



# Flex Update

Update Number 156

August 24, 2009

## ND Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program

### Inside this issue:

- New Look for Flex Updates! 1
- ND CAH Quality Network - Planning for Our Future 1
- Flex Feature Technical Assistance: Communication Toolkit** 2
- Seeking Your Input: Agrisafe Course for Health Professionals 2
- Health Career Promotion in Hospitals: What are YOU Doing? 2
- Feature CAH: Community Memorial Hospital - Turtle Lake, ND** 3

### Hospital/Rural Health Events Calendar



### New Look for Flex Updates!

Issue 156 is introducing the fresh, new look for the Flex Update. This new format has a sharp look and will continue to inform readers on important rural health topics.

In addition to providing updates on North Dakota rural health, the Flex Update issues will feature other great points of interest.

Readers will be able to keep posted on upcoming events with the Hospital/Rural Health Events Calendar. By clicking the calendar picture, readers will be directed to the calendar of events on the ND Flex website to see what is going on each month.

Each Flex Update issue will be featuring a different form of Technical Assis-

stance offered by the Center for Rural Health. This will help keep readers aware of resources that are available for them through the Center. Also, featured in each issue will be a quick look at a ND CAH. Readers can learn facts on other facilities across the state.

### ND CAH Quality Network - Planning for Our Future

The ND CAH Quality Network will be holding a Network Strategic Planning meeting on October 1, 2009 in Jamestown, ND. The event is scheduled for 8am - 4pm CT at the Gladstone Inn.

A networking/educational opportunity has also been scheduled for 6:30 - 8:30pm CT on September 30, 2009 at the Gladstone Inn (block of rooms have been reserved).

The strategic planning meeting is a requirement of the federal grant obtained by the ND CAH Quality Network and will be facilitated by Cathy Pfaff, Consultant, Stoudwater Assoc.

This is your opportunity to be heard and point the

Network in the direction that would best assist each and every CAH in continuing to provide cost effective quality care. Make sure to have your facility's ideas presented.

Please join your fellow CAHs in planning the future of the CAH Quality Network. Your opinion matters!

For additional information on this event please contact Jody Ward, CAH Quality Network Coordinator at 701.858.6729

To register, contact Elizabeth Huso at 701.777.5381 or email at [ehuso@medicine.nodak.edu](mailto:ehuso@medicine.nodak.edu)



The ND CAH Quality Network has been a success in assisting rural health care facilities with their concerns and questions, as well as facilitating cost effective collaboration and providing education.

## Flex Feature Technical Assistance: Communication Toolkit

Technical assistance is available through the North Dakota Flex Program to all rural hospitals in the state. Assistance is geared toward helping small rural hospitals with planning and decision making in order to be prepared to meet the health needs of rural residents in North Dakota. There is a wide range of assistance that is offered at no cost to North Dakota's small, rural hospitals. For a detailed list of available assistance visit: <http://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/flex/rhta/planning.php>

Communication Toolkit:

### Managing Messages: A Toolkit for Your Organization's Communication

The ND Flex Program has an online Communication Toolkit, designed to help rural health care facilities and organizations tell their story through the media and other means.

### Why Communicate?

Working with the media and other forms of communication are your avenues to inform most publics about your organization or event. If you make an effort to manage the messages with some simple tasks, it is much more likely that your constituency will have the most accurate and complete information about you. By managing your messages effectively, you can inform, promote and create positive public opinion about your organization.

### The Toolkit

Whether announcing a new employee or program, or communicating in times of crisis, this toolkit serves as resource for communication efforts and can be modified to fit different needs and situations. The toolkit includes how to develop a communication plan, templates and examples of communication vehicles, and tips on getting information distributed through the media and other sources. Check it out - <http://ruralhealth.und.edu/communication/>

**Did you know that organic dust toxic syndrome affects 33% of our Midwest farming population?**

## Seeking Your Input: Agrisafe Course for Health Professionals

The Center for Rural Health in partnership with Lake Region State College and West River Health Center Hettinger, with assistance from the University of Iowa, are considering bringing an Agrisafe educational opportunity to North Dakota health care professionals.

The "Agricultural at Risk Report" (<http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/AgAtRisk/>) of 1999 described the need to train health and safety

professionals (including industrial hygienists, safety specialists, nurses, physicians, and others) to provide care and prevention services for some 4 million agricultural producers and their families, as well as those who work in processing of raw agricultural products, such as meat or poultry processing. A 2002 follow-up report a decade later found little progress nationwide

toward meeting that need, with the exception of a few programs scattered around the country.

We are asking for your feedback in determining the interest and need for agricultural occupational safety and health training in our state. Please complete the survey by clicking on this link or copy and paste into your browser: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mBX573iQP6UwZQLiSFW6zg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mBX573iQP6UwZQLiSFW6zg_3d_3d).

## Health Career Promotion in Hospitals: What are YOU doing?

The Center for Rural Health, ND Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program office and the Eastern AHEC are conducting an inventory of what is being offered throughout the state in the area of health career promotion and work experiences.

We are looking for information from K-12 schools, colleges/universities, hospitals and clinics across the state. They would like to know what kind of programs or

activities are currently being done. These can include job shadowing, health career awareness programs, career fairs, etc. for children in grades K-12.

The information will be used to identify current opportunities and gaps which will in turn inform future activities of the Center, and the AHEC to address the growing work force shortages.

Please take a moment to

complete the questionnaire by clicking on this link or copy and paste into your browser: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mBX573iQP6UwZQLiSFW6zg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=mBX573iQP6UwZQLiSFW6zg_3d_3d).



## Feature CAH: Community Memorial Hospital - Turtle Lake, ND



Community Memorial Hospital (CMH) is a 25 bed hospital and swing bed facility located in Turtle Lake, North Dakota. CMH is equipped with emergency room, physical therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, lab, radiology, home care and hospice, adult day care and respiratory care.

Located in a beautiful, quiet, rural community, CMH offers safe, worry-free living in a supportive, Christian atmosphere. CMH is proud to offer this important resource as an alternative to a nursing homes and they provide lots of love and excellent care!

**Services Provided:**

- ER (Trauma V Certified)
- Acute Care
- Physical Therapy
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Dietary Consultations
- Lab

- Digital Radiology
- Home Care and Hospice
- Adult Day Care
- Swing Bed—LTC
- Respite Care
- Ultrasounds
- Bone Densities
- CAT Scans
- Nuclear Medicine
- Mammography (through contract)

**Mission**

“Let all be received as Christ” – Based on the gospel values and our own century-long heritage of healing, our mission is to continue to use our community presence as a means of touching and healing people in a Christ-like manner; and to always exhibit the hospitality as reflected in the rule of St. Benedict. – “Let all be received as Christ.”

**Web Site**

[www.communitymh.com](http://www.communitymh.com)

**Quick Facts**

*Administrator:*  
Dean Mattern, CEO

*Chief of Medical Staff:*  
Dr. Vern Harchenko

*City Population:*  
522 (2006 estimate)

*County Population:*  
8,543 (2006 estimate)

*County Median Household Income:* \$39,218 (2004 estimate)

*County Median Age:*  
44.1 years (2000 estimate)

*Owned by:* Nonprofit

*Critical Access Hospital Designation:* 2000

*Staffing:*

Physicians: .....	1
Nurse Practitioners: .....	4
RNs: .....	10
LPNs: .....	3
Ancillary Personnel: .....	7
Total Employees: .....	77

See other ND CAH profiles at: <http://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/flex/hospitals.php>

### ND Flexibility Program Program

**Center for Rural Health**  
University of North Dakota  
School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
501 North Columbia Road Stop 9037  
Grand Forks ND 58202-9037

Phone: 701-777-3848  
Fax: 701-777-6779  
<http://ruralhealth.und.edu/>

This service is provided by the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program Steering Committee (Center for Rural Health, ND Department of Health, ND Healthcare Association, and ND Healthcare Review, Inc.). It is supported by the federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For questions or comments contact Marlene Miller at [marlenemiller@medicine.nodak.edu](mailto:marlenemiller@medicine.nodak.edu) / (701) 777-4499 or Elizabeth Huso at [ehuso@medicine.nodak.edu](mailto:ehuso@medicine.nodak.edu) / (701) 777-5381.



**To learn more about the Flex Program visit:**  
<http://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/flex/rhta/>

