

MRHA

FACT Sheet



Mission

The Minnesota Rural Health Association brings together diverse interests to address rural health issues and advocate for and with rural Minnesotans.

History

MRHA was organized in 1994 with help from the Minnesota Department of Health Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, Minnesota Rural Partners, and the Minnesota Center for Rural Health. Organizers envisioned an association primarily focused on education and advocacy.

Board of Directors

- MRHA board members represent rural Minnesota. Most live and work in rural communities, and the MRHA office officially has located to the University of Minnesota Crookston Campus.
- MRHA board goals focus on strengthening the rural voice, building rural capacity, and identifying rural opportunity across Minnesota. The board is dedicated to listening, learning, educating, connecting and advocating; thereby improving the health and well being of rural people and communities.

Members

MRHA is an affordable way to have a voice to advocate for rural health. Corporate membership is \$200/yr, individual membership is \$50/yr. Students join for \$10/yr. MRHA has more than 100 members from across the state representing health care, public health, education, business, local government and consumers. Visit www.mnruralhealth.org for a membership form.

Accomplishments

- Since its founding, MRHA has been a proud sponsor of the annual Minnesota Rural Health Conference
- In 2007, MRHA convened five cyber conferences on rural health issues.
- MRHA joined with partners in Montana and North Dakota to sponsor the Upper Midwest Health Care Policy Summit August 17, 2007 in Crookston. More than 130 rural health leaders participated.
- Each year, MRHA develops a set of policy priorities. The green colored one-page document has gained respect of legislators who trust MRHA as an unbiased advocate on behalf of rural Minnesota.

For more information, e-mail MRHA Executive Director Judy Neppel, jneppel@umn.edu