



The Rural Health Advocate  
**Florida Rural Health Association**

September 2016

**Please note:**

The FRHA Summit date has been moved back one week to Feb. 28-March 1 in order to work around the Legislative committee schedule. Please be sure to update your calendars.

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Florida Rural Health Association  
*One Voice for Florida. Louder.*

**SAVE THE DATE** February 28 to  
March 1, 2017

**23rd Annual FRHA Rural Health Educational Summit**  
Adam W. Herbert University Center - Jacksonville, FL

**SUMMIT TOPICS:**  
Drug, Herion & Opioids in Rural FL ■ FL Legislative Panel  
POLST & the Legislature ■ Billing & Coding ■ Physician Workforce Trends  
FL Surgeon General invited ■ Medicaid Managed Care & Rural Providers  
What Rural Health Care Leaders are Saying ■ Healthcare Workforce

[View the Sponsor Invitation & the draft agenda](#)

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# RURAL HEALTH NEWS

## **AHCA requesting input from rural health on telehealth**

The Agency for Healthcare Administration has been charged through recently implemented law to survey various health care facilities throughout Florida on their use of telehealth technologies. Many have probably already received a survey on telehealth from AHCA as required by this new provision. AHCA is very interested in getting feedback from the Rural Health Community on the use of telehealth in their health care facilities. If you have questions about the survey visit: [www.ahca.myflorida.com/telehealth](http://www.ahca.myflorida.com/telehealth) or email at [telehealth@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:telehealth@ahca.myflorida.com)

Secondly, although not required by the legislation, AHCA will be reaching out to other segments: Rural Health Centers, FQHCs, and potentially County Health Departments. Since AHCA knows that many of these groups are using telehealth to provide services, AHCA would like to get their insight even though it is not statutorily mandated.

AHCA is trying to gather as much information as possible to help the newly established Telehealth Advisory Council make informed recommendations to state leadership in the coming years. Thank you for your support.

### [Rural Farmers Market Promotes Food Security](#)

About one in seven Americans struggles with hunger, and rural communities seem to be hit especially hard. The Allegan Farmers Market is helping its low-income, senior, and other nutritionally at-risk populations gain access to Michigan-grown produce through a variety of incentives. These incentives include free transportation and Double Up Food Bucks that matches SNAP participants' spending.

### [Tom Vilsack's Lonely Fight for a 'Forgotten' Rural America](#)

Details Secretary Tom Vilsack's efforts to address the opioid epidemic, the evolution of his career, and his focus on the needs of rural America.

### [Helping Rural America Catch Up](#)

Collection of opinion pieces from The New York Times by rural experts, placed in "discussion" with one another concerning the challenges faced by rural America. Topics include, among other things, access to health resources, poverty, economic development, and technological infrastructure.

### [Could Diversion Programs Tested in Urban Areas Work for Rural, Too?](#)

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) programs are designed to divert low-level drug offenders away from jail and prosecution and into community-based services, like treatment and housing. LEAD programs are operating in several major cities in the U.S., but a small town in North Carolina is attempting to create a rural LEAD program. Includes chart on prescription opioid and heroin deaths in North Carolina from 2008-2014.

## RESOURCES

[Using Area Health Education Centers to Promote Interest in Rural Practice](#) Examines the relationship of third-year medical students participating in AHEC-sponsored family medicine clerkships in a rural primary care setting and their interest in working in rural areas after graduation, and compares the same relationship between third-year medical students participating in non-AHEC-sponsored family medicine clerkships.

### [Findings from the Field: Medicaid Delivery Systems and Access to Care in Four States in Year Three of the ACA](#)

Explores experiences of four states that participated in Medicaid expansion as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA): Colorado, Connecticut, Kentucky, and Washington. Looks at what each state is doing to transition from outreach and enrollment

activities to improving delivery systems and access to care. Contains rural-specific content, and information on how the states are dealing with the increased population now covered by Medicaid.

**[EHR Contracts Untangled: Selecting Wisely, Negotiating Terms, and Understanding the Fine Print](#)**

A guide for choosing an Electronic Health Record system and vendor. Includes discussions on safety and security, system performance, data rights, sharing information, risks and liability, vendor dispute resolution, and transitioning to a new EHRs.

**[Mapping Broadband Health in America](#)**

Mapping tool for visualizing broadband access, demographics, and health data at the national, state, and county levels. Includes a rural filter based on the percent of the population that is rural.

## UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAININGS

**[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

**[2016 10th Annual Southern Obesity Summit](#)**

Nov 13 - 15, 2016

Houston, TX

Type: Conference/Meeting

Sponsoring organization: Texas Health Institute

**[23rd Annual FRHA Rural Health Educational Summit](#)**

Feb. 28 - March 1, 2017

Jacksonville, FL

Type: Statewide Conference/Meeting

Sponsoring organization: Florida Rural Health Association

**[2017 22nd Annual ATA International Meeting & Trade Show National](#)**

Apr 22 - 25, 2017

Orlando, FL

Type: Conference/Meeting

Sponsoring organization: American Telemedicine 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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