

Rural Health Association of Utah



Health Association of Utah
Annual Conference Webinar
**Engaging Partnerships for Rural
Well-Being**
Friday, April 10

Don't miss the chance to advance the well-being of rural Utah!

Panels and Panelists

[Click Here to Register](#) **Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)**
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Exploring the successes, opportunities and lessons learned from engaging community leaders to collaboratively address Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).

 Ashley Yaeger Moderator USU Faculty	 Kasey Shakespear Utah Rural Opioid Healthcare Consortium	 Suzanne Prevedel USU Extension Assistant Professor	 Maren Voss USU Extension Faculty Health and Wellness
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[Click Here to Register](#) **Diabetes Prevention**
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

How can rural communities help all populations prevent diabetes?

 Sarah Woolsey, MD Moderator National Director with Health for Utah	 Shauna Nordgren LPN, National DPP Coach	 Rachel Kramer Senior Manager, Community Engagement at Solera Health	 Shelly Sanderson NP, Medical Director Enterprise Valley Medical Clinic	 Mallory Spendlov Project Coordinator Utah Public Health Department
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Co-sponsored by:

2020

Annual Report

Our Mission

"The mission of the Rural Health Association of Utah is to provide a unified voice to promote and enhance the quality of rural health through leadership, advocacy, coalition building, education, and to affect policy and legislation."

Every rural community in Utah has a unique culture. All communities need healthcare providers. Many hospitals and providers have exited rural communities throughout the nation. Local and state leaders provide direction and resilience needed to keep all of our hospitals and clinics viable and operating. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in additional pressures for these local hospitals to protect the community and continue to provide essential services. Success in advocating for these communities with CARES Act funding has been helpful. Continued support, including employment, education, community involvement and collaboration will be necessary to successfully continue to provide services to rural Utah.

Director Locke Ettinger visited many of these rural communities throughout 2019 and early 2020. All of them were welcoming and unique in their culture, with strengths and challenges operating their remote locations. The importance of healthcare services and community collaboration to improve the health of the local residents was evident, especially for vulnerable families and individuals. Also evident was the need to have available urgent and emergent healthcare services to assist the millions of tourists that visit these communities.



Membership

Membership is offered for individual professionals, students and institutions. Members receive these valuable benefits:

- Connecting rural providers, students and organizations that practice and provide healthcare services to rural communities in Utah
- Connecting graduate professionals with job opportunities in rural hospitals and clinics through 3RNET
- Providing educational opportunities, including CEUs and CMEs during the annual conference
- Advocacy at both the state and federal level
- Direct access to the Area Health Education Centers throughout Utah
- Humanitarian and cultural service opportunities for pre-professional students and practicing providers
- Current directory of rural providers
- Funding to local rural communities and providers through grants
- Technical assistance for rural communities engaged in strategic planning, community planning and coalition building
- Accurate reporting for HPSA designation

Individual members may be professionals or students.

Professionals can join directly through the website or by attending the RHAU annual conference which includes the membership fee with registration. Students can join at a discounted rate in the same way as professionals. Our membership includes students from universities statewide.

Currently we have 484 professional members and nearly 1000 student members.

Individual Members



Institutional Members and Sponsors

Institutions can join directly through the website or by sponsoring the RHAU annual conference. Current institutions that are members of RHAU

Get Healthy Utah
Intermountain Healthcare
Huntsman Cancer Institute
Comagine
USU Extension HEART
Utah Hospital Association
Rural 9 Network
Utah Department of Health - Office of Primary Care and Rural Health
University of Utah - RUUTE
Gunnison Valley Hospital
Southern Utah University
Rocky Vista University



The bylaws, which are located on the [RHAU website](#), were recently updated and approved by the board.

RHAU Annual Conference 2020

"Building Partnerships for Rural Well-Being"

"The presentations from peoples' homes were much more conversational and personal, the speakers provided real examples of successful programs. Speaking from around the state made it feel more like a real statewide coalition or seminar, relationship-building in a new way!"

— Dr. Michael K. Magill, MD the Director for Area Health Education Network at the U of U

This year's annual conference was held on April 10th. Due to the pandemic we pivoted to offer the conference virtually. Nine webinars were offered that included panelists from multiple stakeholders throughout Utah. These expert panelists provided valuable information including networking and connecting resources. A total of 403 individuals attended at least one webinar with a total of 834 views of the live broadcasts, which is more participants than we anticipated or could have hosted at our original live event. We had 30 requests for CME credits from rural physicians and providers. We received a wealth of positive feedback.

The topics of these webinars were: Opioid Use Disorder, Medically Assisted Treatment, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Diabetes Prevention, Outdoor/Park Rx, Equity and Diversity, Oncology and Effective Partnerships. These webinars were recorded and are available to view [click here!](#)

Rural Health Association of Utah
2020 Annual Conference Webinar

Building Partnerships for Rural Well-Being



Brought to you by:



During the pandemic we collaborated with Johns Hopkins University, With Love From Strangers, SUU Thunderworks, local churches, and The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health to provide PPE and hand washing stations for the people of the Navajo Nation and the Paiute Reservation. We built, collected and delivered over 250 Hand Washing Stations. We distributed over 41,000 masks throughout rural Utah.

Humanitarian Service Opportunities



Advocacy for the Health Concerns for Rural Utah

Advocating for policy change occurs through networking and supporting legislation that benefit the residents rural Utah.

- Loan Forgiveness – State Funding
- Medicaid Expansion
- Medical Cannabis
- Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital Cuts
- Rural Healthcare Package
- National Grass Roots Updates
- Rural Physician Workforce Shortage
- CARES Act Funding
- TeleHealth Expansion
- CMS regulation reduction
- 340 B Drug Pricing Program
- Extending rural hospital waivers approved during the pandemic



Opioid Grants



We received two of HRSA's opioid grants totaling \$2 million to assist those struggling with opioids in our rural areas. A consortium was formed consisting of providers that work in these areas and are facing these issues head on with their patients. This consortium meets monthly to discuss what is being done and how we can assist. Our Utah Rural Opioid Health Consortium (UROHC) covers nine counties: Beaver, Carbon, Emery, Grand, Iron, Kane, Garfield, Wayne and Piute. We have helped providers join in on opioid safety training, the University of Utah's Project ECHO behavioral health module, and MAT waiver training.

Grants and Contracts that Benefit Local Communities

VA Rural Community Needs Assessment

We partnered with the Utah Office of Primary Care and Rural Health to coordinate a veteran's healthcare needs assessment. We interviewed military veterans throughout the state to understand their barriers in accessing healthcare. We also connected with community service organizations and hospitals that provide services to veterans. The information will be used to improve the health and wellbeing of our veterans.

Rural Veteran Barriers to Healthcare Access

- Scheduling
- Not sure of what questions to ask
- Travel
- Struggle maintaining medical records
- Lack of mental health access
- Billing issues
- Other VA problems*



COVID-19 Messaging in Rural Communities

We are disseminating information to rural communities through local media avenues in order to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Working with rural healthcare providers, school districts, local business leaders, elected public officials, and community leaders, we are providing messaging that promotes safe and hygienic public health practices that align with state guidelines. We are supporting Utah's "Lead Together" initiatives by providing handy and helpful information that resonates with rural communities.

Recruitment and Retention

"I needed help getting the word out about our opportunities for Family Practice physicians in Vernal. I found 3RNet to be an easy, cost-free way to post that position. We quickly identified an excellent candidate through the 3RNet job board and hired him. The Utah staff have been an ongoing source of help, information and suggestions in our recruitment efforts."

— Kevin Allan, Physician Recruitment, Ashley Regional Medical Center (retired)

"3RNet works to improve rural and underserved communities' access to quality healthcare through the recruitment and retention of physicians and other healthcare professionals, development of community based recruitment and retention activities, and national advocacy relative to rural and underserved healthcare workforce issues."



Since January 1st, 2020 we have had 143 jobs posted, 4,194 candidates logged in with an interest in Utah, 3,488 Utah jobs viewed, 733 new candidates registered with an interest in Utah. We look forward to helping many more providers come to our rural Utah communities to provide services to those in need here!



Be part of our efforts to make a difference for rural Utah! Contact us today.

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