



The SORH Short Rows is the quarterly newsletter from the Georgia State Office of Rural Health for all matters rural. It provides an update on the progress made to improve rural health in Georgia to hospitals, primary care practices, FQHCs, stakeholders, vendors, health care advocates, and legislators.

Leading the Fight Against Rural Health Disparities

Subscribe at
rural.health@dch.ga.gov



I am extremely excited to introduce our new look and present the new title of our newsletter, "*The SORH Short Rows*". If you live and work in a rural community, you may have heard the phrase "getting down to the short rows".

This is an old farm term meaning you are approaching the end of a project.



Stephen Register
SORH Executive Director



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH



DCH Mission Statement

The Department of Community Health will provide Georgians with access to affordable, quality health care through effective planning, purchasing and oversight.

We are dedicated to ***A Healthy Georgia.***

DCH Vision Statement

The Department of Community Health is committed to a lean and responsive state government that promotes the health and prosperity of its citizens through the innovative and effective delivery of quality health care programs.

DCH Purpose Statement

As farmers know when planting crops, the rows can seem like they go on forever. But, as the planting progresses the rows become shorter indicating the farmer is closer to reaching his goal of planting seeds in anticipation of a bountiful harvest.

The SORH team has re-titled our newsletter, "The SORH Short Rows" similarly to indicate the accomplishments the SORH has made from quarter to quarter in our fight against rural health disparities. We want to highlight specific accomplishments and news throughout rural Georgia and recognize the successes as we get ever closer to eliminating obstacles that inhibit healthcare access for our rural communities.

At the SORH, we truly have a passion for the health of our rural population and encourage our partners and stakeholders to help us in the quest to eliminate healthcare obstacles. Collectively, we can tackle these ever-stretching rows of healthcare disparities and get down to the "short rows" of producing a bounty of affordable, quality health care for all Georgians.

All the best,
Stephen



Over 250 Hospital Leaders Complete Mandated Training through Rural Innovation Center

Pursuant to House Bill 769, the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center was established at Mercer University School of Medicine in 2019 and is supported through funding provided by the Georgia Department of Community Health, State Office of Rural Health.

Shaping the future of A Healthy Georgia by improving access and ensuring quality to strengthen the communities we serve.



Quick Links

[State Office of Rural Health](#)

[Georgia Department of Community Health \(DCH\)](#)

[DCH Grant Opportunities](#)

[HRSA Funding Opportunities](#)

[Rural Health Information Hub \(RHI Hub\)](#)

The Innovation Center is tasked with a variety of responsibilities which include the establishment of the Georgia Health Data Hub, evaluation of the healthcare workforce status through data collection and analysis, and developing standards for mandatory Hospital Board and Executive

Leadership Training outlined in House Bill 769.



Within this mandate, all hospital executive leadership, hospital board members, and hospital authority members of rural hospital organizations are required to participate in a training program approved by the Innovation Center no later than December 31, 2020. The Innovation Center also monitors the quality of training provided by approved vendors, and tracks and reports compliance to the Department of Community Health. To date over 250 rural hospital leaders have completed the training course.

[Read the full article here.](#)



Trapnell Chosen Georgia's "Community Star" In Celebration of National Rural Health Day

Rural Health Research Gateway

Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Find



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*Kerry Trapnell, CEO
Elbert Memorial Hospital*

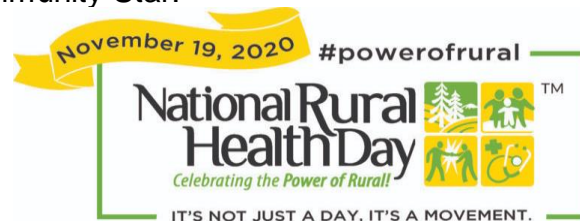
Each year the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) and its partners set aside the third Thursday of November to celebrate National Rural Health Day (NRHD). NRHD is an opportunity to "Celebrate the Power of Rural".

In conjunction with NRHD, NOSORH recognizes one individual or organization nominated from each of the 50 State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) whose outstanding work and service deserve recognition as a Community Star.

The Georgia SORH has nominated Elbert Memorial Hospital's Chief Executive Officer, Kerry Trapnell as Georgia's Community Star.

He was chosen for his successes in the Rural Hospital

Stabilization project and for his tenacious leadership in obtaining Critical Access Hospital designation for Elbert Memorial Hospital. The SORH congratulates Kerry for this well-deserved recognition.

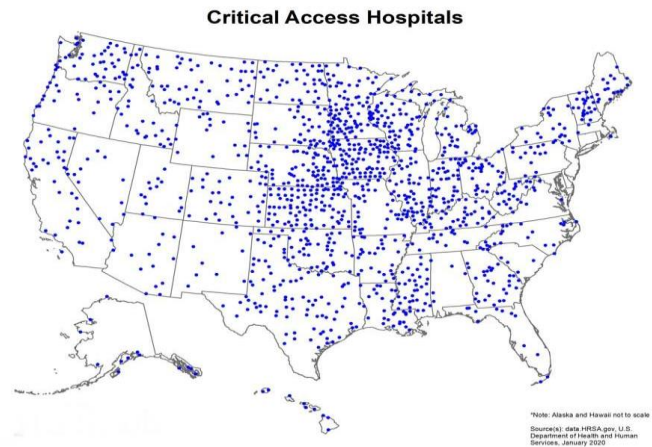


Read the full article here.



**Georgia Named "Top Performing State"
In CAH Quality Improvement Project**

Georgia has earned national recognition as a Top Performing State in the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) within the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program. Georgia's 31 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) ranked number six nationally in the 45 states that participate in the Flex Program.



Georgia's 31 CAHs Rank 6th Nationally in Quality Reporting and Improvement

Every year the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recognizes the 10 top performing states that achieved the highest reporting rates and levels of improvement in CAHs over the past 12 months. The 2020 top 10 ranked states in order are: Virginia, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Idaho, Michigan, Georgia, Nebraska, Massachusetts, Illinois, and Utah.

Read the full article here.



3RNet :

Recruiting Providers for Rural and Underserved Areas



The Georgia Primary Care Office (PCO) of the State Office of Rural Health is the state administrator for the National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet), a national

network that works to improve rural and underserved communities' access to quality healthcare through the recruitment of physicians and other health care professionals. 3RNET is a national nonprofit network of members committed to matching healthcare professionals with rural and underserved jobs.

Free 3RNet registration provides full job details such as compensation and contact information as well as email notifications on new jobs that meet your needs. For more information, please visit www.3rnet.org.



[Read the full article here.](#)



For Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers:
**MFWC Purchases Mobile Health
Clinic,
Adapts Healthcare Delivery Methods**



Through federal COVID CARES Act funding, the Migrant

Mobile Clinic will provide health care services to farmworker population

Farmworkers Clinic, Inc. (MFWC) in Lake Park was able to purchase a mobile clinic to enhance their ability to provide full range primary health care services to the migrant farmworker population in areas where they reside and work. Through the collaboration with local farmers, the hundreds of migratory and seasonal farmworkers expected for the fall harvest season will have access to medical services they need as well as personal and protective equipment to protect and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In January 2020, when the spread of COVID-19 began making its way across the United States, the MFWC was quick to respond to the need for providing education to migratory and seasonal farmworkers on what they should do to protect themselves and those around them.

With the help and leadership of their Medical Director, Dr. Felix Valdez and Physician Assistant Erik Little, they visited farmworkers to teach them about COVID-



Clinic staff distributes masks and hand sanitizer to patients

19 prevention methods then presented the workers with cloth masks, hand sanitizer, and posted educational

flyers. It was also important to reach the community virtually with outreach and up to date news and developments so Migrant Farmworkers Clinic created their own Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/MFWCLINIC>.

Read the full article here.



***There will always be a tractor on
the two lane
when you are running late...
and there will usually be double yellow lines too!***

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