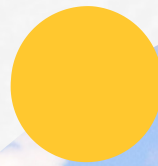




ANNUAL REPORT

2021



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I enter my second term as Board President of the New York State Association for Rural Health, I believe that NYSARH has never been more relevant and important for those who live, work, and play in rural New York State.

I regard the Association as a team that includes the talents, vision, and voice of its members, board, and staff. A team that has revealed its strength in the halls of our state's capital advocating for equity and equality. A team that provides rich opportunities to learn, network, and support one another during challenging and difficult times.

The changes we and our communities face—including social, political, technological, scientific, economic, or any others—require that NYSARH navigate new and increasingly complex issues, which profoundly impact our friends in public health, emergency services, healthcare, human services, academia, workforce investment, and all other facets of our communities.

NYSARH is the only association whose sole purpose is to preserve and advance rural health and wellness in New York State. Our unique perspective provides opportunities for greater collaboration and impact. NYSARH is rising up to this challenge.

Over the last year, NYSARH's Board explored ways to build organizational capacity in order to better serve our members. We developed new and significant relationships with partners who supported NYSARH in our Legislative Appropriation efforts, in our advocacy platform, and collaborative educational efforts. We purposefully recruited and engaged members in meaningful activities and committees to share their expertise, ideas, energy, and resources AND our members responded with enthusiasm and purpose. Thank you!

Finally, I'd like to give a special shout-out of appreciation to our Board of Directors and to Sara Wall Bollinger, our Director of Strategic Development, for their tireless work on behalf of the NYSARH, and to the many members, volunteers, and contractors who value NYSARH's mission and believe in the Association. Thank you all!

Wishing you a good and successful 2022-23, and looking forward to seeing everyone in-person soon.

Helen Evans
President





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Helen Evans	President
Jack Salo	Vice-President
Ann Morse Abdella	Treasurer
Alison Coates	Secretary

MEMBERS

Tammy Austin-Ketch**	Karin Pantel**
Theresa Barker*	Claire Parde
Ann Battaglia	Paul Pettit
Barry Brogan*	Michael Pease
Charlotte Crawford	Mandy Qualls
Anthony D'Agostino	Victoria Reid
Scott Emery	Carrie Roseamelia***
Evelyn Garzetta****	Janice Shirley**
Sylvia Getman*	Shari Weiss**
Richard Kazel*	Melissa Wendland****
Jennifer Leszyk*	Mary Zelazny
Nancy McGraw	
Bryan O'Donovan***	
Gertrude O'Sullivan	



* term ended/resigned in 2021

** elected September 2021

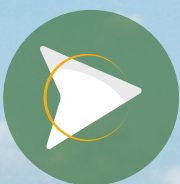
*** resigned in 2022

**** elected in March 2022

LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION

NYSARH was notified that the 2021-22 NYS budget included another \$1.1 million legislative appropriation. Late in the year, we were surprised to learn that there had also been an appropriation in the 2020-21 NYS budget, also of \$1.1 million. A team of NYSARH board members and administrative staff mobilized to sign sub-award contracts with 32 rural health networks and 44 rural healthcare access hospitals, make payments, and process claims.

NYSARH is indebted to the partner organizations who provided short-term loans to enable NYSARH to process through the first million dollars in order to be eligible for reimbursement from NYS.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

In lieu of the full Rural Health Conference, NYSARH hosted a one-day Rural Health Symposium on September 27, 2021. This virtual event featured Alan Morgan from the National Rural Health Association and a panel of NYS legislators. The keynote presenter was Dr. Donna Beegle of Communication Across Barriers. The event wrapped up with the NYSARH Annual Meeting.

RURAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

September 27, 2021



The NYSARH/NERHA Rural Health Webinar Series was once again funded by the Foundation for Community Health. This support allows NYSARH to offer Medical and Social Work continuing education credits for the webinars. New this year, the webinars are also eligible for Certified Health Education Specialist credits.



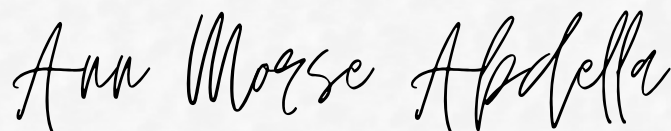
Alison Coates

Alison Coates

FINANCE COMMITTEE

In 2021, NYSARH changed bookkeeping services. The new firm, Bowers & Co., began in September. Some procedural changes were made to electronify accounting, which works well for NYSARH's multiple locations.

The audit for 2021 resulted in a clean opinion.



Ann Morse Abdella



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Governance Committee transitioned from Claire Parde to Mary Zelazny in 2021. A good schedule of 'board hygiene' activities is now normal for NYSARH. Each spring the Governance Committee reviews the board matrix of skills and qualities. During the summer the Governance Committee recruits and evaluates prospective board members who are elected at the annual meeting in September. After the annual meeting, the Governance Committee reviews a Disclosure of Interest of every board member.



Mary Zelazny

POLICY COMMITTEE

NYSARH sent warm wishes to long-time Policy Committee Chair, Barry Brogan, who retired in 2021. Claire Parde became Chair in September.

The Policy Committee was pleased to facilitate a Panel of NYS legislators during the Rural Health Symposium in September.

The January Policy Briefing included presentations from CHANYS, MHANYS, NYSPHA, HANYS and NYSVARA.



In keeping with the strategic goal of collaboration, advocacy activities included several 'sign-on' letters with other associations and causes. This included a 'rural alliance' symposium in February, jointly organized with the Rural Housing Coalition of NY, the Rural Schools Association of NYS, the NY Farm Bureau, and the NYS Economic Development Council.



Claire Parde

Claire Parde

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee worked with Health Workforce NY to make refinements to the website Member Portal, especially after NYSARH changed bookkeeping services.

As the COVID pandemic wound down, the Committee was able to complete the student membership recruitment project which began in 2019.

- Nine students signed up as a result of this effort.
- Student membership was 90% higher in 2021 than it was in 2020.

The organization has worked hard to recruit new members and also retain its existing partners. Over the past few years, we have seen a trend in employees leaving organizations and NYSARH not having an alternative contact. This has decreased the ability of our partners to remain engaged and take full advantage of the expanded offerings of NYSARH. As such, we have created an option for organizations to auto-renew. We hope this option is helpful for everyone.



Michael Pease

Michael Pease



NEW PARTNERSHIPS



UPSTATE INSTITUTE

Upstate Institute

NYSARH was honored to receive a Colgate University Upstate Institute Fellow in 2021. Emily Hazen was assigned for two months to research and write a Policy Brief on the crisis in Rural Emergency Services. This paper was sent to NYS legislators during our advocacy visits in the winter.

Read it here:

<https://nysarh.org/who-will-answer-their-call/>



NEW PARTNERSHIPS

AMERICORPS VISTA



Ella James joined NYSARH as the Communications and Development Specialist in August 2021 and will serve through the end of July 2022. She recently graduated in the Spring of 2021 with a B.A. in Economics and a minor in Sociology. Ella primarily served on the Membership and Education Committees, creating the monthly membership reports, running the NYSARH/NERHA Rural Health Webinar Series, organizing the 2021 Rural Health Awards Ceremony, running NYSARH's social media accounts, and writing NYSARH's Quarterly Newsletter. She also conducted several membership outreach efforts and assisted in website updates along with serving on the 2022 Public Health Partnership Conference planning committee.



"My AmeriCorps VISTA service with NYSARH has been an invaluable experience. I have gained program and project management experience that I would not have received in an entry-level position elsewhere. Serving with NYSARH has also allowed me to work with rural health leaders from communities all across New York State." - Ella James

NYSARH was also joined by AmeriCorps service member, Edad Mercier. Edad is a PhD candidate from NYC who volunteered as an AmeriCorps member beginning in September 2021. She has worked on multiple research and communication projects, including setting up NYSARH's mentorship program.

2021 RURAL HEALTH AWARDS

Dr. Collins Kellogg received the Rural Health Practitioner of the Year award. Dr. Kellogg has been recognized with this award for his dedication to improving the rural healthcare delivery system across Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties. Furthermore, Dr. Kellogg has gone to great lengths throughout the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure his patients maintained their care, via telephonic and videoconference visits that suit the rural community.

Jack Salo received the Senator McGee Rural Health Award. As a pioneer in rural health innovations, Jack Salo has impacted not only the health status of rural communities but the economic viability of rural communities. A standout example of Salo's innovative nature was his recognition that rural advocacy is best achieved with partnerships, and thus his subsequent development of personal and organizational relationships that facilitated a collective focus on improving health, food security, transportation, and local economies across the Rural Health Network's service area.



Mental Health Association Columbia Greene (MHACG), for the Outstanding Rural Health Program Award. The **Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT)** uses small, nimble, mobile teams to provide in-person and telephonic crisis services to residents in Columbia and Greene Counties, two rural counties in the Hudson Valley Region of New York. MCAT's primary goals are as follows:

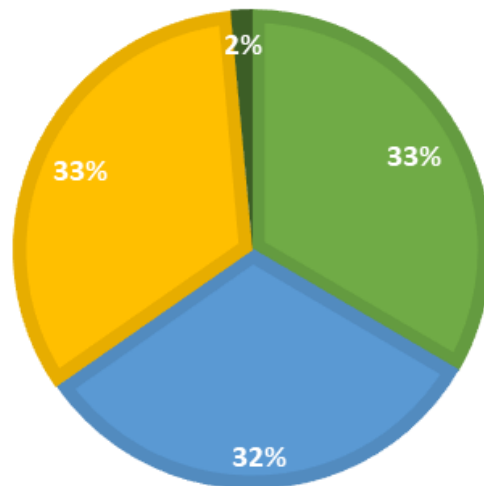
- to avoid hospitalization (Emergency Department or Inpatient)
- to minimize police intervention
- to link crisis callers to long-term service providers in the community.

It achieves these goals using a three-pronged approach of Crisis Prevention, Crisis Intervention, and Crisis Follow-up.

FINANCIAL REPORT

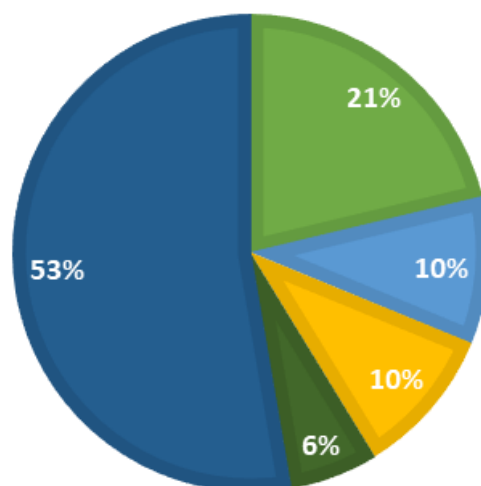
REVENUE

■ Conference ■ Grants ■ Membership ■ Other



EXPENSES

■ Personnel ■ Training ■ Professional Fees ■ Other Program ■ Administrative



The 2021 Financial Statements have been audited by Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper, VanHouse & Co., which issued a clean opinion.

