



## Top Stories

### Evers Announces Members of Health Policy Advisory Council

Governor-elect Tony Evers and Lieutenant Governor-elect Mandela Barnes have announced their Health Policy Advisory Council, which is composed of health care professionals from rural and urban health care settings and community health advocates. The council will advise the transition team on policy matters relating to the Department of Health Services, Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, the Department of Employee Trust Funds, and numerous state boards focused on health care. (Source: WisPolitics)



[Read more](#)

### Labor Pains: The OB-GYN Shortage

According to a 2017 report from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, half of U.S. counties lack a single OB-GYN. In rural areas, many pregnant women face a shortage of services, and must travel long distances for much-needed care. But, some rural health leaders are searching for ways to stem the OB-GYN shortage. An article from the Association of American Medical Colleges cites initiatives and programs to stem the shortage from across the country, including the rural OB-GYN residency in Wisconsin.



[Read more](#)

### Cumberland Memorial Hospital Secures Funding for New Facility

Cumberland Memorial Hospital, a critical access hospital located in rural northern Wisconsin, has received nearly in \$40 million in loans to build a new facility. The new facility will improve patient flow and surgical and clinic services.

Kathryn Miller, our rural hospitals and clinics program manager, **contextualized the importance** of critical access hospitals for Wisconsin Public Radio.



Image: Cumberland Healthcare

## More News

- **Legislation** introduced by U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Joni Ernst (R-IA) would **relieve rural telecommunications providers** of costly regulatory requirements. (Source: Senator Baldwin's office)
- Wisconsin residents who sustained property damage from flooding and storms in August and September of this year have until December 17th, 2018 to **apply for federal disaster assistance**. Even if you've registered with any other agency during the flooding, you must still register with FEMA to apply for aid. (Source: Department of Military Affairs)
- A study of communities across the US took a look at **what makes rural youth upwardly mobile**, and found that there are six common factors of communities that work to support youth. (Source: National 4-H Council and the Cooperative Extension System of land-grant universities)
- A **fact sheet on tobacco use in Wisconsin** finds that smoking is on a downward trend in the state. (Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services)

## New In the Virtual Library

Our office now has new policy and procedure guides for use by Wisconsin ambulance services. The guides focus on best practices for responding to patients with time-critical diagnoses—specifically, stroke, trauma, and heart attack.

The guides are the result of a 2016 assessment by our office of all ambulance services in Wisconsin. The goal of the assessment was to provide examples for agencies of what a high-capacity service's policy might look like regarding patient care.



## Funding & Opportunities

- The Office of Community Food Systems will award grants under the Farm to School Grant Program to be used for the implementation, planning, or training involved in **developing farm to school programs**. (Deadline: December 4th)
- The American Hospital Association will present up to five **NOVA Awards that will honor the bright stars of the health care field** that improve community health status and are collaborative. (Deadline: December 7th)
- The American Society of Breast Surgeons Foundation will award **\$5,000 grants for education around patient breast health and community outreach** to underserved and low income communities to raise awareness of breast cancer and health. (Source: December 14th)
- The **Warren H. Pearse Women's Health Policy Award** will provide \$10,000 to

support research which explores an aspect of health care policy that assists, defines, or restricts the ability of a physician to deliver health care to women in the general population. (Deadline: December 15th)

- **Youth Garden Grants** are awarded to schools and community organizations with youth-centered garden programs. Any nonprofit, school, or youth program planning a new garden project or expanding an established one is eligible to apply. (Deadline: December 17th)

## Events

- **November 29th:** A Skilled Nursing Facilities/Long Term Care **Open Door Forum** will discuss several relevant updates. Dial 1-800-837-1935, conference ID 35546657. 1pm Central.
- **November 29h:** Join national experts in a **conversation about the assistance that treatment and support providers can provide** to individuals in recovery from serious mental illness or substance use disorders to help identify and pursue their educational goals. 1pm Central.
- **December 4th:** Join the National Rural Health Resource Center to learn about **fiscal information and guidance** for small rural PPS hospitals and rural health clinics. 12pm Central.
- **December 4th-5th:** The Emergency Medical Services Board will meet at Wisconsin Technical College System, 4622 University Avenue, in Madison. View the agenda for **Day 1** and **Day 2**. 9am-5pm/ 9am-1pm Central.



Wisconsin Office of Rural Health

SIGN UP FOR EMAILS

SHARE THIS EMAIL

**WI Office of Rural Health**

608-261-1884

worh.rural.reporter@gmail.com

http://www.worh.org