



The Mission of the Idaho Rural Health Association is to provide leadership on issues related to rural health in Idaho through advocacy, communication, and education.

### **SAVE THE DATE: Biennial Conference April 30, 2010**

The IRHA biennial conference will be held on April 30, 2010 at St. Luke's Anderson Center in Boise. We are pleased to announce that we are partnering with the Idaho Nurses Association (INA) and the Idaho Public Health Association (IPHA) to create a conference that will appeal to all organizational members. The conference will include a variety of presentations and current IRHA members will receive a registration discount. Watch for details via email as conference plans progress.

### **Membership Benefits:**

- Quarterly newsletter focused on IRHA's interests
- Networking opportunities
- One time Introductory subscription to NRHA's magazine *Rural Roads*
- NRHA's Action Alerts
- NRHA's Media Alerts
- Discounted fees to attend IRHA conferences and other events
- Rural Health Forums
- NRHA membership discount

## **Idaho Rural Health Association Update**

At our July IRHA Board meeting, agenda items included a discussion regarding continuing the distribution of the Legislative Observer, which was provided to IRHA members this past year courtesy of the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians; converting membership dues to a calendar year; IRHA's 501c3 status; and nominations for new board positions. Presentations on the State loan repayment program and using Wild Apricot for managing membership were given.

### **Board of Directors:**

#### **President**

Mary Sheridan, RN  
Department of Health and Welfare  
State Office of Rural Health & Primary Care

#### **President-Elect**

David Schmitz, M.D.  
Family Medicine Residency of Idaho

#### **Past President**

Linda Powell, MS, CPT  
Idaho Area Health Ed. Center,  
Mountain States Group, Inc.

#### **Treasurer/Secretary**

Ryan McAllister, PT  
St. Luke's-Idaho Elks of Twin Falls

#### **Board Members**

Joe Claudouhos  
Syringa General Hospital  
Keith Davis, MD  
Shoshone Family Medical Center  
Felice Lampert, MPH  
Benewah Community Hospital  
Alan Stevenson  
St. Benedicts Family Medical Center  
Bill Woodhouse, M.D.  
Family Practice Residency Program

Other topics discussed included future rural forums and the April 30, 2010 biennial conference. The October IRHA Board meeting originally scheduled for October 28 in Pocatello, has been changed to October 29th to coincide with the Idaho Conference on Healthcare. The 2010 board meetings dates will be identified during the October meeting and will be posted on the IRHA website and newsletter. The next IRHA board meeting is scheduled:

Thursday, October 29, 2009 11 AM to 4 PM - Pocatello, Idaho

Check out the IRHA website for further details by going to:  
<http://www.idahorha.org/>

### ***For Your Information...***

#### **National Healthcare Quality Report State Snapshot: Idaho**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released the 2008 State Snapshots, based on the National Healthcare Quality Report. The snapshots provide state-specific healthcare quality information, including strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement. Visit the site at: [Http://statesnapshots.ahrq.gov](http://statesnapshots.ahrq.gov).



***Drs. David Schmitz and Tema Jessup presented to the Grangeville community about the serious health affects of meth use. Lewis County Sheriff Doug Giddings discussed issues in his community around the use of this drug.***

## METH ED OUTREACH IN GRANGEVILLE

The IRHA, in partnership with Syringa General Hospital, Family Medicine Residency of Idaho, and the Idaho Meth Project, presented a rural forum on Meth education outreach in Grangeville on July 2, 2009. The Idaho Meth Project provided the materials for the forum and was instrumental in the panel discussion and distribution of anti-meth and help materials. The forum included a slide presentation by resident physician, Dr. Tema Jessup and Dr. David Schmitz, Associate Director of Rural Family Medicine at the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho. The Idaho Meth Project facilitates local education and brings broad media attention to the problem of methamphetamine drug use.

Over 40 people attended the public meeting which emphasized the Idaho Meth Project theme of "Not Even Once" and reiterated the dangers and impact of methamphetamine use. A panel of volunteers, including Syringa General Hospital providers, community educators, local law enforcement and an Idaho Meth Project speaker shared their perspectives on the devastating impact of methamphetamine use. The forum also included open discussion and questions for the panelists. "The panelists spoke honestly and were passionate in their commitment to educate the community about the devastating impact of meth. It was impossible to not be moved by their stories and it took courage to be so honest," observed Mary Sheridan, IRHA president.

This was the third in a series of collaborative efforts between the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho, Idaho Meth Project and the Idaho Rural Health Association to educate rural Idaho communities and allow Family Medicine residents to get involved in improving the health at the community level. Our experience has shown that the information reinforced at those discussions goes well beyond the individuals and families present. Also obvious is the impact to the lives of those involved at all levels of this service project. Prior similar programs in St. Maries and Salmon have allowed resident doctors to gain more experience in local advocacy and outreach

leadership. The assistance and sponsorship of the Idaho Rural Health Association helps to enable participation, organization and attendance.

Future similar outreach events are planned and IRHA can be contacted by members who would like to bring this important message to their community.

If you have a story about efforts in your community that you would like to share with our members, please email the text and pictures to:  
Flampert@bchmed.org

### ***Would You Like to Host a METH EDUCATION Health Forum in your Community? IRHA Can Help...***

If you are an IRHA member and interested in hosting a meth education forum in your community, IRHA can assist you in organizing your event. Please contact Mary Sheridan at (208) 332-7212 or email to: sheridam@dhw.idaho.gov.

### ***Join Us Today!***

All current members will be receiving a dues notice and prorated invoice to bring all memberships to a calendar year basis starting January 1, 2009. You will have the option of donating your prorated deduction and paying full membership or paying your prorated membership dues. We will also be sending out invitations to past members and other potential members to increase our membership. If you know some who should receive this invitation, simply email Barbara Cunningham at cunnbarb@isu.edu with their contact information. Annual dues have not been increased. To become a member of the Idaho Rural Health Association, simply make checks payable to Idaho Rural Health Association and mail to:

Ryan McAllister, PT  
560 Shoupe Ave West  
Twin Falls Idaho, 83301  
[rmcallister@ierh.org](mailto:rmcallister@ierh.org)

Annual Dues:  
Individuals \$25  
Organizations \$100 (maximum of 5 members)