



**Ohio Rural
Health
Association**

Leading through advocacy, education, and relationships

Welcome from the ORHA Co-Presidents

Countdown to the 2021 Ohio Rural Health Conference! If you have not registered yet, we hope you do soon! [Click here to register.](#)

Who should attend? Anyone who cares about health in rural Ohio!

The conference will take place August 11- 13 via Zoom. The keynote speaker this year is Jessica Rector who will be presenting on “Ignite the Burned Out.” Here is more about Jessica:

Jessica’s vision is simple: Transform Lives. Because her brother died, her mission is to help others truly live. As the top burnout and mind wellness expert, Jessica Rector, MBA is the authority on breaking through burnout and tackling your inner game and turning it into outer success and positive action! As a former TV talk show host and award winning #1 sales performer at a Fortune 100 company, Jessica uses her company’s research to help organizations, leaders, and teams to fire up their thinking and extinguish burnout. Jessica has three college degrees, including an MBA and has written ten books. As a #1 best-selling author, she has shared the stage with Michelle Obama and worked with clients such as Fortune’s #2 “Best Company to work for,” NBCUniversal, and the Dallas Mavericks, and has been seen on ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX for creating change.

When she’s not traveling around the world for work, Jessica spends her time learning about the exciting world of Transformers, so she can carry on real conversations with her eight-year-old son, Blaise, who is a #1 best-seller author and the youngest published author in the United States.

In addition to Jessica, there are multiple concurrent sessions to choose from each day.

[Click here for the agenda.](#)

Don’t miss this chance to connect and learn with others who are passionate about rural health in Ohio!

Sharon and Cory, Co-presidents



Ohio Rural Health Association



Department of Health

2021 OHIO RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

RESILIENCE IN RURAL

JOIN US FOR EDUCATIONAL RURAL HEALTH INFORMATION SESSIONS, NETWORKING, A YOUNG PROFESSIONALS RECEPTION, AND MORE!



Keynote Speaker:
Jessica Rector, MBA
"Ignite the Burned Out"

\$25 REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- Virtual accessibility
- Live access to conference speaker presentations
- Access to recordings after conference ends
- Poster session access
- Vendor and exhibitor links
- Free, one-year membership in ORHA



BECOME A PLATINUM, GOLD OR SILVER CONFERENCE SPONSOR



JOIN THE EXHIBITOR HALL TO SHARE YOUR ORGANIZATION'S ROLE IN OHIO RURAL HEALTH

AUGUST 11-13, 2021

Register now at
<https://www.ohioruralhealth.org/registration>

Committee Updates

Communications and Education Committee

The Communications and Education committee meets monthly to review ORHA social media outreach efforts, upcoming events to share with ORHA members, create newsletter content, and update the ORHA website. **If you would like to join the Communications and Education committee, or be featured in an upcoming Member Profile, [click here to e-mail ORHA Secretary.](#)**

Professional Development Funds available

The ORHA Board is pleased to announce the Ohio Rural Health Association Scholarship Program. The scholarship funds are intended to promote professional development and training of individuals who contribute to the mission and vision of ORHA. ORHA members may apply for up to \$500. Members may apply to funds every two years; preference is given to members who have not previously received funds. These funds are provided in partnership with the State Office of Rural Health at the Ohio Department of Health.

ORHA has been able to offer \$7,305.76 in scholarship funds to professionals in Ohio wishing to increase their ability to serve rural Ohioans. Through this program, ORHA was able to support rural Health Clinic Certification courses, EMT classes, Doctors for America Conference, the National Farm Viability Conference, and courses to improve documentation in healthcare for assuring ongoing success of programs. These funds are awarded and reviewed on a rolling basis, you may apply at any time, funds will be released upon completion of the program or event, proof of completion will be required for reimbursement. [Click here for the scholarship application.](#)

Must be a current member of ORHA to be considered for the scholarship.

Not a member? [Click here to join ORHA.](#)

One training idea to use these scholarship funds:

The Ohio Rural Health Conference: <https://www.ohioruralhealth.org/registration>

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee continues to monitor proposed legislation that will impact rural health in Ohio. We have signed a letter of support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, are in favor of legislation to support behavioral therapy through telehealth and are supporting the designation of a Rural Health Day in Ohio.

If you would like to join the Legislative committee, [click here to e-mail Beth Kluding, Legislative Committee Co-Chair](#)

Membership committee

The membership Committee formed in June 2021 and is working to create an assessment to survey our members on their professional development needs, The Committee is also developing a list of resources and member benefits. [Click here to e-mail ORHA President](#) if you would like to help ORHA grow membership and develop resources for our members.

ORHA Young Professionals Networking Group

ORHA is starting a Young Professionals Networking group for members aged 30 and younger. If you would like to help plan Young Professional events, suggest/request professional development, networking opportunities, and more, please register for the conference and attend the Young Professionals reception and networking virtual meeting, Thursday at 1 pm.

Member Profile:

Dr. Michele Morrone - Founder of Ohio Rural Health Association



My interest in rural areas began in graduate school at the University of New Hampshire. My thesis work involved an analysis of land use change in a rapidly urbanizing section of the state. This was in the mid-1980s and people in southeastern New Hampshire were alarmed at the rate that the state was growing and what it meant for the environment. This interest carried into my PhD research at The Ohio State University as I examined the controversy around siting a facility to manage low-level radioactive waste in Ohio. I found it interesting that rural areas were often the target for operations that could cause environmental harms. In my work at Ohio EPA in the 1990s, I became aware of the direct connection between environmental conditions and human health as I was involved in helping rural communities improve their wastewater treatment systems.

Since 1998 I have been at Ohio University with multiple responsibilities, but always as the coordinator of the Environmental Health program. Environmental health is the foundation of public health, and the curriculum focuses on understanding the relationship between the environment and health and preventing illness, injury, and death with good environmental programs and policies. I have always been interested in environmental and social justice and as I became more involved in research in Appalachia, I saw that there are health inequities in the region that are created by conditions beyond the control of the people who live here.

I became the director of the Appalachian Rural Health Institute (ARHI) just when Ohio University was awarded a grant from the National Rural Health Association to develop a state rural health association. At first ARHI was the facilitator of this effort, but numerous partners quickly became engaged. This engagement led to the Ohio Rural Health Association which is now a registered nonprofit organization. About this same time, the Ohio Department of Health funded ARHI to develop a state Rural Health Plan which is now available.

Throughout all this work, there have been numerous people and organizations that have been part of a tremendous team. In particular, I have enjoyed working closely with ORHA's current co-President, Sharon Casapulla, without whom ORHA would not exist.

Dr. Morrone is a Professor of Environmental Health at Ohio University. She earned a Ph.D. in environmental planning from The Ohio State University, an M.S. in forest resources from the University of New Hampshire and a B.S. in natural resources from The Ohio State University. Dr. Morrone previously served as the Chief of the Office of Environmental Education at Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. She is the author of numerous papers on a variety of environmental issues including the community impacts of hydraulic fracturing, pollution havens and environmental health disparities in Appalachia, and environmental justice. She has published six books: *From Surviving to Thriving in Appalachia: Place, Passion, and Possibilities* (2021); *Ailing in Place: Environmental Inequities and Health Disparities in Appalachia* (2020); *A Handbook of Food Safety*, 3rd Edition (2017); *Mountains of Injustice: Case Studies in Environmental Equity* (2011); *Poisons on Our Plates: The Real Food Safety Problem in the United States* (2008); and *Sound Science, Junk Policy: Environmental Health Science and the Decision Making Process* (2002). She was the 2012 Fulbright Research Scholar in Science and the Environment at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and was a member of a group to present Appalachian-related research in Ukraine in 2014. Dr. Morrone is the recipient of numerous teaching awards including being named University Professor in 2016-17. Her research focuses on Appalachian health issues, specifically the relationship between environmental conditions and health outcomes.

Rural Health News

Rural Vaccination Rate Inches up to 34.8% of Population

[Click here to read at The Daily Yonder](#)

1 in 3 Americans said Access to Affordable Healthcare Top Barrier for Well-being

[Click here to read at beckershospitalreview.com](#)

Older Adults in Rural Areas Face Hurdles to Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

[Click here to read at healthline.com](#)

Covid Was a Tipping Point for Telehealth. If Some Have Their Way, Virtual Visits Are Here to Stay.

[Click here to read at Kaiser Health News \(khn.org\)](#)

Models Addressing Breastfeeding - RHIhub Rural Maternal Health Toolkit

[Click here to read at ruralhealthinfo.org](#)

Overview of Problems and Solutions: The Importance of Rural Hospitals

[Click here to read at chqpr.org](#)

How Rural Broadband Impacts Ohio

[Click to read at SoyOhio.org](#)

COMCorps an AmeriCorps Program still has SIX open positions at fabulous host sites in Athens County Ohio!

Apply ASAP: www.tinyurl.com/joincomcorps

Orientation starts August 12th!

All questions, and messages letting us know you are working on your application are welcomed!

Reach out to Eric Long longe@ohio.edu or message the page and we can make sure to help. Please let us know if you require any accommodations in order to fully participate. [#JoinCOMCorps](#)

All you have to do is click this link to start your next journey:

www.tinyurl.com/joincomcorps



Open Positions!

Integrate Athens

Women for Recovery*
Serenity Grove
WOMEN'S RECOVERY HOUSE

Athens County
Children Services

Live Healthy Appalachia

HOPEWELL
HEALTH CENTERS

COMCorps
Nutrition | Gardening | Food Access | Social Connectivity | Wellness

www.tinyurl.com/joincomcorps



COMCorps
Nutrition | Gardening | Food Access | Social Connectivity | Wellness

Benefits

- \$16,000 living stipend
- \$6,345 education award*
- Forbearance of qualified student loans*
- Loan interest accrual payment*
- Healthcare benefits
- Childcare benefits*
- SNAP eligibility*
- Member assistance programs (counseling)
- Worker's Compensation
- Diverse professional experiences
- Access to amazing mentors, leaders, and peers
- Increased awareness of social and community issues
- Part of a culture of inclusion, civic engagement, and diversity



*Terms and conditions may apply. Ask program staff for specifics.

July 2021

Covid-19 Information for Rural Ohio

Webinar: Building Vaccine Confidence in Your Community

July 29, 2021, 11:00 AM

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is hosting a series of webinars with discussion periods on Building Vaccine Confidence in Your Community. Please feel free to share this invitation with others in your community.

CMS knows that it is you, our partners in our communities, who will make the biggest difference in building people's confidence in our vaccines and change the minds of people who have so far resisted vaccination. The webinar will help you learn how to build trust in vaccines with the people in your community who have so far resisted vaccination, help you find tools to communicate with them, and include a discussion period for participants to ask questions and discuss your experiences reaching the unvaccinated.

You can [click here to register for the July 29 session](#). Once registered, you will receive additional information to join the webinar. Thank you

Medicaid members are eligible to receive a \$50 gift card for getting the COVID vaccine. Starting 7/26 they are eligible to receive a \$100 gift card

For people who have "MyCare Ohio" as their insurance plan they are eligible to receive \$100 if they got the vaccine 6/15 through 9/15

In addition, healthcare providers are eligible to receive an increased payment amount for administering the covid vaccine to Medicaid members to \$100 total.

<https://www.covidvaxonthespot.com/>

The \$100 amount is fairly new and all OH Medicaid plans and ODM are trying to get this word out so that people get vaccinated. The information will be updated on 7/26 to reflect the new amount.

Financial resources for businesses and families that have been impacted by Covid-19

The Small Business Relief Grant is designed to assist Ohio businesses that have been harmed by the effects of COVID-19. The \$125 million grant fund will provide relief to Ohio businesses that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. Funding for the program is from the CARES Act. The business must be a for-profit entity with no more than 25 total or full-time equivalent Ohio employees as of Jan. 1, 2020. The applicant business has a physical location in Ohio and earns at least 90% of annual revenue from activities based in Ohio.

[Click here for information on business relief](#)

[Click here for information on how families can access resources](#)

⁷Rural Health Opportunities, Events and Trainings

HRSA Vulnerable Rural Hospital Assistance Program now accepting year 4 applications - application deadline July 31, 2021

The Center for Optimizing Rural Health's (CORH) application portal for the HRSA-funded Vulnerable Rural Hospital Assistance Program (VRHAP) is now open. The portal will remain open until July 31, 2021. CORH offers technical assistance to 30 rural hospitals each year to help address economic challenges, understand community needs and resources, and identify ways to ensure hospitals and communities can maintain local health care access.

This program is funded by HRSA, so all resources are FREE to participating hospitals.

The application is open to all rural and CAH hospitals in the United States. Selected hospitals will be notified in August 2021, with the technical assistance year beginning September 1, 2021.

To make the application process as streamlined as possible, we are sharing some tips and best practices. If you need further assistance, we'll be happy to walk you through the application.

- Read the [FAQs](#) before starting the application.
- Download the [Application PDF](#) and complete a written copy before entering data into the portal to avoid being timed out while you gather information.
- Complete as many questions on the application as you are able to answer.
- The more information you can provide, the better. Tell your hospital's story!
- If you are unsure of your eligibility review [questions 11, 12, 13, and 15 in the CORH VRHAP Application/Selection Process](#) section of the FAQs.

If you would like to apply for technical assistance or learn more about the program, please check out these links:

[Click here for the application portal](#)

[Click here for what to expect from CORH](#)

For more information, please contact Center for Optimizing Rural Health

Texas A&M University

1-855-234-0712

CORH@tamu.edu

www.optimizingruralhealth.org

USDA Invites Partners to Join the Rural Workforce Innovation Network (RWIN)

USDA established the Rural Workforce Innovation Network (RWIN) to create a forum for public and private partners to help increase access to workforce opportunities across rural America. This network represents governmental entities, colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations, and private businesses that are actively working to improve workforce development in their local communities.

The kick-off meeting for this effort has already taken place, but more meetings are planned. [Click here to learn more and join the network.](#)

Rural Health Opportunities, Events and Trainings

Ohio Rural Health Conference: *Resilience in Rural*

August 11 - 13 9 am - 1 pm daily

Agenda <https://www.ohioruralhealth.org/conference/2021-ohio-rural-health-conference-agenda>

Registration: <https://www.ohioruralhealth.org/conference/2021-ohio-rural-health-conference>

Compelling Strategies to Lead Teams and Execute Opportunities

Presented by Baldwin Wallace University and Innovation Garage, August 18, 2021, 10 - 10:30 am

“It is critical to infuse system-based thinking into the growth of your organization, for profit or nonprofit. The good news is, that you can train for it. You can build your skills and the capability in your organization will follow. Systems to create ideas, systems to communicate them, and systems to commercialize them. That will scale into a growth mindset for the future. You want to encourage a culture that can fail fast and do small scale experiments that limits risk.” Are you looking to gain insights that will help build the capability of your team to execute more effectively?

[Click here to register for free](#)

2021 Ohio Association of Community Health Centers Conference

September 29 - October 1, Columbus, Ohio

[Conference information available here](#)

Writing and Implementing SOPs for Distribution

Presented by Great Lakes Community Action Partnership

Participants will learn to write SOP's for their distribution system and apply them to other areas of operation.

September 30, 2021, 12 - 2:45 pm

[Click here to register for free](#)

Nursing Innovation Summit

Presented by Cleveland Clinic, October 6, 2021, 8 am - 4 pm

The 8th Annual Nursing Innovation Summit is a one-day virtual conference for nurses to learn how to begin the innovation process and develop their ideas. Attendees will learn the concept of innovation-based practice, hear of nurse innovator's innovation journey, and will be challenged with their innovation assumptions.

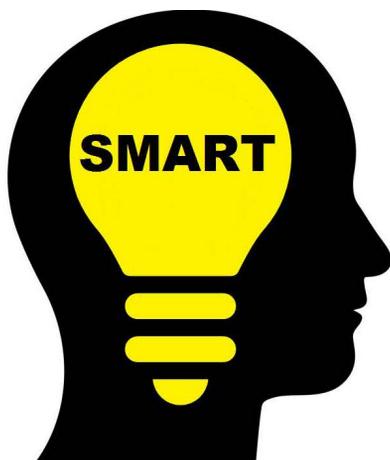
[Click here for more information and registration](#)

Ohio Rural Health Association is co-presenting the Ohio Rural Health Conference.

ORHA is not sponsoring or endorsing any of the other trainings or conferences listed. For information on any of these events please contact the organization presenting the event.

If you would like to have your event considered for inclusion in the ORHA newsletter, please email secretary@ohioruralhealth.org

Thank you to our Summer Newsletter Sponsor: SMART 2.0



SMART 2.0 – Self-management for people with epilepsy and a history of negative health events

In spite of advances in biological therapies, many people with epilepsy have poor outcomes including negative health events (NHEs) such as frequent seizures, accidents and emergency department (ED) visits, and low quality of life. People with epilepsy in rural and other underserved communities face additional challenges such as social isolation, limited access to care and low levels of epilepsy awareness, all of which impede help-seeking and exacerbate epilepsy stigma and contribute to increased negative health events.

Self-management for people with epilepsy and a history of negative health events (SMART) has been demonstrated to reduce epilepsy-related complications and improve quality of life and physical and mental health functioning. SMART is among the evidence-based epilepsy self-management programs that the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) Managing Epilepsy Well (MEW) Network has been a developing, testing and disseminating. SMART 2.0, developed by researchers at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), is an on-line behavioral program primarily focused on self-management skills and is co-led by Peer Educators (patients with epilepsy) and Nurse Educators. SMART 2.0 is delivered on-line or by telephone and thus can be accessed by people with epilepsy from the comfort and convenience of their own home. This prospective randomized controlled trial (RCT) will investigate the effects of the SMART 2.0 program among adults age 18 or older with epilepsy vs. a 6-month wait-list control. All participants will eventually receive the intervention. There is no cost to receive the program and participants receive modest compensation for the research assessment portion of the project (which can be completed on-line or over the phone).

We expect that participation in SMART will empower people with epilepsy to better engage in their overall healthcare and address the stigma and social isolation that many people with epilepsy, unfortunately, experience. As the study progresses, the SMART team is continuously working to form relationships with stakeholders in rural communities so that this program reaches the people that need it most.

For more information or to recommend individuals for potential participation, please contact Martha Sajatovic, MD at Martha.Sajatovic@uhhospitals.org or visit <https://managingepilepsywell.org/smart>.

Sponsor the ORHA Newsletter

Align your brand with the Ohio Rural Health Association and communicate your message to healthcare professionals across the State.

\$100/month sponsorship includes placement of logo or flyer in the newsletter and on the website.

For more information, or to sponsor an upcoming newsletter, please contact Laura Akgerman at secretary@ohioruralhealth.org.

Join the ORHA Effort

As a member of an essential and growing organization, you have an opportunity to contribute to the vitality of rural health across Ohio!

Now recruiting members for all committees:

- Communication and Education
- Legislative
- Membership
- Young Professionals Networking Group

The ORHA Board is excited to start working with you!

[Click here to request information on joining one of our committees](#)

Share the Good Word Across Ohio!

Got a story to share or an upcoming event? Perhaps an upcoming training, workshop, or educational opportunity? Let us know!

We'd love to share your information with the rest of our community.

Connect by emailing us at secretary@ohioruralhealth.org

Connect with us on social media by clicking the icons below



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