



Greetings!

Planning for the 2016 Annual Rural Health Summit is heating up!

At this year's Summit you can look forward to:

- Pre-conference meetings with the Florida Environmental Public Health Tracking Program and rural health networks
- Updates from the Florida legislative session from invited legislators Aaron Bean, Andy Gardiner, Richard Corcoran and Bill Montford.
- Insight from the South Carolina Office of Rural Health on working with rural health clinics
- National updates from Maggie Elehwany, VP for Govt. Affairs and Policy at the National Rural Health Association
- Tools and resources from the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative (TCPI)
- A panel on Medicaid wraparound payments with representatives from CHC, RHC, ACHA, NRHA.
- An oral health panel on ER diversion and community-based fluoridation
- Professional networking and fun with rural health professionals, organizations and businesses

Mark your calendars for **April 28-29** and plan to be in beautiful St. Petersburg at the FRHA 2016 Rural Health Summit.

The Summit is also a chance to recognize a dedicated advocate for rural health with the [Wendell Rollason Award](#) and an outstanding rural physician with the [Rural Physician of the Year Award](#).

If you know someone working tirelessly for the health of rural Floridians, [nominate him or her today](#).

Sincerely,

Your Florida Rural Health Association Board of Directors

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SAVE THE DATE: 2016 FRHA Annual Rural Health Summit

April 28 & 29, 2016
Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront
333 1st St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Registration coming soon!
Registration will include 2016 FRHA membership.

Interested in attending the Summit as a sponsor/exhibitor?
A limited number of sponsorships are available, [learn more here](#).

RURAL HEALTH NEWS

[Study shows higher rural health IT achievements than urban](#)

A recent study published by Health Affairs found dramatic variations in HIT adoption among rural providers, ranging from 91 percent for podiatrists to 9.5 percent for dentists. The author, Dawn M. Heisey-Grove, noted that while initial HIT adoption and meaningful-use achievement were higher among rural providers and hospitals than urban, these populations were less likely to return in subsequent years of the incentive program. On the other hand, technical assistance from a regional extension center was strongly associated with meaningful-use achievement among rural providers.

[Administrators look for ways to attract RNs to rural health jobs](#)

Despite sporadic shortages, health care organizations in many rural areas have seen an ease in workforce issues as older nurses have put off retirement. Nurses who couldn't find work in urban areas often returned to their rural roots. Partnerships between universities, community colleges and rural facilities successfully produced more new nurses who wanted to stay put.

[FCC Petition: Better Rural Broadband Means More Telehealth Services](#)

Describes a coalition of telehealth and health IT organizations and its effort to petition the Federal Communications Commission to improve wireless and broadband access in rural areas to encourage further development of telehealth capabilities in these areas.

[Obama Administration to Partner with 27 Communities to Boost Neighborhood Revitalization Through Local Food Enterprises](#)

The White House Rural Council and six federal agencies announce selected communities to participate in Local Foods, Local Places, a federal initiative aimed to increase health and economic wellness in rural and urban communities by improving access to healthy, local food.

RESOURCES

[Rural Hospital Leadership Award](#)

Provides an educational stipend to a small or rural hospital administrator or chief executive officer to attend an AHA Annual Meeting or Health Forum Leadership Conference. Application Deadline: Aug 12, 2016. Sponsor: American Hospital Association

[Behavioral Health Barometer: United States, 2015](#)

Provides a broad overview of behavior health in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas of the U.S. with an emphasis on illicit drug, alcohol, and tobacco use, and thoughts of suicide. Data is from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

Sponsoring organization: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

[Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility, Enrollment, Renewal, and Cost-Sharing Policies as of January 2016: Findings from a 50-State Survey](#)

Provides a detailed overview of state policies related to Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program). Covers policies related to eligibility, enrollment, renewal, and cost-sharing, which have undergone significant changes as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Discusses efforts to streamline enrollment and renewal via technology upgrades.

Sponsoring organization: Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured

[Population Health Portal](#)

Provides tools and resources to help Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), Flex Coordinators, and rural health networks use a systems-based approach to move forward with value-based compensation for care. Includes a readiness assessment tool to identify strengths and needs, and a data tool for accessing public health and hospital data by county and state.

Sponsoring organization: National Rural Health Resource Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

[2016 87th Annual GPHA Meeting & Joint Conference with the Southern Health Association](#)

Mar 22 - 23, 2016

Atlanta, GA

Type: Conference/Meeting

Sponsoring organizations: Georgia Public Health Association, Southern Health Association

[22nd Annual FRHA Rural Health Educational Summit](#)

April 28-29, 2016

St. Petersburg, FL

Type: Annual Conference

Sponsoring organization: Florida Rural Health Association

[2016 Annual Florida Conference on Aging](#)

Aug. 8-10, 2016

Orlando, FL

Type: Conference/Meeting

Sponsoring organization: Florida Council on Aging

[2016 29th Annual East Coast Migrant Stream Forum](#)

Oct 13 - 15, 2016

Miami Beach, FL

Type: Conference/Meeting

Sponsoring organization: North Carolina Community Health Center Association

[2016 Annual Florida Hospital Association Meeting](#)

Oct 19 - 21, 2016

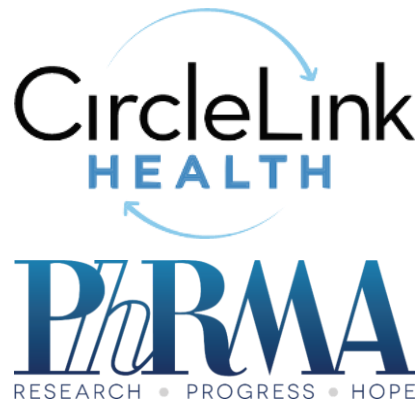
Orlando, FL

Type: Conference/Meeting

Sponsoring organization: Florida Hospital Association

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 BUSINESS PARTNERS

The Florida Rural Health Association values our business partners' commitment to the mission of the FRHA and rural Florida. Through collaborations with corporate organizations, FRHA provides affordable educational offerings to its membership and connects rural-relevant products and services with our membership.



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