouse, State HOSA Advisor, 406.683.2790, bergen@mtha.org

Or visit the state website at

www.montanahosa.org



NRHA Conference Calendar

July 21-23

Quality and Clinical Conference
Portland, ME

September 28-29

Rural Health Clinic Conference
Kansas City, MO

September 29– October 1

Critical Access Hospital Conference
Kansas City, MO

December 1-3

Rural Multiracial and Multicultural Health
Conference
Tucson, AZ

January 24-26

Rural Health Policy Institute
Washington, DC



Improving the Health of 62 Million Rural Americans
www.RuralHealthWeb.org



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Change Services Requested

