



From the MRHA President

To Members and Partners:

The past year saw significant growth in our organization's commitment to improve the health of rural Marylanders. Please take a few moments to read about our accomplishments of 2011 that included a successful conference in Ocean City, scholarships awarded in Western Maryland, increased membership, and proactive advocacy throughout the year. The Directors dedicated time and energy this summer to strategically planning the growth of the organization. Our collective goals now include a stronger presence in Annapolis, continued growth and diversity of membership, and cultivating new partnerships.

2012 will be a challenging year for many of us. Our membership is facing continued budget constraints, a shrinking workforce, and increasing needs to the health services in our state. MRHA is vital in helping to create a voice for the unique health needs of our rural communities. The continued support from you is vital during these changing times and we need your input on what MRHA can do in 2012 and beyond to strengthen the voice for rural health in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Debbie Goeller

**President, Maryland Rural Health Association
Health Officer, Worcester County**

2011-2012 Board of Directors

Debbie Goeller
President
Health Officer,
Worcester County

Mark Rajkowski
MRHA Treasurer
Executive Director,
West Cecil
Community Health
Center

Rodney Glotfelty
MRHA Past President
Health Officer,
Garrett County

Pam Christoffel
Washington County Resident,
Health Consultant

Susan Stewart
MRHA Vice President
Executive Director,
Western Maryland Area
Health Education Center

Jake Frego
Executive Director,
Eastern Shore Area Health
Education Center

Mike Shaw
MRHA Secretary
Executive Director,
Calvert Healthcare Solutions

Denise Matricciani
Vice President,
Maryland Hospital Association

Marita Novicky
Rural Health Policy Analyst
(Retired)

Earl Stoner
Health Officer, Washington
County

Lori Werrell
Director, Health Connections,
MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

Agency Liaisons:

Mike Thiekle
Rural Maryland Council

Elizabeth Vaidya
State Office of Rural Health

2011 Rural Health Conference: Navigating Change by Connecting With Others



DHMH Secretary Dr. Joshua Sharfstein presents MRHA President Debbie Goeller with Rural Health Day Proclamation from Governor O'Malley.

The Maryland Rural Health Association hosted the 2011 Rural Health Conference, Nov 3-4, in Ocean City, titled: Navigating Change By Connecting Others. More than 80 rural health stakeholders came together to learn and discuss rural health challenges and innovative solutions for rural Maryland. Presentations from various programs and individuals improving the health of rural Maryland can be found on our website. The key note speaker, Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, presented Debbie Goeller, Worcester County Health Officer and MRHA President, a Governor's Proclamation announcing November 17, 2011 as Maryland Rural Health Day, which was promoted by the Maryland State Office of Rural Health. Alan Morgan, President of the National Rural Health Association, also spoke on national rural health priorities and directions. Plans are now underway for a 2012 conference to be held on **October 18 - 19, 2012** at the Hilton Garden Inn Solomon's Island in Southern Maryland. **Save the Date!**

HealthSpell Awards Scholarships to Promote Health Careers

The inaugural HealthSpell event, hosted by the Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and MRHA, was held at Mountain Ridge High School in Frostburg on June 4, 2011. Middle school students from Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties competed for \$6,000 in scholarships toward future college tuition in addition to guaranteed placement in the AHEC's high school health career exploration program. HealthSpell was established to raise awareness of the drastic healthcare workforce shortages in rural areas and to encourage more students to pursue a healthcare career. William Hunter Barclay of Frostburg and Mount Savage Middle School won the HealthSpell after going over 50 rounds head-to-head with Cassandra Li from Smithsburg Middle School in Hagerstown. Cassandra spelled over 100 words correctly before tripping on the word "immunodeficiency." William became champion by spelling "amniocentesis," earning \$3,000 toward his college education. Cassandra earned \$2,000. Karli Hakala also of Frostburg and Mount Savage Middle School won third place and \$1,000 toward her education.



Susan Stewart, WMAHEC, Chair of HealthSpell Committee (far left) and Michelle Clark, MRHA Director, (far right) with 2011 Health Spell winners.



Rodney Glotfelty (right), Garrett County Health Officer and past MRHA president presents Senator Richard F. Colburn with the 2011 Rural Health Legislator Award.

2011 Rural Health Awards: Recognizing those Who Go the Distance

The Maryland Rural Health Association presented its 2011 Rural Health Awards to six well respected rural health leaders and a deserving rural program during its annual conference in November. The following awards were given for the overall significant contributions to the rural health of Maryland:

- Rural Health Legislator Award** – Senator Richard F. Colburn, District 37
- Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner** – Chris Leo, Dental Hygienist, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Salisbury
- Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner** – Dr. James "Patrick" Jarboe, Primary Care Physician, St. Mary's City
- Outstanding Rural Health Achievement Award** - Holly Emmons, Food Service Manager, Union Hospital, Elkton
- Outstanding Rural Health Program Award** – The Western Maryland Mission of Mercy, providing free dental care to over 840 patients in Cumberland, over one weekend
- Outstanding Rural Health Volunteer** – Donna Clark, founder of the nonprofit agency H.O.P.E (Help and Outreach Point of Entry) for the Homeless, Salisbury



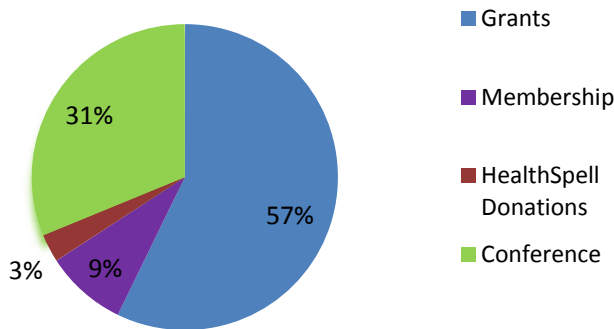
MRHA Board of Directors: Plans for Future and Elects New Leadership

The MRHA Board of Directors gathered in Oakland, MD on June 3rd for strategic planning, supported by a Technical Assistance Grant from the National Rural Health Association (NRHA). The group reaffirmed the vision, mission, goals and upcoming objectives of the organizations with key priorities focusing on expanding membership, growing the conference, and advocating at the state level for rural health.

The Board also voted for the 2012 MRHA Executive Team. On July 1, 2011 Debbie Goeller, Health Officer, Worcester County took office as President. Rodney Glotfelty, Health Officer of Garrett County remains on the Board as Past President. Susan Stewart, WMAHEC Executive Director, moved to the Vice Presidency position from Treasurer. Mike Shaw, Executive Director Calvert HealthCare Solutions, remained Secretary. We also welcomed Mark Rajkowski, Executive Director of West Cecil Health Center Inc., as Treasurer.

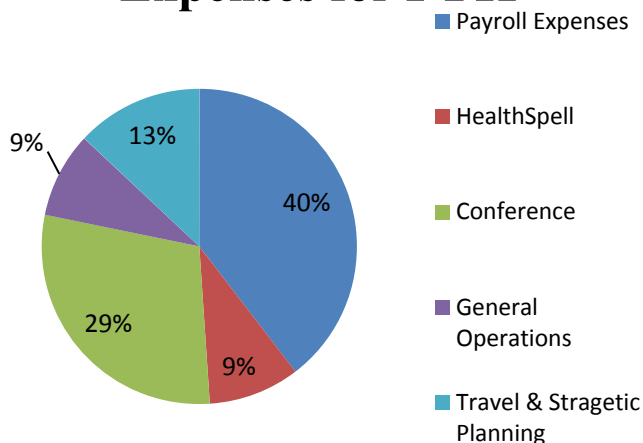
Report on MRHA FY 2011 Operating Budget

Revenue for FY11



Finances were secure for the 2011 Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2011. Operating assets were at a total of \$87,000.87. Additionally, the organization holds a CD for \$27,000 for scholarship winners from 2009-2011 events. Scholarships will start to be distributed directly to institutes of higher education in 2014 when scholarship winners from both Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore begin college. Grant funds in FY11 were received from the National Rural Health Association, the Maryland Agriculture Educational and Rural Development Assistant Fund (MAERDAF), and Together RX.

Expenses for FY11



Account Balances as of June 30, 2011

Checking:	\$42,569.23
CD Unrestricted Funds:	\$44,431.64
Total Operating Assets:	\$87,000.87

CD Restricted	
Scholarship Funds:	\$27,351.48

Total Assets: \$114,352.35

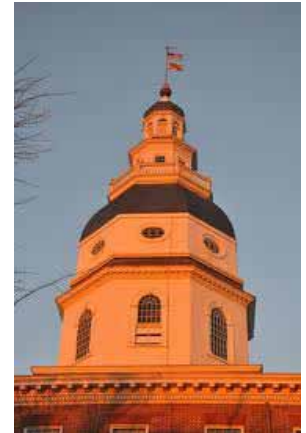


MRHA Organization Members

Allegany County Health Department
 Allegany Health Right
 American Heart Association, Maryland and D.C.
 Atlantic General Hospital
 Calvert Memorial Hospital
 Caroline County Health Department
 Cecil County Health Department
 Center for Children Inc.
 Charles County Health Department
 Chester River Health System
 Choptank Community Health Center
 Civista Medical Center
 Dorchester County Health Department
 Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center
 Frederick County Memorial Hospital, Inc.
 Garrett County Health Department
 Garrett County Memorial Hospital
 Harford County Health Department
 Kent County Health Department
 Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry
 Development Corporation (MARBIDCO)
 Maryland Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
 Maryland Association of County Health Officers
 Maryland Community Health Resources Commission
 Maryland Hospital Association
 Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers
 Mount Laurel Medical Center
 NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis
 Peninsula Regional Medical Center
 Rural Maryland Council
 State Office of Rural Health
 St. Mary's County Health Department
 St. Mary's Hospital
 Somerset County Health Department
 Talbot County Health Department
 Three Lower Counties Community Services Inc.
 Tri County Council of Southern Maryland
 Tri State Community Health Center
 Trilogy, Inc.
 University of Maryland School of Medicine
 Washington County Health Department
 West Cecil Community Health Center
 Western Maryland Area Health Education Center
 Wicomico County Health Department
 Worcester County Health Department

MRHA's Presence in Annapolis Grows; Legislative Committee Formulates Rural C.A.R.E.S Agenda

MMRHA continues to grow its role in Annapolis advocating for better access and quality of healthcare in rural Maryland. While there was very little specific legislation addressing rural health in the 2011 General Assembly, MRHA was present educating policymakers. Each rural delegation was briefed on the results of the 2010 telehealth inventory, ongoing budget concerns to rural health departments, the rural health workforce shortage, and the general need to keep our rural areas in the forefront of policy discussions. Michelle Clark, MRHA Executive Director, testified in front of the Senate Finance Committee February 23, 2011, at a special Rural Needs Briefing.



Under the chairmanship of Earl Stoner, Health Officer of Washington County, the Legislative Committee has been meeting throughout the year and for the first time announced a 2012 Rural Health Agenda, Rural C.A.R.E.S:

- Completely Fund Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund
- Adequately Provide for Rural Maryland Safety Net
- Rationally Implement Requirements of the New Healthcare Reform Law
- Expand and Improve Access to Rural Healthcare through Telemedicine and Health Information Technology
- Strongly Support Efforts to Stabilize and Grow the Health Professions Workforce for Rural Maryland.

For full report out of the 2011 Session and detailed 2012 Rural Health Agenda, visit our website.



Maryland Rural Health Association

Executive Director Michelle Clark

Website: www.mdruralhealth.org

Email: mrha@allconet.org — Phone: 410-302-4650

The Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is a non-profit organization. Our focus is health and our mission is to educate and advocate for the optimal health of rural communities and their residents. Membership is comprised of health departments, hospitals, community health centers, health professionals, and community members in rural Maryland. We count 43 organizations and over 5,000 individuals within our membership. Of Maryland's 24 counties, 18 are considered rural by the state, and with a population of over 1.6 million they differ greatly from the urban areas in Maryland.

