

News and Notes from the Maryland State Office of Rural Health, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

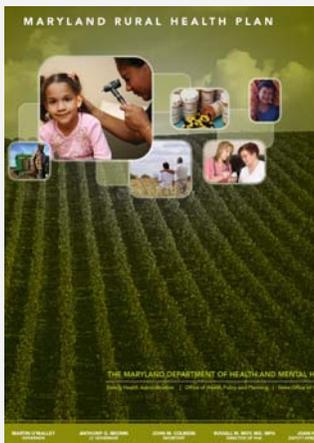
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[WWW.3RNET.ORG](http://WWW.3RNET.ORG)

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## Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Family Health Administration  
Office  
of Health Policy and Planning

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
Lt. Governor

John M. Colmers  
Secretary, DHMH



## Let Your Voice Be Heard! Statewide Listening Sessions to Discuss Rural Health Plan

The Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA), in collaboration with the State Office of Rural Health (SORH), will hold Listening Sessions in communities to discuss rural health priorities. The sessions will highlight the recently published *Maryland Rural Health Plan* that identified the following health priorities for Maryland:

- Access to Primary and Specialty Care Including Pharmacy Services
- Access to Oral Health
- Behavioral Health
- Improvement in behavior leading to healthier lifestyle

The Listening Sessions are planned for the following dates, all between **6:00pm-8:00 pm**:

**Tuesday, October 23**  
Washington College  
Casey Forum Room,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Fl.  
Casey Academic Center  
Chestertown, MD 21620

**Wednesday, October 24**  
Eastern Shore Area  
Health Education Center  
814 Chesapeake Drive.  
Cambridge, MD 21280

**Thursday, October 25**  
Community Foundation  
of the Eastern Shore  
1324 Belmont Avenue  
Suite 401  
Salisbury, MD 21804

Future listening sessions will be planned for Garrett, Alleghany, and St. Mary's Counties. For information on locations, directions, and/or future sessions please email

## Recent Rural Health Findings

### Caregiving in Rural America (Easter Seals, 2007)

Report released by Easter Seals on the increasing needs and successful solutions to caregiving in rural areas.

[http://www.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/Caregiving\\_in\\_Rural-saveas-compress.pdf?docID=49463](http://www.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/Caregiving_in_Rural-saveas-compress.pdf?docID=49463)

### Role of Telemedicine in Children's Healthcare (Children's Partnerships, 2007)

Report by the Children's Partnership in California that highlights the successful use of telemedicine in meeting children's healthcare needs in that state.

<http://www.childrenspartnership.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=11343>

### More Children are Living in Poverty in Rural Areas (Carsey Institute, 2007)

Study highlighting the high numbers of rural American children living in poverty.

[http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/FS\\_ruralchildpoverty\\_07.htm](http://carseyinstitute.unh.edu/FS_ruralchildpoverty_07.htm)

## Calendar of Events

### October 17-19

Maryland Rural Summit  
Solomon's Island, MD  
Website: <http://www.fha.state.md.us/ohpp/ruralhlth/html/summit.cfm>

### October 23-25

Maryland Rural Health  
Association (MRHA) Eastern  
Shore Rural Health Listening  
Sessions  
Locations: See page one

### October 23-25

15<sup>th</sup> Annual West Virginia Rural  
Health Conference highlighting  
the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Division of Rural  
Health & Recruitment Job Fair  
(10/24)  
Glad Springs Resort  
Website: [www.wvochs.org](http://www.wvochs.org)  
Or call 304-558-1327

## Office of Health Policy and Planning Contacts

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## Funding Alerts

### HRSA Rural Health Network Development Grant Program

To support the development of rural health networks, whose purpose is to increase access to care by overcoming the fragmentation and vulnerability of providers in rural areas. Grant funds are used to support activities that strengthen capabilities of these networks.

Eligibility: Public and non-profit private entities, including faith-based and community organizations. Applicants must be located in rural counties or eligible rural census tracts within an urban county.

Web site:

<https://grants.hrsa.gov/webexternal/FundingOppDetails.asp?FundingCycleId=3E8351C1-5E73-4067-B8B6-4748201A0A45&ViewMode=EU&GoBack=&PrintMode=&OnlineAvailabilityFlag=True&pageNumber=1>

Deadline: Oct 15

### HRSA Bureau of Primary Health Care New Access Points (NAP)

Support the establishment of new service delivery sites for medically underserved populations to receive comprehensive primary and preventive health care services.

Eligibility: Public or private nonprofit entities, including tribal, faith-based and community-based organizations, may apply for a grant for operational support of a new access point(s) under the Consolidated Health Center Program authorized under section 330 of the PHS Act. Applicants are expected to demonstrate compliance with the requirements for the specific type of health center(s) (i.e., CHC, MHC, HCH, and PHPC) for which funding is requested. **Please Call On SORH for assistance with eligibility requirements, if needed at 410-706-5121.**

Web site:

<https://grants.hrsa.gov/webExternal/FundingOppDetails.asp?FundingCycleId=2FABCACB-0300-46D3-958F-1BB9D021CA11&ViewMode=EU&GoBack=&PrintMode=&OnlineAvailabilityFlag=&pageNumber=&version=&NC=&Popup=>

Deadline: Dec 18

### Quality Health Foundation Grants

Funding for programs that demonstrate improved health care delivery, quality and outcomes from a consumer's perspective.

Eligibility: Applicants must be from Maryland or the District of Columbia, where Delmarva is the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for the area. All organizations, committed to improving the health of individuals at the community level, are encouraged to apply.

Web site: <http://www.qualityhealthfoundation.org/html/Funding.html>

Deadline: January 15, 2008

## Dental Action Committee (DAC) Releases Report

The Dental Action Committee (DAC), convened by John Comers, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, released their recommendations on increasing access to dental care for underserved children in Maryland in early September. The DAC hopes that the recommendations will result in “Maryland becoming a model for the entire country in increasing access to oral health for all children, and ensuring that every child in Maryland, regardless of race, ethnicity or economic status, will have a dental home” (DAC, 2007). The following seven points were outlined for immediate action:

1. Initiate a statewide single vendor dental Administrative Services Only (ASO) provider for Maryland.
2. Increase dental reimbursement rates to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the American Dental Association’s South Atlantic region charges, indexed to inflation, for all dental codes.
3. Maintain and enhance the dental public health infrastructure through the Office of Oral Health by ensuring that each jurisdiction has a local health department dental clinic and a community oral health safety net clinic and by providing funding to fulfill the requirements outlined in the Oral Health Safety Net legislation (SB 181/ HB 30 2007).
4. Establish a public health level dental hygienist to provide screenings, prophylaxis, fluoride varnish, sealants, and x-rays in public health settings.
5. Develop a unified culturally and linguistically appropriate oral health message for use throughout the state to educate parents and caregivers of young children about oral health and the prevention of oral disease.
6. Incorporate dental screenings with vision and hearing screenings for public school children or require dental exams prior to school entry.
7. Provide training to dental and medical providers to provide oral health risk assessments, educate parents/caregivers about oral health, and to assist families in establishing a dental home for all children.

## State Office of Rural Health Welcomes New Staff and Enhanced Technical Assistance

<p>The Office of Health Policy and Planning (OHPP) is pleased to welcome two new staff members to the State Office of Rural Health (SORH). Michelle Clark, in the position of Rural Health Project Director, joins us from University of Maryland School of Medicine where she was working on the state’s System of Care Implementation within children’s mental health. Michelle is a Licensed Graduate of Social Work and has her Masters in Public Health.</p>	<p>Michelle can be reached at <i>mclark@dhhm.state.md.us</i></p> <p>Michele Pharr, Research Analyst, has worked in OHPP over the past year while finishing her Master's in Sociology. She joins the SORH with experience in healthcare workforce capacity and survey research and analysis. Michele Pharr can be reached at <i>mpharr@dhhm.state.md.us</i></p>	<p>Please continue to call on the SORH for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural health resources.</li> <li>• Data requests to support grant applications, local health plans, and/or funding requests.</li> <li>• Information and assistance (including assistance with grant writing) on funding for our rural health partners and jurisdictions.</li> </ul>	<p>In the past, the SORH has assisted in finding and securing funding sources, linked together community groups, and helped gather evidence to support rural health priority areas.</p> <p>Even if you are not sure the SORH can help with a current problem or need, please do not hesitate to ask.</p> <p>The SORH has made it easier to submit support requests by providing an on-line request form, available at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.fha.state.md.us/ohpp/ruralhlth/html/request_form.cfm">http://www.fha.state.md.us/ohpp/ruralhlth/html/request_form.cfm</a></p>
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## Rural Workforce Recruitment Tool

The SORH encourages recruitment and retention by promoting use of 3R Net ([www.3RNet.org](http://www.3RNet.org)) with health care providers interested in jobs in Maryland, and with health practice sites, including health centers, private practices, local health departments, and hospitals. 3RNet is a not-for profit organization dedicated to helping health professionals (physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, physicians assistants, nurses, mental health professionals, and all allied health and management professionals) find opportunities in rural and underserved areas throughout the country. **Over 320 healthcare providers visited the site last year and expressed interest in working in Maryland and 63 opportunities in Maryland have been posted, 39 currently active.**

The SORH, as a member of 3RNet, responds to each health care provider who expresses interest in working in Maryland by emailing them information about Maryland job searching resources. The SORH is currently contacting practice sites and directing them to post position openings on 3RNet in order to maintain a single, up-to-date repository of all available positions in the State. The SORH hopes all our rural partners will communicate regularly with community health centers, hospitals, local health departments, and other service providers in rural areas to become familiar with and post job opportunities on 3RNet **for free.**

The SORH welcomes feedback on how we can utilize this tool to recruit health professionals in Maryland's rural areas. The goal is to have every Maryland rural health opportunity posted on 3RNet because of its utilization by professionals to find a job. Please contact [ohhp@dhhm.state.md.us](mailto:ohhp@dhhm.state.md.us) with any comments, feedback, suggestions, or questions about 3RNet; and please visit their website at [www.3rnet.org](http://www.3rnet.org).

## Family Health Administration Data Resource

### CENTER FOR PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES (CPHS) DATA REQUESTS

The Center for Preventive Health Services (CPHS), within the Family Health Administration, will respond to requests for information from Maryland's hospital inpatient data set, ambulatory care data, and other state data sources. Information can be provided on rates, numbers, and age groups, by jurisdiction or community. The resource could be useful for tracking key health indicators, reports, grant proposals, and research for your community or agency. Requests should be made four to six weeks in advance. To request information, please visit: <http://www.fha.state.md.us/cphs/eip/html/reqform.cfm>

In addition, CPHS provides published reports on hospital discharges, ambulatory care visits, deaths and risk factors for chronic disease and injury indicators, by jurisdiction, for Maryland. These publications are available for 2003-2005 at <http://www.fha.state.md.us/cphs/html/reports.cfm>.