



# Special Delivery **ONLINE**

Colorado Rural Health Center

Fall 2004

<b>CRHC News.....</b>	<b>1-4</b>	<b>Resources &amp; Meetings.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>General News.....</b>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>Funding Opportunities.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Member News.....</b>	<b>6-7</b>	<b>Calendar.....</b>	<b>10</b>

## CRHC News

The Colorado Rural Health Center is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to enhance healthcare services in Colorado. CRHC does this by providing information, education, linkages, tools, and energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues. There are numerous ways to be involved in CRHC's efforts including membership. Just call or write for more information. The Special Delivery newsletter is posted on the Colorado Rural Health Center's Website quarterly to give our constituents information about programs and resources available.

### Staff:

- Shelly Collings  
Finance Manager
- Denise Denton  
Executive Director
- Mike Dohrmann  
Office Manager/Programs Coordinator
- Monica Everhart  
Marketing & Outreach Coordinator
- Melanie Jorissen  
Programs Coordinator
- Katie Kissell  
Programs and Events Assistant
- Megan McCoy  
Recruitment Specialist
- Rachael Miller  
Recruitment Specialist
- Stacey Sayer  
Administrative Assistant
- Lou Ann Wilroy  
Critical Access Hospital Director

**Colorado Rural Health Center**  
225 East 16th Avenue, Suite 1050  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Phone: 303-832-7493  
From rural Colorado:  
800-851-6782  
Fax: 303-832-7496  
Email: [info@coruralhealth.org](mailto:info@coruralhealth.org)  
website: [www.coruralhealth.org](http://www.coruralhealth.org)

### CRHC Announces a NEW Program for Rural Communities

CRHC, in partnership with the Governor's Office, is collecting stories that demonstrate the creativity and accomplishments in rural healthcare. SHARE – Sharing Healthcare Accomplishments in Rural Environments – is designed to recognize and “share” these various projects with other communities. Some of these stories will be highlighted in a formal report to the Governor. Others will be included in a database hosted on our website. This database will be searchable by location, topic, or issue and will serve as a tool for other organizations wanting to learn about rural health projects across the state.

For more info, contact CRHC.

### Northeastern Food Banks, Meals-on-Wheels, and Eldercare Groups Meet in Akron



Attendees in Akron

CRHC, through the generous funding of the Adolph Coors Foundation, created the Feeding Our Rural Communities (FORC) program. The FORC program was created to strengthen programs that provide food to people in rural communities. Through this grant from the Adolph Coors Foundation, CRHC was able to bring food program folks together to gather and coordinate with one another.

The most recent meeting facilitated by CRHC was held in Akron and hosted by Washington County Connections. Representative from local food banks, meals-on-wheels programs, and Eldercare came together at A.J.'s Youth Center to learn about each other's programs and discover ways to better serve northeastern Colorado. Pam Phifer of Yuma District Hospital came to speak with the group about nutrition. CRHC provided numerous fact sheets on food banks, nutrition, funding sources, and much more. Overall, participants left with a wealth of information and a greater sense of knowledge about one another.

While the FORC program is ending, we would be happy to share lessons learned.

## CRHC holds Annual Retreat

### CRHC Board Members

Danny Barela  
Northwest Colorado RETAC  
P.O. Box 351  
Rifle, CO 81650  
Phone 970-640-1024  
Fax 970-625-6271

Maribeth Berry, Past President  
Consumer/Accountant  
P.O. Box 65, Wray, CO  
Ph: 970-332-5041  
Fax: 970-332-4099

Jim Brundige  
Lone Wolf Operating Company  
1125 17<sup>th</sup> St., Ste 2290  
Denver, CO 80202  
Ph: 720-904-6949

Randy Evetts, Secretary  
Southeastern Colorado AHEC  
503 N Main St., Ste 422  
Pueblo, CO 81003  
Phone: 719-544-7833  
Fax: 719-544-7955

Lisa Filipczak  
HealthONE Outreach Services  
720 S. Colorado Blvd., Ste 265A  
Glendale, CO 80246  
Phone: 303-584-6006  
Fax: 303-584-2343

Brenda Higgins, President  
Administrator, Plains Medical Center  
P.O. Box 112  
Limon, CO 80828  
Phone: 719-775-2367  
Fax: 719-775-2365

Toloe Pearl  
West Custer County Hospital District  
P.O. Box 120  
Westcliffe, Colorado 81252  
Phone: 719-783-2380  
Fax: 719-783-2377

Richard Rivera  
Administrator, Physician Assistant  
Olathe Medical Clinics  
P.O. Box 529  
Olathe, CO 81425  
Phone: 970-323-6141  
Fax: 970-323-6117

Each year CRHC holds an annual retreat, which includes board, staff, and special guests to review what we're doing, where we've been, and where we're going. This year we gathered at the beautiful Horn Creek Conference Grounds in Westcliffe, Colorado. Everyone came away with a lot of new ideas and energy. Peg O'Keefe with Catholic Health Initiatives, a longtime friend of CRHC and one of our original board members, facilitated the first day's discussion. Peg worked with us to identify our strengths and weaknesses as an organization and to rediscover our "essence." Steve Graham of the Community Resource Center facilitated a portion of the second day. He helped us explore how we can all be better "ambassadors" for CRHC and for rural health issues in general. Overall, the retreat was a resounding success!



Toloe Pearl, Jody Brundige,  
& Jim Brundige at the  
Retreat.

## CRHC Hosts Nationwide Recruitment & Retention Workshop for State Offices of Rural Health

CRHC hosted a two-day workshop in August for representatives from State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) across the country to discuss recruitment and retention of healthcare providers in rural communities. The workshop was supported by funds from the Office of Rural Health Policy through a contract with the National Rural Health Association. Seventeen states were represented and agenda items included: candidate sources, viable compensation packages, recruiting nurses, recruiting from the military, retention, loan repayment, and scholarship programs. It was extremely beneficial to bring together the SORHs to brainstorm, share ideas, challenges, and successes. Colorado's own program, CPR, will be strengthened by lessons learned.

## CPR Conducts Residency Visits



In order to reach out to students and residents, annual visits to medical residency and training programs are currently being scheduled by CRHC's recruitment staff. Each year the Colorado Provider Recruitment (CPR) staff provides lunch and visits with residents and students about opportunities in Colorado's rural and underserved communities. Loan repayment options, national resources for finding employment, and other healthcare issues are also discussed. An even greater impact can be made when healthcare providers practicing in rural communities accompany CPR staff on these visits to share their experiences firsthand and outline the benefits of rural practice. Interested practitioners should contact [cpr@coruralhealth.org](mailto:cpr@coruralhealth.org).

### Save the Date

CRHC's 6th Annual Rural Health Clinics Forum will be held in Denver on *April 7 & 8, 2005!*

## CRHC Executive Director Receives National Recognition

Denise Denton, CRHC's Executive Director, was honored in September with the Distinguished Andrew W. Nichols Award. The award was presented in Portland, Oregon at the annual meeting of the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH).

The award was established in honor of the late Andrew W. Nichols, MD, MPH, who served as Director of the Arizona Office of Rural Health for over twenty years. Dr. Nichols was the ideal embodiment of the citizen legislator, combining his medical and public health knowledge with political savvy and persistence to better the State of Arizona and its citizens. Dr. Nichols spent his life working for justice in healthcare. This NOSORH award recognizes an individual who exemplifies Dr. Nichols' contributions to rural and border health and his deep commitment to social justice in healthcare.

Denise has been involved in rural healthcare for nearly twenty years. She worked in the State Offices of Rural Health in Arizona (where she worked directly with Dr. Nichols), Colorado, and Utah. Denise has been CRHC's Executive Director since its inception in 1991. At the national level, she served on the board of National Rural Health Association for eight years and was the Association's President in 1994. Denise served on the National Advisory Council of the National Health Service Corps and served on the National Health Reform Task Force in 1993. She continues to lead Colorado's Office of Rural Health by successfully identifying and addressing rural health issues statewide.

## Critical Access Hospitals Participate in Pneumonia and Heart Failure Collaborative Projects

From December 2003 through August 2004, Colorado's Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) participated in a collaborative project with the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care (CFMC) and CRHC to improve care provided to patients diagnosed with pneumonia. In August, a second collaborative project was implemented to improve the care provided to patients admitted for the heart failure treatment. Both projects involve collecting data on pneumonia and heart failure admissions and conducting quality and performance improvement activities to improve clinical outcomes related to the CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) quality of care measures. CMS developed the quality of care measures as part of a nationwide Hospital Quality Initiative launched in 2003.

Bimonthly teleconference calls are held for quality coordinators and other key personnel from Critical Access Hospitals to participate in discussion about the challenges, solutions, and successes related to the project activities. At the end of each project period, an "Outcomes Congress" is held to give participants the opportunity to share their experiences. The Outcomes Congress meetings for the pneumonia project were held in August 2004 in Alamosa, Sterling, and Grand Junction. The heart failure project will continue through August 2005.

There are currently 25 certified CAHs in Colorado. A federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility grant) provides funding to support activities related to quality improvement, network development, emergency medical services, and strengthening of the rural health infrastructure throughout the state. For information about the Medicare Hospital Quality Initiative, visit [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov). For more information about CAHs, visit [www.coruralhealth.org/cah](http://www.coruralhealth.org/cah) or contact CRHC.

### Save the Date

CRHC's 2005 Conference will be held  
June 21-23, 2005  
at the Raintree Plaza Hotel in Longmont.

### Breakfast Club

The next meeting will be held at the  
COPIC Building in Denver on  
*December 3<sup>rd</sup>*.

## CRHC Welcomes Melanie Jorissen as Program Coordinator



Melanie Jorissen joined the staff of CRHC in September as a Program Coordinator. Melanie will be working with the Critical Access Hospitals and Rural Health Clinics. Her responsibilities will include coordinating grant programs, meeting planning, and providing technical assistance related to billing and reimbursement. Melanie became acquainted with CRHC when she served as a Provider Representative at ACS (the Medicaid Fiscal Agent), and participated as a speaker at previous Rural Health Clinics Forums. In addition to her experience at ACS in various departments (call center, eligibility, and provider relations), she has previous experience in coding, desktop publishing, and graphic design. Melanie has two children and enjoys quilling (paper art) in her free time.

## CRHC's Used Supplies With A Purpose (USWAP) Helps Place Dental Equipment in Limon

The Used Supplies With A Purpose (USWAP) is a program that was created by CRHC to help meet the need for healthcare equipment and supplies in rural communities. Frequently, health facilities in rural Colorado are in need of medical/dental equipment and supplies or may have equipment and supplies that are not being used any more and can be donated to another facility. USWAP links those with a need with those able and willing to meet those needs. CRHC acts as a "matchmaker" to facilitate the placement of equipment and resources in rural communities.



In October, Christopher Graff, D.D.S., of Montrose, contacted CRHC to donate dental equipment. Dr. Graff and his staff were moving to a new office. With this move, Dr. Graff decided to upgrade the majority of equipment used in his dental practice. At the same time, the Strasburg Dental Group expanded to serve folks in the Limon community, forming the Limon Dental Group. The Limon Dental Group, based out of the Plains Medical Center in Limon, needed equipment for its expanded practice in Limon.

A few of the items donated by Dr. Graff to the Limon Dental Group included dental chairs, dental lights, an x-ray unit, nitrous oxide flow meters, and fiber optic hand piece systems. In all, Dr. Graff donated 26 items to the Limon Dental Group. Dr. Graff's generosity is another great success of the USWAP program and shows how rural communities can help one another.

For more on the USWAP program, please visit: <http://www.coruralhealth.org> or call 303-832-7493.

## General News

### Institute of Medicine Focuses on Rural

Source: National Rural Health Association

"Quality Through Collaboration: the Future of Rural Health," released today by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, focuses attention on the steps needed to ensure quality healthcare for the twenty percent of Americans who live in rural communities.

The report outlines ways to customize approaches to quality improvement in rural communities. It addresses the health professional shortage in rural communities and makes specific recommendations for reforming education and training programs. Financial issues and the reimbursement needs of rural healthcare providers are discussed, and the potential of telecommunications for improving the safety and quality of rural health care are noted. The report also makes specific recommendations for adapting practice guidelines and developing quality measures and reporting mechanisms that effectively promote quality in the rural setting.

To read the entire report, visit <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309094399/html/>.

## Senate Passes Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Program Legislation

Source: National Rural Health Association

In October, the US Senate passed new J-1 legislation by unanimous consent. This bill provides for a two-year reauthorization of the Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver program. The House passed a similar measure last week.

The Conrad 30 program allows the State of Colorado thirty slots for waiver recipients. The J-1 Visa is a visa for foreign medical graduates to train in the US. This visa requires the recipient to return to their country of origin for a minimum of two years. A provider can receive a waiver of this requirement if they commit to work in a Health Provider Shortage Area for three years.

In Colorado, the Primary Care Office takes the lead in assisting communities with the Conrad 30 program. They have assembled an Advisory Committee, which includes representation from CRHC, to review and approve J-1 Visa placement requests. Currently there are 25 J-1 physicians serving in Colorado's rural and/or underserved areas. For more information, visit [www.cdphe.state.co.us/pp/primarycare/index.html](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/pp/primarycare/index.html)

## Ten Common Healthcare Mistakes Made by Seniors

Source: National Rural Health Association & Institute for Healthcare Advancement

While seniors are living longer today than ever before, there are still serious health issues that occur with the aging process. In an effort to better deal with the health problems, the Institute for Healthcare Advancement (IHA) has identified the ten most common mistakes seniors make in caring for their health. They are:

1. Driving when it's no longer safe
2. Fighting the aging process and its appearance
3. Reluctance to discuss intimate health problems with the doctor or healthcare provider
4. Not understanding what the doctor told them about their health problem or medical treatment
5. Disregarding the serious potential for a fall
6. Failure to have a system or a plan for managing medicines
7. Not having a single primary care physician who looks at the overall medical plan for treatment
8. Not seeking medical attention when early possible warning signs occur
9. Failure to participate in prevention programs
10. Not asking loved ones for help.

For more information, go to the IHA's website at [www.ih4health.org](http://www.ih4health.org).

## "Gracias por las Manos" Calendar

The 2005 bilingual calendar "Gracias por las Manos" pays tribute to the hands that nourish and sustain us as well as to those who support these farmworkers who care for and harvest our nation's food. The sixth calendar in the powerful "Gracias" series, it once again features sensitive and insightful black and white images by photographer, Celia Roberts. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this calendar benefit farmworker advocacy groups such as the Harvest of Hope Foundation and Student Action with Farmworkers. "Gracias por las Manos" retails for \$11.95. To order a calendar, please contact the photographer at [celia@paonia.com](mailto:celia@paonia.com).



## Medical Malpractice Coverage Extended to Free Clinic Volunteers

Source: Rural Assistance Center

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson recently announced the Free Clinics Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) Medical Malpractice Program to extend medical malpractice coverage to volunteer healthcare workers in free clinics. Congress authorized FTCA medical malpractice protection for volunteer free clinic health professionals in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. Under the Public Health Service Act, HHS can deem a volunteer free clinic healthcare professional to be an employee of the Public Health Service, thus extending medical malpractice coverage to them. For more information on this program, go to [www.bphc.hrsa.gov/freeclinicsftca/application.htm](http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/freeclinicsftca/application.htm).

## **EMS Assessment Conducted in Kiowa County**

CRHC recently contracted with the Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation (CIT) in Bozeman, MT, to conduct a comprehensive assessment of emergency medical services (EMS) in Kiowa County. Over the past four years, CIT has developed an EMS assessment tool for use by Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and their communities, to evaluate and improve emergency care at the local level and conduct community-planning activities.

Weisbrod Memorial Hospital, in Eads, is part of the Kiowa County Hospital District. The hospital operates the county ambulance service. Consultants from CIT met with community representatives and with the county's all-volunteer EMT staff to discuss emergency medical services in the county.

The assessment process evaluated the following components of the county EMS system: relationship between EMS and other healthcare providers; integration with schools, media, and political systems; EMS staffing, medical direction, and leadership; and the local public safety system. According to Eunice Weber, Director of Kiowa County EMS, the assessment was a good start to help strengthen the services provided to the community. Since the assessment was completed, the implementation of a new communications system is already underway.

Kiowa County's EMS assessment was funded by the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant, which supports Colorado's CAHs. As the recipient of the Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Grant, CRHC provides resources, information, and technical assistance and grant funds to Colorado's CAHs and rural communities. Two grant programs are administered annually using Flex dollars. The CAH Technical Assistance grant program supports activities related to quality improvement, network development, and sustaining the health infrastructure at the local level. The CAH EMS grant program supports collaborative projects involving CAHs, EMS agencies, and/or Regional Emergency and Trauma Advisory Councils. For more information, contact Lou Ann Wilroy, CAH Program Director, at [lw@coruralhealth.org](mailto:lw@coruralhealth.org).

## **Centennial Family Health Center Wins Rural Health Clinic Drawing**

CRHC is conducting a comprehensive survey of Colorado's certified Rural Health Clinics. The survey results will demonstrate the basic characteristics of Colorado's RHCs, and will be used to educate legislators and others interested in learning about the RHC program. Colorado's 37 clinics were asked to provide information such as number and hours of employees, number and types of providers, payer mix, services provided, hours of operation, and technology utilized.

The final survey results will be distributed statewide, posted on the Center's RHC web page, and will be presented at the annual Rural Health Clinics Forum in April in Denver. In order to encourage clinics to participate in the survey, the Center held a drawing of those clinics that returned the survey by the deadline. The winner of the drawing was Karen Tomky of Centennial Family Health Center in Ordway, CO. The clinic was given the choice of either \$500 toward travel to the National Association of Rural Health Clinics annual meeting in Washington, DC, or \$300 cash for use by the clinic. Centennial Family Health Center chose to use \$300 to start a fund to help cover the cost of medications for patients who cannot afford to get their prescriptions filled.

The Center not only coordinates the RHC Forum annually, but also provides ongoing technical assistance, information and support to Colorado's Rural Health Clinics. RHCs are clinics located in non-urbanized areas that are certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services based on compliance with federal regulations, and are reimbursed on a cost basis by Medicare and Medicaid. For more information, contact Melanie Jorissen at CRHC or visit <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/RHC%20Web%20Page/index.htm>.

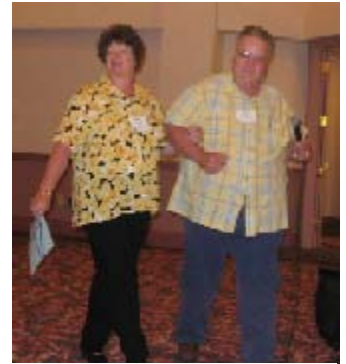
## EKG Machine goes to Centennial Family Health Center

By Dwight Gardner, Crowley County Commissioner

*At the 2004 Annual Colorado Rural Conference, which was hosted by the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) and the Colorado Rural Development Council (CRDC), an exciting event took place. Jack Westfall, MD with the High Plains Research Network, donated a practically new EKG for CRHC to give away to a lucky conference participant. An impromptu contest was put together and conference participants were asked to demonstrate the difference between a “mosey,” “meander,” and “stroll.” The idea came from recent housing development ads, which describe a rural lifestyle as “moseying to the grocery store or meandering through the neighborhood,” etc. Of all the rural people we at CRHC get to work with, this is hardly the case! Rural folks we know wear many different hats and participate in many community activities. There is no “moseying.” We thought it would be fun for rural people to poke a little fun at an urban concept of rural living. A few conference participants took us up on the offer. This is an article from the winning contestants.*

When my wife and I decided to attend the Annual CRHC and CRDC Conference in Longmont, little did we know what Luck & Fate had in mind for us! Our objective was to learn more about CRHC for my wife’s perspective and I, as an Advisory Board Member, was to represent CRDC. The conference was excellent and met all of our expectations.

As a door prize, they wanted to give away the machine – with a couple of minor stipulations. In order to win the machine you must show the crowd what it means, as a rural person, to meander, mosey, and stroll. Well, did not think anymore about it. During breakfast, on the final day, Jack again announced the contest and acknowledged that it would take place at the last gathering of all attendees. I really did not think much about it, but my wife soon had me convinced that we needed to try or we would never forgive ourselves. You see, the machine in our local health clinic is so old that they have trouble finding the readout tape used in the machine. As we gathered for the final meeting, the two of us began to second-guess our decision, but we had to do it. Without really thinking or practicing, and maybe without any sense, when our number was called, we stood in front of a large crowd and began to explain and show what it was to meander, mosey, and stroll as a rural person. Much to our surprise, when the voting was done, we won!!!!



Maggie & Dwight Gardner:  
meandering, moseying, &  
strolling

Our local health clinic was just as excited to receive the machine, as we were to be able to make the presentation. I have constantly told people, “I’d like to say that we simply won the machine, but the real truth is that my loving wife and I got up in front of a crowd of people and made fools of ourselves.” But, for the benefit we in the county have received from this fortune, “we’d do it again!” Thank you, CRDC and CRHC.

## Southwest Home Health Receives a Seed Grant

Southwest Home Health (SHH) in Cortez recently received a \$500 Seed Grant from CRHC. The grant will be used to purchase a Cholesterol Screening Analyzer and needed equipment. SMH offers free screenings to residents for blood sugars, blood pressure, and oxygen saturation along with education. This new piece of equipment will be another tool for SHH in serving their community. Peggy Blackmer, SHH’s Administrator, relates, “a number of the patients that would benefit from these screening tests are either uninsured or underinsured and this service would greatly benefit them with their health needs.” To learn more about CRHC’s Seed Grant program, visit <http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/programs/seedgrants.html>. Congratulations to Peggy and the rest of the SHH team!



**Where in Colorado can you find Lou Ann's fishing buddy?**

**Be the first person to call with the correct answer and win a prize from CRHC's prize box!**

---

***Happy Trails***

---

**Lyons Soda Fountain and Bakery**

By Christy Crosser

Since the 1920s the Lyons Soda Fountain and Bakery has served up handmade ice cream treats and soda fountain drinks, fresh made sandwiches and soups, and most recently unique handmade breads. The breads are made with organic flour milled in Platteville and purchased from the local health food store. The calling card for the Soda Fountain is their shakes and malts offering seasonal flavors throughout the year. They are working hard to make the place a local hangout as well as a stop for tourist heading to the mountains. The atmosphere reminds people of an old time soda fountain with a counter and stools along with tables and chairs. Try their custom-made ice cream cakes that are delicious and beautiful. During the summer, the Lyons Soda Fountain and Bakery stayed open late on the weekends and has consistently tailored their house according to local events, such as opened following high school sports.

During the summer, with the extended hours, they hire local young people to work at the counter.

You can visit their website at <http://www.lyonsicecream.com/>.



If you know of a fun or interesting rural place, we would love to hear about it. We are always looking for "local color" to add to our newsletter. Please contact CRHC at 303-832-7493, 1-800-851-6782.

**Oral Health Summit: November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

Healthcare providers, business leaders, policy makers, community leaders, and you are invited to take action on improving oral health in Colorado! The first Oral Health Summit hosted by Oral Health Awareness Colorado! is taking place at a site near you: Denver and eight regional sites including Alamosa, Burlington, Craig, Durango, Greeley, La Junta, Montrose, and Yuma. Learn How to Be a Smart Mouth by contacting [www.beasmartmouth.com](http://www.beasmartmouth.com) or 303-692-2569.

**Free Continuing Education Course: Rural Nursing – Practice and Issues**

Source: National Rural Health Association

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is offering a free CE independent study course entitled Rural Nursing: Practice and Issues. You can access the course at <http://nursingworld.org/mods/mod700/rurfull.htm>. According to recent reports from the US Census Bureau, about 54 million people live in areas defined as "rural." Provision of healthcare especially in regions defined as Health Personnel (professional) Shortage Areas (HPSAs) has been characterized by an insufficient numbers of all types of healthcare providers and which has become a national priority in the past decade. The Independent Study Module Rural Nursing: Practice and Issues will enable nurses to describe the economic, social, and cultural factors that impact rural life style and influence the health of rural residents and their healthcare seeking behaviors. It will also focus on the opportunities and challenges of nursing practice in more remote and sparsely populated geographical regions of the U.S. The class is free for only a short time.

**Community Resource Center Announces 2005 Leadership Program**

Source: Community Resource Center

The Community Resource Center's Nonprofit Leadership and Management Program provides innovative leadership and management training for executive directors of nonprofit organizations throughout Colorado. This program helps participants develop greater self-awareness, expand their leadership capacity, master new management techniques, and cultivate professional relationships. The yearlong program is designed to enhance the overall leadership and management capabilities of each leader. They are especially excited at the prospect of serving more rural constituents. To learn more about the program, contact Carol Crawford at CRC, 303-623-1540 ext.13, 1-800-516-6284, or [crawford@crcamerica.org](mailto:crawford@crcamerica.org). Scholarships are available to qualified participants. *Hurry, the deadline is November 30!*

**AgrAbility Announces Winter Workshop Series**

Colorado AgrAbility will host their FREE Winter Workshop Series for Colorado farmers/ranchers and professionals who work with farmers/ranchers. Workshops will be held at eight different sites around the state from November through February. Contact Bob Fetsch, with Colorado State University, at 970-491-5648, if you are interested in participating. More information is available at [www.eastersealsco.org/agrability](http://www.eastersealsco.org/agrability).

**October 2004 Edition of American Journal of Public Health takes on Rural Health**

Source: Rural Assistance Center

The October 2004 issue of the American Journal of Public Health focuses solely on rural health issues. Topics covered include:

- Rural Voting
- American Indian/Alaska Native Health
- Rural Transportation in Pennsylvania
- Medicare Hospice Care
- The FCC's Universal Service Program for Rural Providers

To purchase a copy of the journal or to receive more information, visit [www.ajph.org](http://www.ajph.org).

**Community Development Transportation Lending Services**

Source: Rural Assistance Center

The Community Development Transportation Lending Services Inc. raises capital through active partnership with public agencies that can be used to finance a broad range of transportation and related investments or activities. Financing is offered through two product lines: The Capital Fund and the Business Operating Assistance Fund.

For more information, you may contact Patrick Kellogg, Community Development Transportation Lending Services, 1341 G. Street, NW, 10th floor Washington, D. C., 20005, kellogg@ctaa.org or go to [http://www.raconline.org/funding/funding\\_details.php?funding\\_id=671](http://www.raconline.org/funding/funding_details.php?funding_id=671).

**Grants.gov Offers One-Stop-Shopping for Federal Grants**

Source: Department of Health & Human Services

Grants.gov is the single web site unifying Federal grants. Through Grants.gov, state, local, and tribal governments, colleges and universities, non-profits, research institutions, and other organizations can access, find, and apply for grants from more than 900 grant programs representing more than \$360 billion in annual grant funds offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. The site has been up and running for a year and has seen much positive feedback from its users thus far.

Go to [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) for more information on upcoming Federal grants.

**Partnerships in Implementing Patient Safety**

Source: National Rural Health Association

The Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is making funds available for partnerships in implementing patient safety. The purpose of this grant is to assist healthcare organizations in implementing safety practices that will eliminate or reduce medical errors, hazards, and risks associated with the care-giving process. Letters of Intent are due December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and applications are due January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005. For more information regarding this grant, visit <http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-05-012.html>.

**Rural Health Seed Grant Program**

CRHC contributes five percent of its total annual income to support projects that match our mission of improving healthcare in rural Colorado. Any CRHC Organizational Investing Member in a rural area can apply for a grant of up to \$500 each year. CRHC awarded 25 Rural Health Seed Grants in 2003. Examples of projects include a new anti-drug program for youth, a Senior Expo with wellness and educational topics, and an after-school nutrition/cooking program for children and their parents. For more information, please contact CRHC at 303-832-7493 or 800-851-6782.

**Calendar of Events**

DATE	EVENT	ORGANIZATION/CONTACT
11/19/04	Oral Health Summit <i>Denver</i>	Oral Health Awareness Colorado <a href="http://www.beasmartmouth.com">www.beasmartmouth.com</a>
12/3/04	Breakfast Club: Reach Out and Read <i>Denver</i>	CRHC 303-832-7493, 800-851-6782
12/7/04	Grant Writing Research & Techniques <i>Denver</i>	CANPO 1-800-333-6554 ext. 204
12/9/04	Northeast Colorado Rural Issues Forum <i>Akron</i>	Colorado Rural Development Council 970-522-7440 ext. 4