Rural Health Association



of Utah

ith Association of Utah nnual Conference Webinar ng Partnerships for Rural Well-Being

Friday, April 10

Panels and Panelists

Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Exploring the successes, opportunities and lessons learned from engag dress Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).



Click Here to Register

Diabetes Prevention











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 com-

munities 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.



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 <u>RHAU website</u>, 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 Lifetime Achievement Award Marla Shelby-Drabner, St. George

Community Action Award
Garfield Memorial Hospital, Panguitch

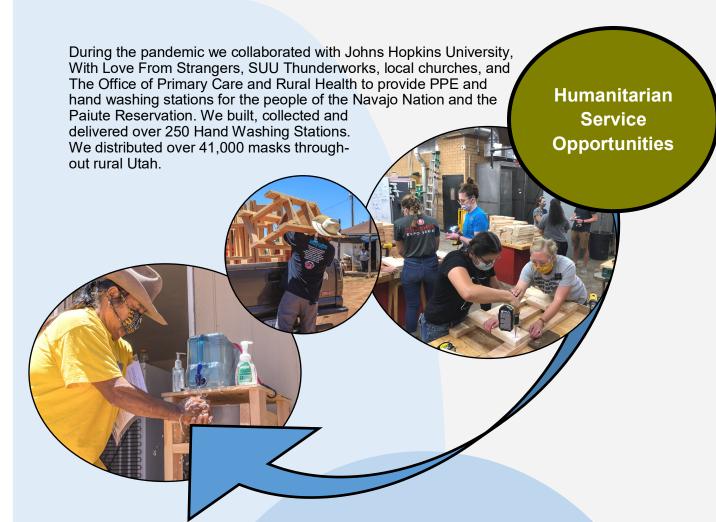
Rural Health Exceptional Leadership Award Brenda Bartholomew, Gunnison

Lifetime Commitment Award—AHEC. Michael K. Magill, M.D., Salt Lake City



RHAU 2020 Recognitions and Awards





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
Medicaid 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 safet

have helped providers join in on opioid safety training, the University of Utah's Project ECHO behavioral health module, and MAT waiver training.



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 com-

munity service organizations and hospitals that provide services to veterans. The information will be used to improve the health and wellbeing of our veterans.

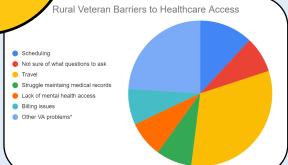
Grants and

Contracts

that

Benefit Local

Communities



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 infor-

mation that resonates with rural communities.

Recruitment and Retention

"3RNet works to improve rural and underserved communities' access to quality healthcare through the recruitment and retention of physicians and other healthcare professionals, development

"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) 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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Email: RHAU@suu.edu

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