



Idaho Rural Health Association
Idaho Rural Health Heroes

Annual Meeting & Awards Reception

November 17, 2022

5:30 - 8:00 PM

JUMP (Jack's Urban Meeting Place)

Jump Room, 5th Floor

Boise Idaho



Idaho Rural Health Association
PO Box 2012 Eagle Idaho 83616
www.idahorha.org
208-901-5194



Agenda

- 5:30 - Welcome—Mingle, appetizers, resource table
5:45 - Outgoing President's Message—Melody Weaver, PhD
Grant project updates, introduce incoming president
- 6:00 - **Keynote Presentation**—Julie Jesmer and Lori Mercer
Cultivating Rural Resilience: Navigating Farm & Ranch Stress,
Western Region Agricultural Stress Assistance Program
- 6:30 - Rural Behavioral Health Issues — Q&A session
- 6:35 - National Rural Health Week— Mary Ann Reuter
6:40 - Idaho USDA Announcements — Rudy Soto
- 6:50 - **Idaho Rural Health Hero Awards** (*attending)
*Jason Coombs, CEO – Brick House Recovery, Coeur D'Alene
*Julie Wittman, PhD – Parent Advocate, Lewiston
Colleen Cochran, RPH - Gritman Medical Center, Moscow
Barry Smith, DO – Syringa Hospital & Clinics, Grangeville
- *Suzanna Hubele, MD – Two Rivers Medical Clinic, Weiser
*Davee Mussman, DPT – Southern Idaho Therapy, Rupert
Julie Lyons, MD – St. Luke's Clinic, Hailey
Maureen Ferguson, MD – St. Luke's Clinic, McCall
Catherine Doyle, MD – St. Luke's Clinic, Jerome
Steve Kohtz, MD – St. Luke's Magic Valley/Wood River
- *Kathy Hubbard, COO - Nell J. Redfield Memorial Hospital, Malad
*Trevor Ward, MSRS – Bear Lake Memorial Hospital, Montpelier
Neil Ragan, MD – Health West Community Health Center, Pocatello
Chantelle Traughber, RN – Lost Rivers Medical Center, Arco
- *Diana Schow, PhD — Idaho AHEC Program Office
*BCI Foundation for Health – Mayor's Walking Challenge
- 7:30 - Incoming President's Message—Keith Davis, MD
Member engagement, recognize outgoing president
- 7:45 - Thank you —Mingle, appetizers, resource table

Thank You

*The Idaho Rural Health Association provides leadership
on rural health issues through advocacy,
communication, education and collaboration.*

Thank you to our organization members:

Bingham Memorial Hospital in Blackfoot
Hall and Hall Partners, LLC
Hogan and Associates Construction
Idaho Academy of Family Physicians
Idaho Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Idaho Bureau of Rural Health and Primary Care
Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine
Idaho Dental Hygienists Association
Idaho Health Data Exchange
Idaho Hospital Association
Idaho WWAMI Medical Education Program
Idaho State University—Meridian and Pocatello
Minidoka Medical Center in Rupert
Full Circle Health (formerly FMRI)
Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences
Syringa Hospital and Clinics in Grangeville
The Hospital Cooperative
Weiser Memorial Hospital
One Circle Health/Rural Rotation Residents
Idaho WWAMI Medical Education Program/Trust Scholars
Idaho State University/Physician Assistant Program

And dozens of individual members interested in rural health.

Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health



BCI Foundation for Health — Mayor’s Walking Challenge

The Mayor’s Walking Challenge is a fun and innovative program that encourages disease prevention and community wellness by being a role model for good health. More than half of mayors across the state of Idaho participate to earn money for their city’s community health programs by getting their steps in and walking around their town. Mayors are also encouraged to earn bonus steps by engaging children and other community members to join along the way.

This program has been running for over eight years and has grown from 14 participants to 83 mayors. In 2021, with 18,623,369 steps or 8,818 miles walked, earning \$65,500 for community programs or projects that promote physical activity. This year, a record 98 mayors, mostly from rural Idaho, participated in the event that put \$84,000 into our communities.

Jason Coombs



Jason Coombs, CEO — Brick House Recovery

Jason Coombs knows too well that Idaho ranks as one of the top “healthcare deserts” in the US due to a lack of medical and behavioral health services in rural areas. To treat rural Idaho families who suffer with alcoholism, substance abuse and co-occurring mental disorders, he founded the nationally accredited Brick House Recovery for residents lacking resources.

The pilot program in Coeur D’Alene and surrounding panhandle towns has been well received, with successful outcomes for those participating in virtual and online treatment services.

Jason is also a professional TEDx speaker and leadership expert who is in long-term recovery himself. Author of *Unhooked: How to Help an Addicted Loved One Recover*, he lives in a small town near Boise with his wife and twin toddlers.

Julie Wittman



Julie Whittman, PhD — Parent Advocate

Julie Wittman is a board-certified behavior analyst in private practice, working with children with autism. The parent of a ten-year-old daughter on the autism spectrum and a neuro-typical eight-year-old son, she serves as the parent advocate on the ECHO Idaho Pediatric Autism panel. This series provides continuing education for pediatricians to learn best practices for screening and treating autism spectrum disorder.

Julie is a certified provider for the RUBI Parent Training for Disruptive Behavior Curriculum through the RUBI Autism Network, and enjoys working with rural families across Idaho to teach strategies to manage their children's challenging behavior and teach them new skills. Residing in north Idaho, when she's not helping other providers and families, Julie enjoys riding four-wheelers with her family, canning and baking.

Diana Schow



Diana Schow, PhD — Idaho AHEC Program Office

Dr. Diana Schow coordinated a successful multi-site grant application to fund an Idaho Area Health Education Center Program Office that sponsors three regional AHEC Centers. Idaho was one of two states that did not have an AHEC Program Office, and this development is essential to finding solutions to the healthcare workforce shortages in Idaho.

Diana also developed a graduate-level Rural Health Certificate at Idaho State University. The program is interdisciplinary and educates students on the various aspects of rural life. Students remark how much they enjoy her courses and feel inspired by her approach to teaching. For example, she included applied research methods during the pandemic to expose students to aspects of rural health care, such as vaccine hesitancy in rural Spanish-speaking communities in Idaho.

Chantelle Traugher



Chantelle Traugher, RN — Lost Rivers Medical Center

Over the course of the pandemic, Chantelle Traugher demonstrated dedication and extraordinary attention to detail in creating a unique infection prevention program at Lost Rivers Medical Center in Arco.

Chantelle’s nursing background is extensive. She worked at St. Luke’s Magic Valley as a floor nurse, charge nurse, ICU nurse and chemotherapy nurse and at Bingham Memorial Hospital in the ER and ICU. At Lost Rivers, she has held various positions in addition to her current role as infection preventionist.

Guiding the hospital and clinics through various stages of the pandemic, Chantelle was always there to listen to and advocate for patients, staff and community members. She enjoys spending time with family, traveling, doing triathlons and being outdoors.

Colleen Cochran



Colleen Cochran, RPH — Gritman Medical Center

As pharmacy director at Gritman Medical Center in Moscow, Colleen Cochran was pivotal in helping provide over 14,000 Covid vaccinations. Going the extra mile, she met with each patient to review their allergies and medications and to educate them on potential side effects.

A hero for patient safety, Colleen has modeled leadership, kindness and a radiating smile throughout the hospital and the community during a challenging time. A graduate of Washington State University, she has been a practicing pharmacist at various organizations since 1997.

Gritman Medical Center is a patient-centered, nonprofit critical access hospital, with a regional network of clinics in Moscow, Potlatch, Kendrick and Troy.

Barry Smith



Barry Smith, DO — Syringa Hospital & Clinics

At the height of his career, Dr. Barry Smith chose to bring his training and talent to a small critical access hospital in Grangeville. He has not only brought a high standard of general surgical care to Syringa Hospital, but after a fellowship in bariatric surgery, is also helping to combat the health risks of obesity through education and intervention.

Born and raised in Twin Falls, he attended medical school in Phoenix, completed his general surgery residency in Philadelphia, and served as a general surgeon at the US Naval Hospital in Guam—and later at several Idaho facilities.

Barry and his wife live in White Bird and operate a small outfitting business. They enjoy boating, fishing and all outdoor activities, as well as spending time with their three dogs.

Neil Ragan



Neil Ragan, MD — Health West Community Health Center

Dr. Neil Ragan is a board-certified family physician with over 45 years of experience in medicine. He currently serves as medical director at the Health West Pocatello Family Medicine Residency clinic, where he sees patients and teaches in the residency program. He has a special interest in underserved populations, including ensuring comprehensive and sensitive care for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) people.

In addition to his teaching role at the residency, Neil is also a regular participant at ECHO Idaho, a free continuing education platform for Idaho healthcare professionals. He frequently volunteers to present patient cases to help other rural healthcare professionals learn from experiences in his clinic and practice. Insightful, inquisitive and caring, he demonstrates exemplary concern for his patients and staff.

Trevor Ward



Trevor Ward, MSRS — Bear Lake Memorial Hospital

Trevor Ward works as the primary MRI technologist for the community of Bear Lake County. Previously working as faculty in the ISU Radiographic Sciences program, he now serves as a preceptor for students of radiographic science in the rural town of Montpelier, Idaho.

Prior to providing services at Bear Lake Memorial Hospital, Trevor worked in other rural critical access hospitals in southeast Idaho. A self-described “jack-of-all-trades,” Trevor’s skill set includes not only conducting x-rays, but specialty diagnostic modalities such as CT and MRI.

Trevor is an active team member for Idaho Condor, a medical mission that provides medical, dental, audiology, surgical services and ultrasound diagnostic care in Peru.

Suzanna Hubele



Suzanna Hubele, MD — Two Rivers Medical Clinic

A leader in rural family medicine, Dr. Suzanna Hubele treats patients in Weiser and the surrounding rural areas. After completing her medical education through Idaho WWAMI and residency in Boise, she joined Two Rivers Medical Clinic in 2007.

As a rural physician, Suzanna provides full-scope health care, including everything from performing C-sections to administering Covid-19 tests. She is also active in teaching medical students and family medicine residents who complete clinical rotations in Weiser. As a board member and previous president of the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians, she works tirelessly on policies that improve health care in Idaho.

She has been married for nearly 25 years, with two children, and enjoys camping, gardening, running and visiting tropical places.

Davee Mussman



Davee Mussman, DPT — Southern Idaho Therapy

Davee Mussman has been a consistent and dedicated physical therapist in the Rupert/Burley/Jerome areas. A major patient advocate for access to services, she lobbies state and federal agencies for rural health needs and physical therapy services.

Now at Southern Idaho Therapy and Minidoka Memorial Hospital, she has worked in a rural community and with a critical access hospital for her entire career. Davee's recent focus has been on educating student athletes, parents and the community on concussion care and treatment.

In addition, Davee supports the rural elderly through her care in nursing homes and home health. Her dedication to continuing education and evidence-based practice ensures that people in rural areas get the up-to-date, quality care they deserve.

Kathy Hubbard



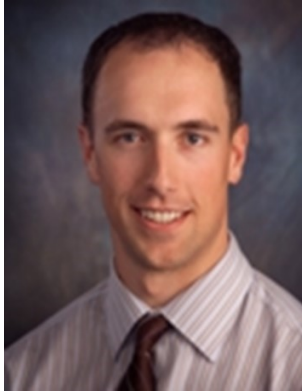
Kathy Hubbard, COO — Nell J. Redfield Memorial Hospital

Born and raised in Malad, a rural farming community of about 2,300 residents, Kathy Hubbard works for the local hospital. In 2016, the community suffered the loss of a beloved community member and hospital employee. Kathy has since made it a mission to shed a light on the suicide epidemic.

Kathy organized Malad's Annual Suicide Awareness and Prevention Walk, an event that brings together local community partners, the Oneida Crisis Center, Southeast Idaho Public Health and the local school district to raise awareness on the prevalence of suicide, as well as strategies and resources for helping those who may be struggling with suicidal ideologies.

In addition, she has been influential in bringing the hospital's behavioral health services to her community .

Steve Kohtz



Steve Kohtz, MD — St. Luke's Magic Valley/Wood River

As Idaho Medical Association President, Dr. Steve Kohtz has been inspirational in his hard work in Covid management, expanding CME for the physician workforce, working with the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL), guiding changes to the Idaho Patient Act, and more.

He led the charge of Idaho physicians for public health measures against Covid, including evidence-based use of social distancing, mask wearing, hand washing, avoiding crowds and vaccination.

In addition to his advocacy at the state level, Steve is a leader in the medical communities of St. Luke's Magic Valley and St. Luke's Wood River. Including his role in healthcare collaboration, he has been and continues to be a role model in evidence-based health care in rural Idaho.

Julie Lyons



Julie Lyons, MD — St. Luke's Clinic, Hailey

Dr. Julie Lyons is a strong advocate for women's health and well-being, promoting rural health care for underserved populations. As an advocate for the Latina community in the Wood River Valley, she promotes women's reproductive rights. Julie has created groups and resolutions to ensure women in Idaho have their reproductive health rights protected.

She continues her work advocating for rural health care as a preceptor at St. Luke's Clinic Family Medicine in Hailey, Idaho.

Previously, Julie served as the lead preceptor for Idaho WWAMI's TRUST program, which pairs medical students with rural communities. As a preceptor and advocate, she helps ensure a pipeline of Idaho physicians who understand medical practice in rural communities.

Maureen Ferguson



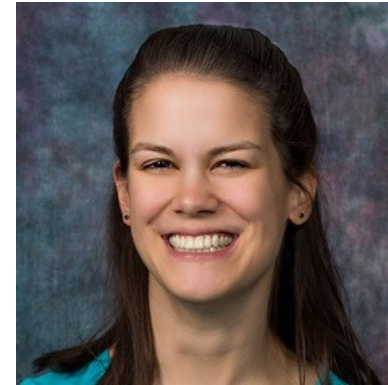
Maureen Ferguson, MD — St. Luke's Clinic, McCall

Born and raised in Grangeville, Dr. Maureen “Mo” Ferguson has worked as a family physician in McCall since 2015. She is passionate about providing full-spectrum care, including obstetrics, to the surrounding communities.

Maureen teaches future Idaho physicians and serves as the TRUST (Targeted Rural Underserved Track) program site director at the St. Luke's Clinic, Payette Lakes Family Medicine. This program matches rural family physician educators with medical students interested in future rural practice.

Recognized for her teaching excellence by her students, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, as well as reading/listening to audiobooks, skiing, rafting, ice hockey and thrift store shopping in her free time.

Catherine Doyle



Catherine Doyle, MD — St. Luke's Clinic, Jerome

From the age of ten, Dr. Catherine Doyle knew she wanted to become a doctor. Sure enough, she completed her medical education through Idaho WWAMI, then her residency at the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho (now Full Circle Health) and is now board certified in family medicine.

As a graduate of the Idaho WWAMI TRUST program herself, Catherine is passionate about sharing this educational experience with Idaho medical students. She serves as Idaho WWAMI's WRITE/TRUST clerkship site director in Jerome, which allows medical students longitudinal clinical opportunities in their paired community throughout their medical school careers.

As a preceptor in the Magic Valley, she works with medical students to encourage rural medicine and health care.