

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN VIRGINIA'S STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH AND VIRGINIA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION AND VIRGINIA RURAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER

Joint Communications

- **Weekly E-newsletter** from Virginia Rural Health Association (VRHA) to members of the VRHA, members of the General Assembly, and health districts. The State Office of Rural Health (SORH) works with VRHA to assure the newsletter includes important announcements such as scholarship availability, educational opportunities, SORH staff changes, meeting announcements and other items relevant to VRHA members.
- **State Rural Health Plan Facebook Page** is co-administered by VRHA and SORH staff. This ensures that the page's content and postings are relevant and up-to-date.

Strategic Planning and Education

- **Strategic Planning Meetings** are held quarterly co-hosted by representatives from Virginia Rural Health Resource Center (VRHRC), VRHA, and SORH. These meetings bring together representatives from a variety of organizations representing different aspects of rural health to discuss current issues in rural health, ways the organizations can coordinate efforts, and maximize available resources.
- **Policy education** is provided by VRHA staff to state and federal elected officials to help them understand how their decisions can impact health in the rural areas of Virginia. SORH offers insight as to how policy language can be interpreted.
- **Rural Health Summit** is an annual 3 day meeting co-hosted by VRHA, VRHRC, and SORH. Updates from the 4 Councils charged to implement the State Rural Health Plan (SRHP) are provided as well as relevant presentations on rural health best practices. Ample time for exhibitors, networking, and presentations by elected officials are also part of this summit.
- **VRHA Annual Conference** brings together rural health stakeholders from throughout the Commonwealth for a day and a half of skill training and education. These tools and collaborations are brought back to the participants' communities to enhance the quality and efficiency of their work. SORH provides a sponsorship to support the conference.

Contractual Support

- A total of **\$500,000** in contracts is provided to VRHRC by SORH to support rural health initiatives.
- **Support to implement the SRHP** is provided by the SORH to VRHRC. This includes funding to provide oversight of the 4 Councils, financial management of the Council pilot projects, and staff support for the councils. Funding also goes to VRHA to provide marketing of the rural health plan through press releases, public speaking and other venues as appropriate.
- **SHIP/Small Rural Hospital/RHC Technical Assistance** is another contractual arrangement between SORH and VRHA. The SORH has arranged for all of the Virginia SHIP facilities to be members of VRHA. This allows the facilities to receive the VRHA weekly e-newsletter and bi-annual print newsletter, attend the VRHA annual conference at member rates and serve on the VRHA board of directors. SORH and VRHA also collaborate to hold an annual small rural hospital conference. This provides the SHIP facilities with an educational event specific to their needs.



Office of Minority Health
& Public Health Policy
Advancing Health Equity For All Virginians

