



The Branch

FEBRUARY, 2007 - An update for State Offices of Rural Health & our Partners

From the Program Director...

It's our anniversary! I've been your Program Director for one year this week. To me an anniversary is a celebration of the partnership's trust and tenacity and a time look back and for looking ahead. We have some accomplishments to be proud of –our new website, great committee work and even some cost savings. More importantly we have a lot to look forward to. That's just what the NOSORH Board did last week at the Leadership Retreat.

With help from Jonathan Sprague, Rocky Coast Consulting, Alison Hughes (President) and Karen Madden (President Elect) we were led through a full day, plus, asking and answering important questions like:

- What does NOSORH provide as a value added organization?
- Growth-why and how to do it?
- How can we best use NOSORH committees?

We confirmed that ensuring the stability and growth of SORHs is always the focus. We must support SORHs, build on opportunities for partnerships and be able to tell the story of the impact of those offices. We should know our members needs and promote the sharing of their good work to build stronger offices. We can serve our member SORHs with better education, mentoring and potentially offering other services like public relations interim staffing and recruitment resources for SORHs.

Let your Regional Rep know what's important and valuable to you and let's move forward let's celebrate trust and tenacity!

Teryl Eisinger

EMS Mentoring Session Coming Soon! April 25-27th Kansas City, Missouri to provide an Overview of rural EMS issues, financing, and technology. More details coming soon!

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 15th 5-6:30 PM

HOW CAN SORHs COLLABORATE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON THESE PRIORITY ISSUES?

- 1) Small rural hospitals
- 2) Uninsured populations
- 3) Physician recruitment and retention
- 4) Oral health
- 5) Mental health
- 6) Emergency Medical Services
- 7) Health information technology

YOU TELL US!

NOSORH expects to contract with SORHs to improve collaboration on these key areas – total funds available \$75,000. The RFP is posted at nosorh.org under News. **PROPOSALS DUE 2-21-07!!!**

NEW Committees

Workforce Committee – is being formed to develop SORH expertise and understanding of workforce issues, for providing the SORH perspective on workforce policy issues and serve as a link between SORHs, national partner organizations, the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and other federal agencies. If you're interested in serving with this committee please email nosorhpd@comcast.net

Performance Measures Committee – has had an initial meeting to assist SORHs and ORHP to develop a proactive approach to documenting the impact of the SORHs. Contact Mark Schoenbaum, Chair
Mark.Schoenbaum@state.mn.us