Top Stories

2019 County Health Rankings Released

The annual County Health Rankings and Roadmaps were released this week. The project ranks the health of Wisconsin's 72 counties based on a variety of data-informed health factors and outcomes, and informs communities and health leaders of what needs to change to drive better health outcomes. This year's report also goes into significant depth on the role stable and affordable housing plays in health.

Practitioners Push Back On Dental Therapy

For some in rural Wisconsin, getting access to dental care can be tough. Much of the state faces a shortage of providers, especially in rural areas.

A proposal in Governor Evers' budget would establish a dental therapy program, which would establish dental therapists as providers who could perform routine dental services to patients. Similarly, a bill under consideration in the legislature would allow dental therapists to work in the state legally.

But the establishment of dental therapy is unpopular with industry groups, and it's also not popular with rural dentists.

What Goes On Inside a Critical Access Hospital?

What are the challenges that small, rural hospitals face, and what is it like to work in a small CAH in rural Wisconsin? A rural health podcast recently spoke to
Mark Zellmer, Physician Assistant educator and lead hospitalist/emergency room provider at Gundersen Tri-County Hospital and Clinics in Whitehall. The conversation touches on the hospital’s plan to be fully staffed by physician assistants, and the establishment of a fellowship program for PAs.

"Working and caring for patients in rural areas can be a heck of a lot of fun. You really get to know people well, and they become your friends, they become your colleagues."
-Mark Zellmer

More News

- Amid declining milk prices, small farm bankruptcies have more than doubled in the past five years. An in-depth report takes a look at the problem.

- New BadgerCare work requirements could cause hospitals to see a drop in Medicaid revenue, and an increase in uncompensated care.

- The Governor has announced the creation of a council aimed at reducing and eliminating health disparities across the state. Applications to be on the council are due April 30th.

- Federal officials have removed a legal/regulatory barrier to the implementation of community paramedicine programs.

- Attorney General Josh Kaul has filed to withdraw Wisconsin from a lawsuit seeking to invalidate the Affordable Care Act.

Funding & Opportunities

- An award from the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative recognizes hospital employees who have gone above the call of duty. (Deadline: April 1st)

- Nonprofit organizations, government entities, and other types of organizations are eligible for funding for projects that work to improve livability in a community. (Deadline: April 17th)
Local governments can apply for grants to help community partners collect data on prescribing and drug overdose trends. (Deadline: May 2nd)

Seventy-five grants will go to entities in rural communities to enhance service delivery for substance use disorder. (Deadline: May 6th)

Cities, towns, counties, tribes, and more can apply for funding to train and provide resources to first responders for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. (Deadline: May 6th)

Grants will go to institutions of higher education and health professional training programs to train behavioral health professionals on prevention, treatment, and recovery services for substance use disorders. (Deadline: May 7th)

Events

- April 1st: An event for tribes and people who work with tribes will focus on trauma-informed care for tribal nations. Registration required by March 25th.
- April 2-3: The Wisconsin Health Literacy Summit will be held in Madison.
- Various: Budget season means legislators are holding public listening sessions, and there may be one in your area.

EMS Day At the Capitol

Join us for EMS Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, April 10th. It's a day for EMS departments across the state, whether rural or urban, to talk with their state legislators and share issues and policies important to them.

Register Here