



SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

NEWS & FEATURES

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NYSARH Conference Goes Virtual!

Connecting to the New
Rural Landscape
September 14 - 17, 2020



NYSARH will use our annual conference time to facilitate knowledge sharing, to debrief, and to start a lasting conversation on topics that matter to you right now.

The themes this year include

- Telehealth
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion as Determinants of Health
- Sustainability of Rural Service Systems
- Rural Resilience and Innovation: Learning from COVID Responses

Put our Rural Health Virtual Conversation on your calendar for September 14 - 17, 2020. The format will be a combination of webinars and asynchronous discussion groups. We will be using the Whova Platform to engage conference participants. Please respond when you receive an invitation to register.

Interested in presenting at our virtual conference? Please submit an [interest form](#) by **August 21st!**

[Registration](#) for this four day event is now open!
The schedule will be posted soon!

We can't wait to see you - even if it is virtually!



NYSARH Members Respond to the Public Health Emergency

Weathering the Storm

by Debbie Briggs, Ellenville Regional Hospital

In mid-March, NYSARH Member [Ellenville Regional Hospital](#) joined forces with the Ulster County Department of Health and Mental Health to offer drive-through COVID-19 testing on our campus. The County erected two sturdy tents in our driveway. The first tent was utilized for registration – patients would drive into the tent and show us their identification and insurance information, all while keeping their windows closed.

[Read more](#)



Hard Times for Rural EMS

By Melissa Brook, Gouverneur Rescue Squad
Mark Deavers, Gouverneur Rescue Squad
Ann Smith, NYSARH Member; North Country EMS Agency / [Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization](#); and Lisbon Rescue Squad

As the fear of COVID-19 began to race across the country, rural emergency medical services (EMS) braced themselves for a different war, and today, it is now a fight to survive. A lack of personal protective equipment (PPE), skyrocketing operational costs, workforce shortages, and plummeting revenue leave the future of rural EMS on life support. For decades, rural EMS has been overlooked by governments and insurance companies through low reimbursement rates, which are often below the cost of doing business.

[Read more](#)



Responding to the Need

By Steve Waterson, The Resource Center (TRC)

The [Resource Center \(TRC\)](#) has been producing reusable personal protective equipment to meet the needs of health care providers and other businesses.

Since April, workers have been sewing gowns and cloth masks at The Resource Center's Jamestown manufacturing facility. Upon learning of the shortages of personal protective equipment being experienced across the country and particularly in New York State, The Resource Center adjusted its sewing operations to be able to produce reusable PPE.

[Read more](#)





Measuring Well-Being in Rural Communities

Emma Nalin, Project Coordinator
Rural Health Network, South Central New York

At a recent meeting of the Advisory Committee for Rural Health Network of SCNY's Social Determinants Measurement Project, we discussed measuring health, well-being, and viability at the community level. What does a rural community need to thrive? What specific indicators can we measure? How useful are existing frameworks in a rural context? These questions feel particularly important as rural communities work to rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic. To get started, here are three examples of measuring community well-being from the fields of economic development, disaster relief, and community nonprofits. [Read more](#)



Study Explores Access to Healthcare

New York State has made considerable headway in reducing the number of uninsured people in the state. According to an analysis by the Health Foundation for Western & Central New York (HFWCNY), counties like Tompkins and Cortland, which had an uninsured rate estimated at 13.2%, now have uninsured rates of 3.5% in Tompkins and 6.3% in Cortland (2019). Even so, in a recent HFWCNY report titled: Reaching the Five Percent: A Profile of Western and Central New Yorkers Without Health Coverage, hundreds of thousands of people are still uninsured despite being eligible. In this report, supported by HFWCNY, NY State Wide Senior Action Council found that reducing gaps in health insurance coverage is only the first step in reducing barriers to good, affordable health care. You can view the report [here](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

NYSARH 2020 - 2021
Webinar Series
October & November 2020
January - June 2021
3rd Thursday of the Month
1pm - 2pm

Schedule, topics, speakers
and webinar details will be
posted in September!

STAY UP-TO-DATE »

Bookmark the [NYSARH Webinars Page](#) today!



The NYSARH Policy Page was
recently updated with a new look!

[Check it out!](#)

Make sure you hover your mouse
over the Policy tab in the navigation
bar to see the new categories!



Thanks to the Policy Page Task
Force for their vision and insight!

Two New Requests for Information from the Health Resources and Services Administration

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is seeking public input and feedback to inform policy consideration related to the establishment of [Maternity Care Health Professional Target Areas](#) and [Scoring Criteria for Health Professional Shortage Areas](#). Both requests for information (RFIs) are due **September 18th**, and responses should be emailed to RFIComments@HRSA.gov and reference either “Maternity Care Health Professional Target Area RFI” or “Health Professional Shortage Area Scoring Criteria RFI” in the subject line.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities



[Women's Preventive Services Initiative: HRSA-21-045](#)

Due date: 10/05/2020

To improve women's health across the lifespan by engaging a coalition of provider, academic, and patient-focused health professional organizations.

[Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program \(HTPCP\): HRSA-21-031](#)

Due date: 10/06/2020

The purpose of this program is to support innovative, community-based initiatives to improve the health status of infants, children, adolescents, and families in rural and other underserved communities by increasing their access to preventive care and services.

2020 Annual Conference
9.14.2020 - 9.17.2020
*Connecting to the
New Rural Landscape*



- ➡ Click [here](#) for conference details.
- ➡ Click [here](#) to submit a speaker/presenter interest form.
- ➡ Click [here](#) to submit a sponsor / exhibitor application form.
- ➡ Click [here](#) to register.



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☎ **315-379-7701**

Members *Organizations*

- Adirondack Health
- Adirondack Health Institute
- Allegheny County Department of Health
- Avalon Behavioral Services
- Ardent Solutions
- Brooks TLC Hospital System, Inc.
- Canton-Potsdam Hospital
- Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center, Inc.
- Cayuga County Community Health Network, Inc.
- Chenango Health Network, Inc.
- Citizen Advocates, Inc.
- Central New York AHEC, Inc.
- Common Ground Health
- Community Health Center
- Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc.
- Community Health Center of the North Country
- Delaware Co Rural Healthcare Alliance
- Elizabethtown Community Hospital
- Ellenville Regional Hospital
- Finger Lakes Community Health
- Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization
- Foundation for Community Health
- Genesee County Health Department
- Health WorkForce New York
- Healthcare Association of NYS
- Healthy Community Alliance, Inc.
- Hudson Headwaters Health Network
- Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital/Arnot Health
- Jones Memorial Hospital
- Lake Plains Community Care Network
- LeMoyne College PA Program
- M.S. Hall & Associates, LLC
- Madison County Rural Health Council, Inc.
- New York Assoc. of Licensed Midwives
- North Country Behavioral Health Network
- North Country Family Health Center, Inc.
- North Country Healthy Heart Network
- North Country Prenatal Council, Inc.
- Planned Parenthood of the North Country NY, Inc.
- Prevention Network
- rprr, LLC
- River Hospital, Inc.
- Rural Health Education Network of Schoharie, Otsego and Montgomery Counties
- Rural Health Network of South Central New York
- S2AY Rural Health Network
- Seven Valleys Health Coalition
- Southern Tier Health Care System, Inc.
- St. Lawrence County Health Initiative, Inc.
- Sullivan County Public Health Services
- The Chautauqua Center
- The Healthcare Consortium
- The Resource Center
- Tioga Opportunities, Inc.
- Tompkins County Human Services Coalition
- Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood
- Upstate Family Health Center, Inc.
- UR/St. James Hospital
- Wayne County Rural Health Network
- Western County Rural Healthcare Assoc.
- Wyoming County Community Health System

**Is your
organization
missing?
Reach out to us!
315-379-7701
info@nysarh.org**

Members

Individual

- Ann Abdella
- Angela Bashaw
- Amy Carman
- Leanna Cleveland
- Alison Coates
- Anthony D'Agostino
- LJ Dimanche
- Danielle Gagne
- Lisa Gugerty
- Beth Harrington
- Richard Kazel
- Andrew Majka
- Rajiv Pant
- Karen Roach
- Carrie Roseamelia
- Nicole Rouhana
- Jitendra Singh
- James Skiff
- Helen Stepowany
- Christine Veschusio
- Julie Vieth
- Sara Wall Bollinger
- David Yens

Student

- Lucas Freshman
- Cara Kowalski
- Daniel Monohan
- Naleesa Powis
- Jessica Welcher

**Is your
name
missing?
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**Become a
MEMBER**

If the mission and goals of NYSARH are consistent with your own, or are just attractive to you, we would be happy to have you join our organization and to help it grow.

In numbers there is strength.

Please help the voice for rural health to be heard. [Join](#) today.

VOLUNTEER Opportunities



NYSARH needs Members to serve on Committees to help with projects. [Check out](#) the opportunities available for you to volunteer and get involved!

