

## **Annual Report 2016-2017**

### **From the President...**

It has been an honor to serve as President of NYSARH for these past two years. I have come to know other members of the Board of Directors and feel very confident in their leadership going forward. We have launched a Strategic Planning process to better engage with our members and position the organization to be more responsive to future opportunities.

The new mission statement for the New York State Association for Rural Health is to improve the health and well-being of New York's rural people and their communities.

NYSARH board members participated in national events including the Rural Health Policy Institute in Washington DC in February, the annual Rural Health Conference in May in San Diego and the Rural Quality & Clinical Conference in July, in Nashville. NYSARH members also gathered in Albany in March to advocate on behalf of rural health with members of the NYS legislature. Unfortunately, the NYS Budget included a significant funding reduction for many of the programs operated by NYSARH member agencies.

It has been my pleasure to lead the members of NYSARH who are the *voice of rural New York*.

*Sara Wall Bollinger*

### **NYS Rural Health Conference**

One of the primary activities of NYSARH is to plan, implement and evaluate an annual conference for our members and others who are interested in rural health. The 2016 conference, *Navigating the Waters of Change*, was held in Clayton, on the St. Lawrence River. It featured keynote presentations from Ann Monroe, President of the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York, and Kristine Sande, Associate Director, National Rural Health Information Hub. Also featured were presentations on the Opioid Crisis, Mobility Management, Population Health, Workforce, Partnerships, Suicide Prevention and the special health considerations related to LGBTQ individuals. The 2016 awardees were former Congressman and Secretary of the Army, John McHugh, Gregory Healy, MD and the Scrubs Club, Pathways to New Careers.

### **Membership Engagement**

During the past year the NYSARH board of directors has stepped up our efforts to communicate with members. In spring 2017 we launched a quarterly e-newsletter that contains member updates as well as relevant news from across the country. We have also sent out links to a few surveys so that we may better understand the needs and goals of our members. We hope to increase these initiatives in the months ahead.

## Board of Directors

### September 2016 to September 2017

Sara Wall Bollinger	SWB Consulting Services	President
Richard Merchant	Northern Area Health Education Center	Vice-President
Dawn Bush	Chemung County Health Department	Treasurer [Sept-Jan]
Richard Kazel	Syracuse VA Medical Center	Treasurer [Feb-Sept]
James Kennedy	Finger Lakes Community Health	Secretary
Ann Battaglia	Healthy Community Alliance	
Charlotte Crawford	Lake Plains Community Care Network	
Derrick Chrisler	S2AY Rural Health Network	
Helen Evans	Ardent Solutions	
Jackie Carlton Leaf	Seven Valleys Health Coalition	
Gertrude O'Sullivan	Foundation for Community Health	
Claire Parde	Columbia County Community Healthcare Consortium	
Carrie Roseamelia	Rural Medical Scholars Program, Upstate	
Jack Salo	Rural Health Network of South Central New York	
Robert Wingate	Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center	
Mary Zelazny	Finger Lakes Community Health	
Patti Hammond	Adirondack Health	<i>resigned</i>
Karen Madden	Charles D. Cook Office of Rural Health	<i>ex officio</i>

### Executive Director

Kathy Carpenter

### Strategic Planning

**2016 Financials**

