



NRHA
Rural Health Policy
Institute, January 2008
East KY Delegation
Capitol Hill Visits

NRHA
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West KY Delegation
Capitol Hill Visits

July 1, 2008– June 30, 2009 Officers

President: Kayla Rose
President Elect: Dwain Harris
Immediate Past President: Susan Starling
Secretary / Treasurer: Andrea Adams

2009 EVENTS

Summer Annual Conference, July 23-24, 2009
Contact: Kayla Rose at kdrose@st-claire.org

Fall Annual Conference, November 18, 2009
FREE—via KY Telehealth Network

Kentucky Rural Health Association
750 Morton Blvd
Hazard, KY 41701
Phone: 800.851.7512 x83585

For a Membership Application
Contact Diane Sturges, dstur0@uky.edu
or print from the website at www.kyrha.org



July 2008 Annual Conference
Susan Starling presents Dr. Emery Wilson
with the Dan Martin Award Plaque.

The Kentucky Rural Health Association (KRHA) mission is to ensure equitable distribution of and access to health care for rural Kentuckians. The mission requires that the members know what is going on legislatively. The 320+ members represent geographically diverse regions of Kentucky, a variety of for profit and non-profit health care constituencies, consumers, individuals and students.

The following issues have been identified by the members of the KY Rural Health Association as critical to the ability to access quality health care in rural Kentucky. These issues will be highlighted by KRHA's membership to Kentucky legislators during the 2009 session of the KY General Assembly as well as to KY's Congressional delegation.

1. Advocate strong support for the National Rural Health Association's 2009 Federal Advocacy Agenda and Priorities.

2. Protect funding for rural health. KRHA will continue to advocate for adequate funding for the "rural health safety net" programs and providers.

- ◆ Support measures that promote the equitable distribution of future health care professionals and the maintenance and support of existing providers, which include the following – loan repayment or tax incentive programs, health professional shortage area (HPSA) and medically underserved area (MUA) designation reform and the development of a Governor's Certified Shortage Area designation.
- ◆ Support the development of community-oriented primary care – including oral and mental health services – in rural areas with unmet need, particularly for the uninsured and underinsured .
- ◆ Support the establishment of a statutory definition of "safety net provider" in support of an indigent care trust fund.
- ◆ Support measures designed to improve rural residents' overall health, specifically – expansion of smoking and tobacco-usage prevention and cessation program efforts to decrease drug and alcohol abuse through prevention and treatment programs; and efforts to address the health problems associated with obesity.
- ◆ Support measures to increase the tobacco excise tax with funds collected being dedicated to Medicaid.

3. Support policies that increase the availability of and access to technology in rural areas.

- ◆ Support the modernization of Medicaid and development of e-health standards on a statewide basis to assure that the health care needs of rural residents and the technology issues facing rural practitioners are met.

4. Preserve, protect and support programs and efforts that improve the healthcare workforce in rural areas.

- ◆ Support measures designed to accelerate the credentialing process for commercial insurance for newly licensed physicians. Encourage legislation to reimburse approved medical providers from the time of their initial application.
- ◆ Support reform of malpractice insurance coverage for medical practitioners to include a state-level review panel of experts to determine the merits of a case before plaintiffs can go to trial.
- ◆ Support measures to require that funds collected within the Kentucky Provider Tax stay within the health care delivery system.
- ◆ Support measures to develop a statewide trauma system.
- ◆ Oppose efforts by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to de-certify rural health clinics.

Committees 2007-2008 Highlights

Annual Conferences/Awards

Planned Fall 2007 Conference and Summer July 2008 Conference.

Finance

Created budget for the 2008-2009 year.

Legislative

- ⇒ **Gov. Beshear signed HB371 into law, establishing a statewide trauma system and signed HB440 to provide greater transparency in provider contracts.**
- ⇒ **Active in the proposed designation HPSA and MUA areas rule..**

Membership

Conducted an electronic membership satisfaction survey.

Nominations

Recommendations for Slate of Candidates prepared and emailed to members 30 days before Annual Conference.

Public Information

Designed and disseminated new informational brochure.