



February 11, 2009

Message from the Executive Director

Dear RoundTable Members:

Welcome to the RoundTable's new online newsletter! We want to bring rural health news to you in the way YOU want to receive it – electronically. Our print newsletter has been retired and you can look forward to receiving relevant, exciting news of interest to you and your colleagues in the most timely manner possible. We'll send regular news clips with links to the full story, located on our web site. **Read more...** www.newenglandruralhealth.org

Goodall Hospital Supports Team Training to Promote Patient Safety

Sanford Maine: Goodall Hospital is partnering with the Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine, to implement and evaluate Crew Resource Management (CRM) training as a strategy to enhance patient safety. The partners will report on their experiences at the RoundTable's *Performance Improvement Summit* in April.

Read more... www.newenglandruralhealth.org/cahrh/news.htm

Rural Women Working Harder for the Money, Carsey Report Finds

As traditional rural-area jobs for men disappear (mining, farming, logging, and paper mills), more rural women are working to add a second income to the family budget, according to a new study from the Carsey Institute. Since 2000, more married than single women are in the workforce in rural areas, a first. In 2006, 70 percent of married women with children under age 6 in rural areas worked for pay compared with 64 percent in urban areas. Report documents the changing nature of women and work nationally, and in rural and urban areas.

Read more... <http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/Report-Smith-WorkingHard.pdf>

Eligible but not Enrolled?

A new Rural Policy Brief from RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis shows that more than 500,000 rural Medicare beneficiaries who are eligible for the low income subsidy (LIS) Prescription Drug Program are not yet enrolled. Possible reasons: lack of information

on the LIS program in rural areas; more limited proximity to Social Security offices where recipients could receive help in enrolling; and "cultural reluctance" to participate in government subsidy programs. Report says more research is needed on why eligible Medicare beneficiaries don't enroll. Chart shows state by state enrollment figures. Information in this brief could help CMS partners (including state and county agencies) target counties with high likelihood of LIS-eligible beneficiaries.

Read more... <http://www.unmc.edu/ruprihealth/Pubs/LIS%20Brief%202008-5.pdf>

Too Many Medevac Crashes?

The National Transportation Safety Board has begun hearings in Washington to try to find out why a record number of people died last year aboard emergency medical helicopters. National Public Radio reported on Feb. 3 that there were seven separate fatal accidents with 28 deaths in 2008, twice as many as any other year. NPR says the answers may not be simple.

Read more... <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=100151419>

Making Medical Homes Work: Moving From Concept to Practice

Among the many proposals for healthcare payment and delivery reform now being discussed, the *medical home* has gained momentum in both the private and public sectors. The concept has been promoted by primary care physician societies, by a broad range of insurers and payers, and Congress has mandated a medical demonstration in fee-for-service Medicare. A recent Policy Perspective issued by the Center for Studying Health System Change and Mathematical Institute takes an in-depth look at moving from theoretical concept to practical application.

Read more... <http://hschange.org/CONTENT/1030/#ib4>

Rural Home Prices Holding Steady

Rural home prices didn't accelerate as rapidly as metro home prices but they haven't fallen as much either, says a report from an economist at the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank.

Read more... http://www.kc.frb.org/RegionalAffairs/MainStreet/MSE_1208.pdf

Rural America Now Feeling Recession

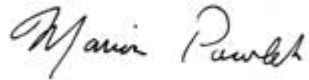
Rural America was spared the large layoffs and rising unemployment in the first year of the recession. But news reports from around the country now show that rural America is feeling the pain of rising unemployment rates.

Read more... <http://www.dailyonder.com/unemployment-gets-ugly-rural-regions/2009/01/29/1885>

Send Your News and Comments

This is the first edition of the RoundTable's online news. We plan to send updates approximately every two weeks but to keep the news fresh and relevant, we need **your** help! Please tell us if you like the new format and more importantly, please send information about events happening in your organization. Contact Dot Bergin by e-mail or phone. dobergin@gmail.com 781-275-7071

Thanks,



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