National Rural Health Association: Internship Opportunities

Rural Health Forum
Shepherd University
April 28, 2017

Amy Elizondo, MPH
Vice President, Program Services
National Rural Health Association
Texas to Washington, DC

• Practicum at the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
• Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
• National Rural Health Association
NRHA Mission

The National Rural Health Association is a national membership organization with more than 21,000 members whose mission is to provide leadership on rural issues through advocacy, communications, education and research.
The NRHA Offers...

Advocacy and Policy Development
- Legislative development, strategy & tracking
- Action Alerts
- Information Alerts
- Congressional testimony
- Appropriations tracking
- Comments on regulations
- Policy briefs and papers
The NRHA Offers…

Communications and Information Access:

- Weekly E-News: NRHA Today
- Quarterly publication: Rural Horizons
- Journal of Rural Health
- Other publications
- Policy experts
- Organization linkages
- NRHA Connect
- Facebook/Twitter

Website: www.RuralHealthWeb.org
The NRHA Offers…

Educational Opportunities

- 22nd Health Equity Conference: May 9, 2017, San Diego, CA
- Rural Medical Education: May 9, 2017, San Diego, CA
- 40th Annual Conference: May 9-12, 2017, San Diego, CA
- Rural Hospital Innovation Summit: May 9-12, 2017, San Diego, CA
- SRHA Leadership Conference: July 11-12, 2017, Nashville, TN
- 13th Quality & Clinical Conference: July 12-14, 2017, Nashville, TN
- 29th Rural Health Policy Institute: February 6-8, 2018, Washington, DC
The NRHA Offers…

Networking Opportunities

- Sharing of information, best practices, experiences
- Innovative ideas
- Research
- Build contacts among peers
Organizational Structure

- Board of Trustees
- Rural Health Congress
- Government Affairs Committee
- Constituency Groups
Constituency Groups and Councils

- **Clinical Services**: Members interested in clinical issues, including proprietary and non-proprietary practices.
- **Federally Qualified Health Center**: Members affiliated with a primary care practice operated and governed by a community board of directors, such as a community health center.
- **Frontier**: Diverse membership (clinicians, researchers, statewide organizations) united because they work or live in sparsely populated areas.
- **Hospitals & Health Systems**: rural hospitals or hospitals with significant interest in rural areas.
- **Research and Education**: practitioners and scientists located at academic medical centers as well as persons involved in health professions education in rural communities.
Constituency Groups and Councils

- **Rural Health Clinics**: representatives of rural health clinics for both free standing and provider based clinics.
- **Statewide Health Resources**: Members interested in building or strengthening statewide rural health care systems.
- **Public Health**: Members interested in public health efforts.
- **State Office Council**: Members from State Offices of Rural Health.
- **State Association Council**: Members representing State Rural Health Associations.
- **Health Equity Council**: Members interested in the elimination of health disparities and the improvement of access to quality health care services for underserved populations.
- **Student**: Members who are full-time students.
Student Opportunities

- Practicum/Internship opportunities
- Scholarships for Conferences
- Rural Health Fellows Program
- Poster and Research Presentations
- Student track
- Leadership development

join-grassroots@lists.wisc.edu
NRHA Intern Experience

• In 4 years, over 20 students have interned with the NRHA from 16 different schools (undergraduate and graduate levels);

• Studies in public health, biostatistics, MPH/MD programs, health administration, political science, and sociology;

• Projects:
  – Policy briefs on rural HIV/AIDS; scan of best practices in opioid abuse treatments; integration of oral health as part of primary care, monitoring of Capitol Hill briefings; survey analysis, meeting coordination; infograph design; and nomination letters for national appointments.
NRHA Internship Requirements

• List of applicant’s area(s) of interest;

• Applicant’s CV or résumé;

• Requested timeframe for the non-paid internship;

• Link for more information: www.ruralhealthweb.org/programs/nrha-internships
Expectations/Opportunities

• Coordinate various program content for specified rural health meetings;
• Develop policy briefs for review by the Rural Health Congress;
• Evaluate various programs for effectiveness;
• Assist with duties related to non-profit management;
• Become versed in rural health related issues;
• Understand the grant writing and legislative processes.
Impact of Federal Government on Rural Health

- Legislation
- Regulations
- Funding/Appropriations
State Rural Health Associations

- 40 State Rural Health Associations
- Advocacy
- Annual Leadership Conference
- Technical Assistance Grants
2017 SRHA Map

State Rural Health Associations Map

- **Accredited**
- **In development**
- **Developed (not accredited)**
- **Not developed (no SRHA)**
Rural Community Health Worker (CHWs) Training Network

- Training CHWs in the areas of diabetes/technology, cancer prevention/intervention, public health and oral health as part of increasing access to care.
NRHA Border Health Initiative

Began in 2008 to:

• Highlight best practices, policy, education and research

• Annual meetings (11 since inception)

• Official Border Health Policy brief developed

• Quarterly expert calls

• Collaboration with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, US-Mexico Border Health Commission, State Offices of Border Health and Community Health Worker networks
Rural Oral Health Initiative

Purpose: provide leadership on rural oral health care with the intent to establish oral health care as part of primary care, thereby increasing health care access for all rural Americans.

Year-long initiative in collaboration with the DentaQuest Foundation with a focus on:

- **Policy**: Development of a Special Rural Oral Health Interest Group to provide policy recommendations/analysis that target legislative and regulatory barriers.
- **Communications**: Disseminate rural oral health information and a compendium of best practices via NRHA avenues.
- **Education**: Integrate rural oral health related tracks within NRHA conferences, Rural Community Health Worker Training, and within strategies utilized by State Rural Health Associations.
- **Research**: Advance rural oral health related research and policy.
Rural Veterans Health Initiative

Purpose: provide leadership to address access to health care needs of rural veterans.

- 5 year initiative that began in 2014 with support from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
- Annual meetings to assess current issues impacting rural veterans' care.
- Collaboration on placement of transitioning military personnel into health care positions.
- Dissemination of best practices
- Additional collaboration with the VA Office of Rural Health to highlight rural veterans’ research and communication of models of care.
Purpose: provide forum to foster public-private partnerships to enhance continued investment and opportunities in rural health innovation.

- Collaboration with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and Grantmakers In Health
- Host annual meetings of foundations investing in rural health to focus on current issues and collaborations
- NRHA led foundations meeting during the Annual Conference
- Foundation representation in the Rural Health Fellows Program
Rural Health Fellows Program

• The Rural Health Fellows Program (RHF) is a year long, intensive program that will develop leaders who can articulate a clear and compelling vision for rural America.

• Fellows will gain valuable insights and build critical skills in three primary domains:
  1) Personal, Team, and Strategic leadership;
  2) Health policy analysis and advocacy;
  3) National Rural Health Association governance and structure.
Acquired Skills

• Networking, networking, networking;
• Staying connected;
• Conducting informational interviews;
• Staying involved as Alumni;
• Paying it forward.
Thank you.

Amy Elizondo, MPH
Vice President, Program Services
National Rural Health Association
1025 Vermont Avenue, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
aelizondo@nrharural.org
(202) 639-0550
(202) 639-0559 (f)
www.RuralHealthWeb.org