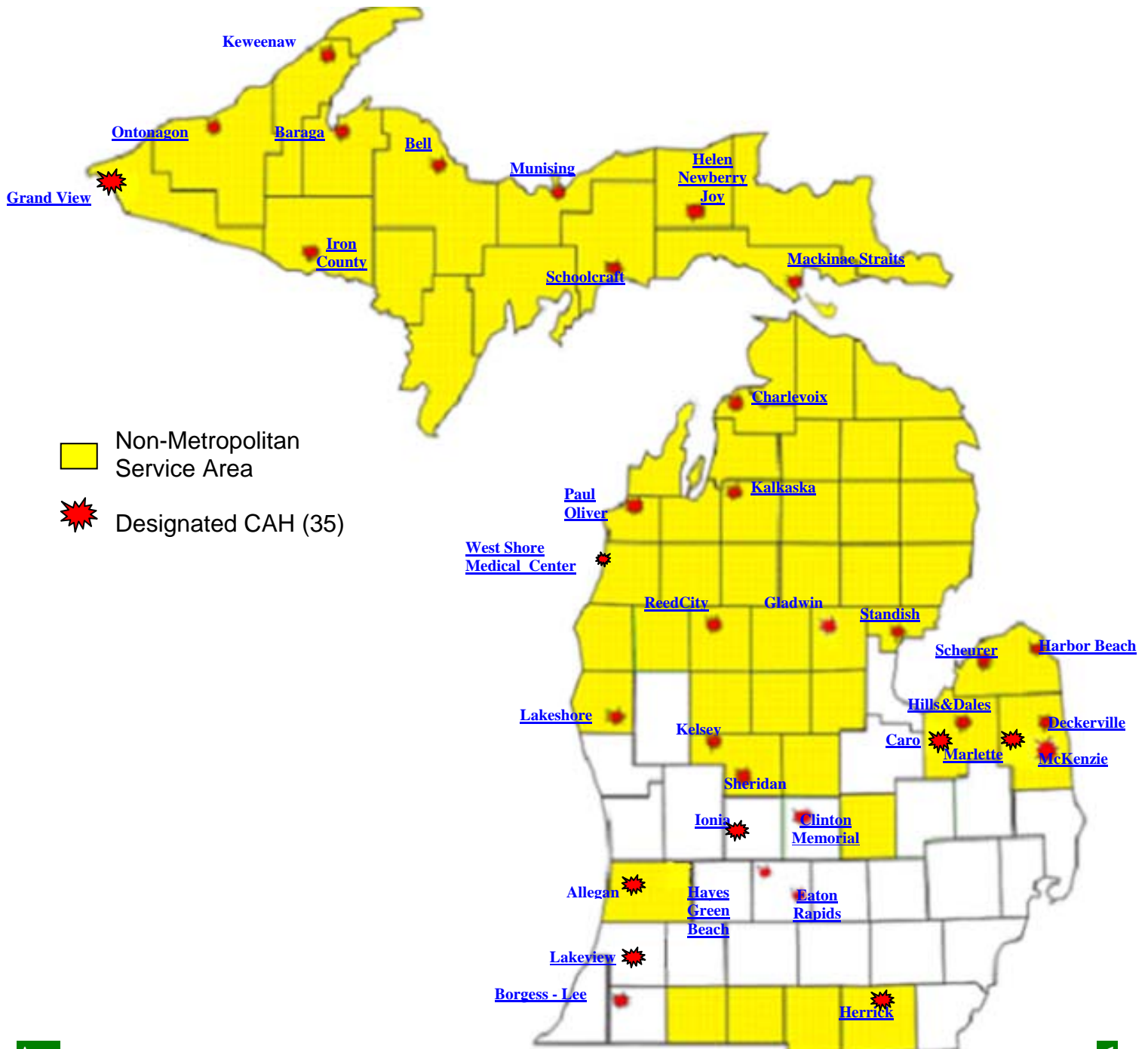




CAH Chronicle

Michigan Department of Community Health ♦ Michigan Center for Rural Health ♦ Michigan Health & Hospital Association

MICHIGAN CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS



Doctor's Office on Wheels

President Barack Obama has made telemedicine a centerpiece of his health-care overhaul proposal. Local medical professionals and public officials in Raleigh, NC have seen what that could look like: a doctor's office on wheels.

A high-tech medical clinic pulled by an 18-wheel rig -- a collaboration of United Healthcare and Cisco Systems, the computer networking company -- was in Raleigh, NC as part of a four-month, cross-country road show. The wired clinic allows a doctor to "see" a patient anywhere in the country via a video-conferencing system that also transmits a patient's vital signs and other medical data.

The costs of telemedicine ultimately would have to be shared by companies like United Healthcare, local hospitals, state agencies, employers and sites that would host remote clinics, such as shopping malls or pharmacies. The trailer has a reception area, waiting room and examination room with a two-way video screen. The cost of individual components ranges from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

The pieces don't need to be ferried by truck. They could be set up at a drugstore, mall, school or library. Proponents say one day, chronically ill patients could have video screens and medical equipment in their homes.

Source: John Murawski, Staff Writer-The News Observer

What does Health Insurance Reform Mean to You? - How Health Insurance Reform Will Help Rural Americans

The Health Insurance Consumer Protections information is available on line at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/health-insurance-consumer-protections/>. Learn how Health Insurance Reform:

- Will Help Rural Americans
- Will Help Your Family
- Will Help Small Businesses
- Will Help Children
- Will Help Young Adults
- Will Help Early Retirees (ages 55-64)
- Will Help Seniors
- Will Help Women
- Will Help Minorities

H1N1 Flu Vaccination Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expects to have 45-52 million doses of H1N1 flu vaccine available for distribution by mid-October, then more available weekly to total up to 195 million doses by year-end. According to Jay Butler, M.D., director of the CDC's H1N1 Vaccine Task Force, health care providers will order the vaccine through their states, which will coordinate with CDC and receive the vaccine and related supplies from a central distributor. The Department of Health and Human Services officials say the H1N1 vaccine and ancillary supplies will be available to health care providers free of charge, and that Medicare and Medicaid will reimburse providers for administering the vaccine to beneficiaries. State health departments are expected to post ordering information on their Web sites. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that initial vaccination efforts target five groups, including health care and emergency services personnel.

Updated Directory of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment Programs Now Available

A new, updated guide to finding local substance abuse treatment programs is now available from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). National Directory of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment Programs

2009 provides information on thousands of alcohol and drug treatment programs located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and five U.S. territories.

The National Directory includes a nationwide inventory of public and private substance abuse and alcoholism treatment programs and facilities that are licensed, certified, or otherwise approved by substance abuse agencies in each state. The National Directory is organized in a state-by-state format for quick reference by health care providers, social workers, managed care organizations, and the general public and provides information on more than 11,000 community substance abuse treatment programs.

The directory provides important information on levels of care and types of facilities, including those with programs for adolescents, persons with co-occurring substance abuse and mental disorders, individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and pregnant women. In addition, information is available on forms of payment accepted, special language services available with select providers, and whether methadone or buprenorphine therapy is offered.

The updated directory complements SAMHSA's internet-based Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Locator -- the online service, which is updated regularly and may contain more current information, provides searchable road maps to the nearest treatment facilities, complete addresses, phone numbers and specific information on services available. The electronic, searchable version of SAMHSA's updated National Directory of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment Programs is available on the Web at <http://FindTreatment.samhsa.gov/>. *Source: SAMHSA Press Release*

Hospital Campuses Going Smoke-Free: What's the Trend?

A new study from The Joint Commission projects that a majority of U.S. hospitals will have a smoke-free campus by the end of 2009. The study, "The Adoption of Smoke-Free Hospital Campuses in the United States," appears in the latest online issue of Tobacco Control, a British Medical Journal Group publication.

By February 2008, more than 45 percent of U.S. hospitals had adopted a smoke-free campus policy —up from approximately three percent in 1992 when The Joint Commission first introduced standards requiring accredited hospitals to prohibit smoking within the hospital; an additional 15 percent of hospitals reported actively pursuing the adoption of a smoke-free campus policy. The study reveals that non-teaching and non-profit hospitals were more likely to have smoke-free campus policies, and private, non-profit hospitals were three times as likely as for-profits to have a smoke-free campus policy. There was little relationship, however, between the adoption of smoke-free campus policies and the rate at which hospitals provided smoking cessation counseling to their patients.

The study was conducted to determine the national prevalence of smoke-free hospital campus policies and the relationship between these policies and performance on nationally-standardized measures for smoking cessation counseling in U.S. hospitals. More than 1,900 Joint Commission-accredited hospitals responded to a survey assessing current smoking policies and future plans. Smoking cessation counseling rates were assessed through nationally-standardized measures. To date, little has been known about smoke-free policy prevalence and its impact. For more information [view the study's abstract](#).

Cigarette smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in America, accounting for more than 440,000 deaths each year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Cigarette smokers have a higher risk of developing fatty buildups in arteries, several types of cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Funding Opportunities

[Go to RAC Funding Database](#) (Rural Assistance Center)

www.grants.gov, **Announcement Number HRSA-10-020**. The grant guidance for the 2010 Network Planning grant is available. The scope of the \$85,000 one-year grants has broadened and we're looking for applications for general community health planning purposes. Applicants should focus on a wide range of possible projects such as:

- Strategic health planning at the community level
- Assessing the economic impact of health care in a rural community
- Promoting collaboration between providers such as Critical Access Hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Conducting a community needs assessment
- Conducting local health workforce planning
- Hire a consultant to conduct HIT readiness

The change in the program is recognition that what many rural communities need is general planning money to identify issues and bring together key partners to develop plans to address those challenges. The Office plans on funding 20-25 new awards in 2010. The deadline for applications is **September 14, 2009**. Awards will be announced in February 2010 for a March 1, 2010 project start date.

If you have any programmatic questions, please contact Eileen Holloran, eholloran@hrsa.gov or 301-443-7529.

Grants.Gov Web Site Offers New Feature for Information on Applying for All ARRA Federal Grants

A new feature on Grants.gov will help users find and apply for The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant opportunities. Grants.gov contains information about finding and applying for all federal grant programs. The launch of this Recovery Act feature on the homepage of Grants.gov will direct users to Recovery Act opportunities, other Recovery Act resources, upcoming Webinars and links to www.whitehouse.gov/recovery and www.recovery.gov.

HHS is the managing partner of the cross-agency Web site, which now has information about more than 1,000 available grant programs involving all 26 federal grant-making agencies. These agencies together award more than \$500 billion in grant funds annually.

More information about Grants.gov is available at <http://www.grants.gov>. More information about The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/recovery> and <http://www.recovery.gov>. Source: HHS Press Release

GRAND ROUNDS:

PHARMACY

ARTHRITIS

GERIATRIC

NURSING

PSYCHIATRY

SOCIAL WORK

EMS TELECONFERENCES

A full description of all Grand Rounds presentations are at: www.mcrh.msu.edu/ and click on Grand Rounds. For more information on any of the Grand Round education sessions, contact Phyllis Ball, Education Coordinator at: ballp@msu.edu or 517-355-8250.

Annual Legal Update (via Videoconference & Teleconference)

Date: September 17th, 2009; 10:30-11:30 am EST

Presenters: Brian F. Bauer, Esq. of Hall Render Killian Heath & Lyman

Speaker: Brian F. Bauer focuses his practice in the areas of regulatory compliance, business transactions and reimbursement. He has served as general counsel to numerous hospitals, advising clients on a wide range of health law and regulatory issues, including the development of policies and procedures required by EMTALA, HIPAA and Stark. He also has extensive experience with medical staff relations, credentialing and peer review.

Co-Sponsored by: Hall Render Killian Heath & Lyman and The Michigan Center for Rural Health

Session Summary:

- Changes to the STARK regulations that could impact existing agreements with physicians and physician groups.
- New IRS guidance on “good governance” for Hospitals and other tax exempt organizations.
- Analysis of how CMS physician supervision requirements are impacting hospitals’ ability to bill for hospital outpatient services
- Guidance for structuring complaint on call coverage compensation arrangements
- Review of recent developments in CAH regulatory and reimbursement issues, including off campus provider based location issues.

Cost: There is no cost to participate in the videoconference presentation.

To Register: Please fax, mail or email registration forms (available on the website under Grand Rounds – Special Topics to Phyllis at ballp@msu.edu).

Media Relations and You!

Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Conference - **Free**

October 22, 2009, Dow Event Center, Saginaw, MI

In a crisis someone WILL step up and speak for your organization.

- How can you better prepare for your moment in the lights?
- How do you deliver your desired message effectively?
- How will the public view your organization the next day?

Featured Speakers:

Paula Mackenzie, Director of Public Relations, Spectrum Health Systems, Grand Rapids, speaking on their May 2008, helicopter crash.

Mark Kahler, Associate V.P. for University Communications, Union University, Tennessee speaking on their February 2008, tornado strike and resulting media attention

Additional sessions facilitated by:

Robert Kolt, President of Kolt Communications. Mr. Kolt has a background in television, as a media strategist, and as a Public Information Officer for both public and private organizations. Mr. Kolt will be facilitating discussions and activities on:

- Doing a great media interview
- Developing a crisis communications plan
- Writing for the media
- Making News

To register, go to: www.region3hpn.org Click on the "UPCOMING COURSES AND EVENTS" tab on the left and “Click Here to register” under the PIO Conference.

Please direct your questions to the Region 3 Healthcare Preparedness Network at 989.758.3712.

Videoconference Programs available on DVD

If you missed the two educational programs this summer co-sponsored by Hall Render Killian Heath & Lyman on Getting on Track for RAC – Preparing for and Surviving a Recovery Audit Contractor Audit or on HITECH Changes to HIPAA – Preparing for Compliance with the Changes to the Privacy and Security Rules, the programs are available on DVD for \$10. Please email Phyllis at ballp@msu.edu with your request.

Critical Access Hospital Annual Conference

The Michigan Critical Access Hospital Annual Conference is scheduled for October 29-30, 2009 at Boyne Mt. Resort. The program Agenda is on our web site at: www.mcrh.msu.edu. Additional information will be sent to Hospital CEO's during the week of September 7th.

Interesting Web Site

www.RuralTour.gov

Visitors to Can Join the Conversation About Challenges Facing Rural America; Additional 'Social Media' Tools Help Enhance Communication with People Throughout the Country

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has launched a new website designed to enhance discussions and facilitate innovation for issues facing rural America as part of the Obama Administration's Rural Tour. This week, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack will lead Rural Tour Community Forums in Hamlet, N.C., Des Moines, Iowa, and Sedalia, Mo., bringing the total number of Rural Tour stops to 16. The many new features on www.RuralTour.gov will enable

Americans across the country to share their stories, provide feedback, and get information on what is happening on the tour.

The Rural Tour site features several new features. First, all Americans are invited to "Join the Conversation," where they can share their own stories, even if they are unable to make it to one of the rural tour forums personally. Second, information about upcoming events and reports from past forums are easily available. Finally, the site includes a "What's Working" section where people can share Recovery Act projects and stories about people who are making a difference in their community.

In addition to the new website, Americans can follow the Rural Tour progress on Twitter at www.twitter.com/RuralTour where they can get the latest news and live updates from the road. Additionally, a USDA Facebook fan page is available at www.facebook.com/usda that features news and information regarding the department's ongoing mission across the country and around the world. Everyone is encouraged to visit the page and become a fan. Finally, USDA will be posting videos from the tour on YouTube at www.youtube.com/usda and photos at www.flickr.com/photos/usdagov.

Source: USDA Press Release

Interesting Quote

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other thing.”

-Abraham Lincoln

For additional information or questions about materials contained in this newsletter, please contact:

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