



Mark your Calendar!

◆ June 18th & 19th

Region D Annual Meeting

Renaissance, Oklahoma City, Ok

◆ June 20th @ 12pm (est)

SORH Promising Practices Webinar

◆ June 23rd - 25th

Region A Annual Meeting

The Orchards Hotel, Williamstown, MA

◆ July 22nd @ 1 pm (est)

The Federal Communication Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program: What have SORHs Got To Do With It?

◆ September 24th-26th

NOSORH Annual Meeting and ORHP SORH Grantees Meeting

are being held back to back in Traverse City, Michigan. The NOSORH meeting will be held September 24th – September 25th and the ORHP meeting will convene on the afternoon of September 25th and adjourn by 1 PM on September 26th. Registration fee \$200. For more information on northern Michigan or the meetings' topics [click here](#), for hotel information, [click here](#).

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The Branch

An Update for State Offices of Rural Health and our Partners

May 2008



NOSORH Responds to proposed HPSA Methodology Changes...The NOSORH Policy Committee and Legislative Liaison Bill Finerfrock completed comments on proposed changes for HPSA Methodology this week. More than 12 SORHs and other partners have shared their comments or analysis of the proposed methodology. [Click here](#) to view these comments on the NOSORH wiki space.

If you have a policy issue to bring forward for SORH there's a process to call NOSORH into action. Any NOSORH member can do it...simply complete an outline of the issue on the "Member Call to Action" form. FYI...a NOSORH policy on the use of frontier definitions was adopted using this process. [Click here](#) to see the brief. ([Click here](#) to get the Member Call to Action Form and contact [John Barnas](#) (MI) or [Lisa Davis](#) (PA) Policy Committee Co-Chairs for more information.

Agri Safe a great resource.

The Agri Safe Network represents health professionals who provide agricultural occupational health and safety services to farmers and their families and they provide free, online continuing education. For more information contact Natalie C. Roy, M.P.H., Executive Director, nroy@agrisafe.org or for more information, click here www.agrisafe.org

Data Toolkit on the Website –

thanks to Cooperative Agreement funds and the regional sub-contracts the Arizona Office of Rural Health developed a data toolkit for SORH. The tool kit resources will help SORH answer requests, demonstrate the need for rural programs in their state and provides some challenges for changing current policies. The toolkit is five parts: Introduction, Useful Databases, Presenting Data via GIS Mapping, Policy Change Recommendations and User Survey. To check out the toolkit [click here](#).

The HIT Committee asks...

"We're searching for states who have really run with the HIT ball in different areas - who would you recommend for panels on ... ([see agenda](#), or list: Telemedicine, Preparing hospitals for EMRs, Developing Funding Streams for Rural HIT, Ensuring Rural Broadband Coverage, Forming Networks, and Statewide Collaboration Building). Please email [John Eich](#) with suggestions or volunteers..."

Reminder from the Mentoring Committee... you can use NOSORH mentoring funds to attend relevant conferences which can lead to mentoring for your SORH. Conferences must be pre-approved and a mentor must be identified. For more information contact [Betty King](#), Program Specialist.

Hats off to Chris Tilden (and the NOSORH EMS Committee) for an excellent topical group session on May 20, 2008 for SORHs and their partners on rural EMS. The session preceded the Rural and Frontier EMS Trauma Summit at the Lake held in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. A summary of the learning session, attended by 8 SORH representatives and 19 partners will be made available to all SORHs. Stay tuned. Participants asked NOSORH and the National Association of State EMS Officials to strengthen partnerships to work together to improve rural EMS.

Kudos to Denny Berens (NE) on his address to the Association of Health Care Journalists at their Rural Health Journalism workshop in Columbia last month. Denny collected talking points and questions from SORH across the country and shared them with journalists to consider in their future writing about rural health. The Association has formed a new rural health workgroup as a result of the workshop. For more information on AHCJ click here www.healthjournalism.org

Workforce Summit Report available now. [Click here](#) to see the recommendations from the NOSORH, 3R Net and Rural Health Works workforce summit. The workforce committee invites you to help plan follow up activities for SORH at their meeting on June 12th at 12:00 PM (est).