



**Mark your
Calendar!**

November

All meeting times Eastern unless otherwise specified; [click here](#) to obtain call-in numbers and passcodes.

3 @ 2:00 p.m.
Policy Committee

5 @ 12:00 p.m.
Workforce Committee

17 Webinar Provides Overview of NOSORH Leadership Institute

Individuals interested in learning more about the new NOSORH Leadership Institute are invited to join the "What REALLY Works! Best Practices in Leadership Development in SORHs" Webinar at 3:00 p.m. EST on November 17. Call-in instructions and additional information will soon be available at the [NOSORH Related Events](#) link on the NOSORH Web site.

18 @ 3:00 p.m.
Communications Committee

20 @ 3:00 p.m.
Educational Exchange (formerly Mentoring) Committee

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Promising Practices

After a one-month hiatus, we continue our look at the Promising Practices and strategies that characterize strong SORHs. This month, we explore **Characteristic #4 – Being Visible and Building Influence** – which allows SORHs broaden their reach and strengthen the impact of the programs and services they provide.

Key abilities of the characteristic include:

- Developing/maintaining an organizational setting that seeks and encourages opportunities for growth
- Seeking and implementing "promising practices" that have been successful elsewhere
- Nurturing ideas within the SORH that can be spun-off to others for further development/management
- Growing and diversifying existing programs and activities while developing new ones
- Identifying program trends and emerging issues (e.g., workforce development, disaster preparedness) that can lead to the development of new strategic opportunities.
- Enhancing opportunities to obtain grant/research funding
- Developing a "family" of interrelated programs/initiatives that, in the aggregate, are meaningful and effective
- "Acquiring" or assuming responsibility for state programs/activities that fit under the SORH umbrella
- Increasing multi-state agency planning and problem solving, goal and resource alignment (enhancing opportunities for collaboration and sharing of resources)

Examples of Promising Practices demonstrated by SORHs in this area include:

- Offer feasibility assessment, applications and practice management to Rural Health Clinics (SC)
- Provide fee-for-service recruitment and retention support beyond general supportive activities (SC, WI)
- Sponsor rural transportation service-related discussions and spinning them off to the Department of Transportation (IA)
- Assume responsibility for several new state programs in the SORH and Primary Care Office, including the development and evaluation of a Safety Net Provider Network Program and several programs that advance access to mental health providers (IA)
- Offer a "family" of interrelated and mutually reinforcing workforce development initiatives within a recruitment and retention program (SC)
- Investigate the ability of small rural and urban businesses to provide health insurance benefits to their employees (PA)
- Develop and manage a revolving rural loan program (SC)
- Manage grants/projects from grant funders, state agencies looking to contract for support, or universities/other entities. (SC as part of a Robert Wood Johnson project)
- Develop and maintain an agromedicine consulting program (PA)

HIT Pre-Conference Workshop a Hit!

Evaluation results from the "HIT for SORHs and Rural Health Partners" are in, and the results indicate that the September 23 pre-conference workshop in Traverse City was a smashing success. [Click here](#) to read a complete summary of the survey results.

Copies of the presentations made during the workshop are available for downloading; simply [click here](#), scroll down to the September 23 "HIT for SORH" heading and click on the presentation of choice to download.

Workforce-Related Webinars Slated for November, December

NOSORH will host a workforce-related Webinars offered by several SORHs in November and December:

- ♦ **November 13, 2:00 p.m. Eastern** – Sharing Best Practices from Model Rural Training Programs (Virginia SORH)
- **November 18, 1:00 p.m. Eastern** – Pipeline Activities and AHECs (Colorado SORH)
- **December 9, 1:00 p.m. Eastern** – Workforce Pilot and Loan Repayment Strategies (Colorado SORH)

Call-in instructions and additional information for each Webinar will soon be available at the [NOSORH Related Events](#) link on the NOSORH Web site.

Nominations Being Accepted for 2008 Legislator of the Year

The NOSORH Policy Committee is still accepting nominations for the organization's 2008 Legislator of the Year Award. Deadline for submitting nominations is Monday, November 3, 2008; [click here](#) to download and complete a nomination form.

NOSORH will announce this year's recipient by December 1 and plans to present the award to the selected legislator in his or her Washington, DC office during the 2009 NRHA Policy Institute.

A Note from the Policy Committee

The Policy Committee continues to develop the NOSORH Legislative Agenda. The committee currently is devoting considerable time and effort to identifying and implementing the most effective process for reauthorizing the State Office of Rural Health program at the federal level. The committee also is refining the draft policy statements originally shared in Traverse City, and creating additional statements that address NOSORH's seven health priorities. Stay tuned for more information on both of these critical undertakings!

As part of its work on reauthorizing the SORH program at the federal level, the Policy Committee recently conducted a membership survey to gain a better understanding of each SORH's state designation and matching fund processes. Results of the survey can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

Annual Conference Presentations, Evaluation Available for Downloading

Presentations made during the **2008 NOSORH Annual Conference and ORHP's SORH Grantees Meeting** last month are now available for viewing and downloading. Just [click here](#), scroll down to the September 24-26 "2008 NOSORH Annual & ORHP SORH Grantees Meetings" and take advantage of the wealth of information that was shared in Traverse City! Evaluation results for the meetings are also available by [clicking here](#).

Join the AgriSafe Network Today!

The AgriSafe Network is a member-driven organization representing health professionals, educators and farmers who are concerned about the health and safety of our farm families. Benefits of being an **AgriSafe Member** include: access to educational and clinical resources and a free subscription to the *Journal of Agromedicine*.

AgriSafe would like to help NOSORH members reaching their rural health providers by offering timely agricultural health distance education programs via the internet. Any NOSORH members who **join AgriSafe by December 1** will receive **\$50 in free agricultural health educational materials**.

[Click here](#) to join AgriSafe or learn more about becoming a member; you can also [e-mail](#) or call Kristi Fisher at (712) 363-4067.