

Montana Rural Health Association

Montana APIN Hosts National Team to Review Future Grant Plans



Montana Rural Health
Winter 2015



Nursing stakeholders from across the state gathered in Bozeman on October 29 to discuss the future of the

Montana Academic Progression in Nursing (APIN) II grant with the visiting National APIN Team.

Montana is one of nine states to receive renewed funding through Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to work on the Institute of Medicine's recommendation to increase the number of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80% by 2020.

The visiting National APIN team was comprised of Tina Gerardi (APIN Deputy Director), Pam Thompson (CEO of the American Organization of Nurse Executives) and Bryan Hoffman (APIN Program Manager) from Washington, D.C. They were accompanied by Cathy Rick, Chair of the APIN National Advisory Committee, who recently retired as CNO of the Department of Veterans Affairs and currently serves as the Senior Advisory for Nursing Leadership at the Jonas Foundation.

Objectives for Montana's APIN II include: creating a model of nursing education that enables academic progression from LPN to ASN to BSN to masters and

doctoral levels; expand current mentoring programs; increase the number of Native Americans that are in nursing education programs and nursing leadership positions; develop a comprehensive sustainability plan for academic progression in nursing strategies throughout the state; increase employer support of and engagement in academic progression nursing initiatives; and expand the depth and breadth of the MT CAHN Preceptor Continuing Education and Recognition Program.

After a full day of rich conversation, especially in regards to building upon diversity initiatives in nursing, the team summarized their visit by stating that Montana is one of the leaders in the nation in regards to academic progression in nursing, and the relationships built through APIN I will support the success of APIN II. To stay up-to-date on APIN efforts, please visit <http://mtcahn.org>.



Veterans Choice Act

Attention Rural Providers: On November 5, 2014, the Veterans Choice Act began, which enables veterans to see a local, non-VA provider, if they reside further than 40 miles from a VA site of care or face an appointment wait time of longer than 30 days. Veterans who live at least 40 miles from a VA facility **have already been mailed a Veterans Choice Program card and may come to you for their care.** However, before providers can be reimbursed for providing care to eligible veterans, they must sign a participation agreement. More information is forthcoming, but in the meantime, if you have questions, please visit the Veterans Choice web site at: www.va.gov/opa/choiceact or call 866-606-8198.



NRHA Announcements 2015 Rural Health Fellows

NRHA is a nonprofit organization working to improve the health and wellbeing of rural Americans and providing leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education and research. NRHA's membership is made up of more than 21,000 diverse individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health.

The National Rural Health Association is pleased to announce the final selections for the 2015 Rural Health Fellows program.

"The goal of the Fellows program is to educate, develop and inspire a networked community of rural health leaders who will step forward to serve in key positions in the National Rural Health Association, affiliated rural health advocacy groups and local and state legislative bodies."

After the completion of a competitive review process, 16 fellows were selected to participate in this yearlong, intensive program aimed at developing leaders who can articulate a clear and compelling vision for rural America.

"We are very pleased to announce this new class of fellows as this program enters its ninth year. Once again, this class represents various levels of rural health expertise," NRHA CEO Alan Morgan said. "With the successes achieved by the previous classes, we look forward to continuing the tradition of building rural health care leaders through this valuable program."

The new NRHA Rural Health Fellows are:

Brandon Baumbach, Rural Assistance Center rural health policy specialist, Grand Forks, N.D.
Roxana Cruz, MD, Hunt Regional Medical Partners primary care medical director, Greenville, Texas
Sue Deitz, Critical Access Hospital Network executive director, Newport, Wash.
Christine Eisenhauer, PhD, University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing assistant professor, Norfolk, Neb.
Erin Gregg, West Texas Area Health Education Center program coordinator, San Angelo, Texas
Robert Hines, PhD, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita assistant professor, Wichita, Kan.
Carla McKelvey, MD, North Bend Medical Center general pediatrician, Coos Bay, Ore.
Julie Middleton, University of Washington School of Medicine student, Seattle, Wash.
Robert Monical, McPherson Hospital CEO, McPherson, Kan.
Gary Nelson, PhD, Healthcare Georgia Foundation CEO, Atlanta, Ga.
James Parrish, Humboldt General Hospital CEO, Winnemucca, Nev.
Maria Sallie Poepsel, PhD, Scotland County Hospital chief anesthetist, Memphis, Mo.
Justin Stokes, U.S. Rep. Richard Hanna chief of staff, Washington, D.C.
Ann Turner, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Center for Rural Emergency Services & Trauma (CREST) program manager, Lebanon, N.H.
Margaret Woeppel, Bryan Health regional services consultant and critical access hospital coordinator, Lincoln, Neb.
Mary Zelazny, Finger Lakes Community Health CEO, Penn Yan, N.Y.

Their first meeting will be during NRHA's Rural Health Policy Institute Feb. 3-5 in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations to Julie Middleton, a WWAMI student from Montana!

Montana HealthCare Forum



The 2014 Montana HealthCare Forum was held December 8th in Helena. The Montana HealthCare Forum is the largest and most diverse network of stakeholders and the public who are interested in health care policy and reform in Montana. Started in 2007, the Forum includes representatives from consumers, advocacy groups, health care organizations, legislators, public health, business, education, providers, hospitals and medical centers, insurers, and government entities.

The conference held a variety of discussion panels and presentations. Some of the topics presented consisted of: Care Coordination Models and Patient-Centered Medical Homes (PCMH); Medicaid Expansion, Coverage and Reform; Bending the Healthcare Cost Trend: *Practices that disrupt traditional healthcare for better and worse*; Montana Healthcare Workforce Shortages and Solutions; and Innovations and Challenges in Veterans' Health and Native American Health. For more information about the discussion panels and presentations, please visit: <http://www.montanahealthcareforum.org/>.

Seeking Nominations for the Dr. Frank Newman Rural Health Award

The Montana Office of Rural Health/AHEC and Montana Rural Health Association are seeking nominations for the Dr. Frank Newman Rural Health Award. Dr. Newman represented the spirit of Montana in nearly 50 years of service to rural communities and healthcare in our state.

Dr. Newman was instrumental in founding the Montana WWAMI Medical School Program, the Montana Office of Rural Health, the Montana AHEC, the Montana Family Medicine Residency Program, and many other programs. He served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps, and was the founder of the Wind Drinkers running club. Dr. Newman counseled hundreds of young people interested in a career in medicine and other health professions. He was actively teaching in the WWAMI Targeted Rural Underserved Track at Montana State University, and working at the Montana Office of Rural Health/AHEC until his death at age 80 on Veteran's Day, 2011.

Nominations for the Award should reflect Dr. Newman's commitment to rural Montana, his support for health professions, his belief in the young people of our state, and his optimistic view of the future. Dr. Newman traveled to every corner of Montana, worked with rural hospitals and healthcare providers, and believed that communities had the capacity to support high quality healthcare. He helped many people

persevere in their goals and hopes, and inspired many young people to pursue their dreams.

This year we are expanding the award categories.

Three awards will be given:

Frank Newman Rural Health Leadership Award
 Frank Newman Rural Clinician Leadership
 Frank Newman Rural Health Emerging Leadership
 (High school, college or early career)

If you have questions you can email kjuliar@montana.edu or call 406-994-6003.

The awards will be announced at the Northwest Regional Rural Health Conference in Spokane, WA on March 18, 2015, as well as at the June 12, 2015 meeting of the Montana Rural Health Advisory Committee in Bozeman.

Please provide:

The name and community of the nominee
 A short essay, approximately ½ to 1 page, describing how the nominee exemplifies the spirit of Dr. Frank Newman.

The award category

The names, contact information, and affiliations of the nominator(s)

Submit to Jordan Brown — jordan.brown1@montana.edu, by March 3, 2015.



Montana Rural Health Association
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Montana Rural Health **Bozeman, MT 59717-0520**

Change Services Requested



NRHA Conference Calendar



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

February 3-5, 2015

26th Rural Health Policy Institute
Washington, DC

April 14, 2015

Rural Medical Education Conference
Philadelphia, PA

April 14, 2015

20th Rural Multiracial and Multicultural
Health Conference
Philadelphia, PA

April 14-17 2015

38th Annual Rural Health Conference
Philadelphia, PA

