



The Branch

DECEMBER, 2006 - An update for State Offices of Rural Health & our Partners

From the Program Director...

Ah...the holidays! What do you like best? The celebrations, sunshine or snow, solstice or maybe it's a simple day of solitude? For me it's all about anticipating the good. I love the hype of getting things ready for a special holiday program, making my list and freaking out about it more than twice, packing for a quick get away, and finally a fresh calendar and all those possibilities!

NOSORH's all about possibilities. State Offices of Rural Health know that even when resources might be tight you can bring people together, put on great programs, and move forward. Right now the NOSORH's Strategic Planning Committee is helping the Board envision the future of your membership organization. At this time the plan has three focus areas: the partnerships, the business and the member issues. The Committee has a rough outline, but we need your ideas and thoughts to bring it to life and give it color, coloring outside the lines is good! Check out the outline plan at nosorh.org - click on committees - strategic planning. Drop me an email or chat it up with your NOSORH regional representative.

We have some new regional representatives and other new faces this year! Alisa Butler (NH) is the new Region A representative, Scott Daniels (HA) will represent Region D and Mark Schoenbaum (MN) will serve Region C. We also welcome Elizabeth Morgan new Director of the Indiana Office of Rural Health. More on new (and old) faces next month!

Next month you'll also receive a Request for Proposal for sub-contracts for services to promote leadership and collaboration among SORHs (and their partners) to address rural health issues at a regional level. About \$75,000 is available for short term innovative projects proposed by SORHs. Imagine the possibilities!

Wishing you all the possibilities and a peace filled holiday!

Teryl Eisinger

Mark your new calendar with these dates!

NOSORH Leadership Retreat - February 1-2 New Orleans
NOSORH Meeting NRHA Policy Institute February 25th, 5:30 PM
NOSORH Meeting NRHA Conference May 15, time TBD

Jim Bernstein Mentoring Committee Teleconference

A Guide to Improving Your SORH Grant Application

When: January 10th 2 PM

How: Dial (866)704-7500
passcode 689481 & check nosorh.org
"Events" after January 5th for materials.

**Thanks to Louisiana Office of Rural
Health for your assistance.**

What else is going on?

HIT Committee - The Committee will have a new Chair in February, John Eich, newly named Director of the Wisconsin Office. Congratulations John! A Conference call with presentation by Johanna Barraza-Cannon of HRSA's Office of Health Information Technology is planned for January 29th 11 AM EST - dial (866)704-7500 passcode 689481.

Policy Committee - Is considering NOSORH future support of appropriations. For more information check nosorh.org or contact Committee Co-Chairs Lisa Davis (PA) and John Barnas (MI).

EMS Committee - Is preparing their top 10 things NOSORH should support list and planning a mentoring session to facilitate SORH links with EMS. Chris Tilden runs a great committee meeting if you want to get involved with EMS, contact Chris at the Kansas Office of Rural Health.