FY 15 AHEC Grant

- Funding to support new Northeast Montana AHEC, with Montana Health Network in Miles City
- Continued support for regional programs, focusing on pipeline programs, continuing education, recruitment and retention, underserved/rural placements, interprofessional education and improving health

FY 15 Office of Rural Health Grant

- Continuation funding for our MT Office of Rural Health Activities which include community assessments, technical assistance on grants and funding opportunities, support for 3RNet recruitment, dissemination of information, research, and linkages with the Office of Rural Health Policy and other HRSA agencies

Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center Contract

- Contract with University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus to serve on their performing sites committee, representing the AHECs in the region (CO, UT, ND, SD, WY), to support training for new and incumbent public health professionals, including an emphasis on training for American Indians. In addition to supporting training opportunities, up to 4 stipends will be available for graduate public health students in Montana each year.

Community Health Services Development (CHSD) (Amanda Judisch, Natalie Claiborne, Angela Bangs)

- Applications for FY2015 CHSD Flex Funding to conduct a health needs assessment for critical access hospitals are due on October 8th. If we receive a high volume of interest, secondary applications will be due October 24th.
- Outcomes: During the summer (May-September) MORH staff were busy with assessments, including: 12 steering committee meetings, 4 community surveys, 4 focus groups, 6 key informant interviews, and 7 implementation planning sessions.
  - Current communities include: Polson, Roundup, Libby, Philipsburg, Big Timber, and Culbertson.

Susan G. Komen Community Profile Assessment (Amanda Judisch)

- The Community Profile’s purpose is to identify the burden of breast cancer and identify community assets and resources to help plan for improved breast health in underserved communities.
- Surveys will be distributed and focus groups will be held in 6 American Indian Reservations during October (Breast Cancer Awareness Month).
- Communities include:
  - Lame Deer (Northern Cheyenne Reservation)
  - Crow Agency (Crow Indian Reservation)
  - Wolf Point/Poplar (Fort Peck Indian Reservation)
  - Rocky Boy (Rock Boy Indian Reservation)
  - Browning (Blackfeet Indian Reservation)
  - Ronan/Pablo (Flathead Indian Reservation)
Communications (Jordan Brown)

- Revised and printed 20,000 total brochures on Health Career and Oral Health Career training programs to distribute to schools, colleges, workforce centers and healthcare organizations.
- Developing a new and improved website that is taking shape and will be published in a few weeks.

Improving Oral Health in Montana; Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce (Sarah Devitt)

- Goal: Provide teacher training to health science teachers in Montana to increase knowledge of health careers.
- Fall 2014 outcomes thus far:
  - Sarah has presented to 337 high school students through Montana.
  - Dr. Tiede, from Missoula Pediatric Dentistry joined Sarah for a day of presentations at Big Sky High School.
  - Of the 337 post-test surveys given to students after Sarah’s presentation, all have reported having improved knowledge of career paths in the dental field.
- Upcoming goals for October and November:
  - Reach students in frontier rural Montana high schools, such as Augusta, St. Ignatius, Cut Bank and Ft. Benton.
  - Attend high school career fairs to promote and educate career pathways for dental occupations.

Small Hospital Improvement Grant Program (SHIP) (Cindra Stahl)

- The Montana Office of Rural Health, along with the Office of Rural Health Policy (HRSA) has worked to streamline the process for application and dispersal of funds through online submission of form, as well as “checkbox” application process.
- The use of funds is very prescriptive (for the past two years), but is intended to move critical access hospitals to HCAHPS implementation and reporting, efficiency training, ICD-10 training and implementation, and improved care transitions.

Outcome: Increased funding for FY14 (from $9000 to $9360 per 48 Montana hospitals)

Rural Health Information Technology Grant (Cindra Stahl)

- We have recruited participants (incumbent workers) from some of the smallest and most frontier facilities in the state. We now move to increase recruitment efforts with veterans and dislocated workers.
- We have opportunities within the Montana HealthCARE grant to develop apprenticeship programs and formalized on-the-job training for non-clinical healthcare workforce.

Outcome: Montana healthcare providers will be better staffed to meet the requirements of electronic healthcare records and IT processes.