

Frontier News and Updates



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575-534-0101



34th NRHA Annual Rural Health Conference

Austin, TX May 3-6, 2011

Join Us In Austin To Celebrate 25 Years of the Frontier Movement!

Registration is now open
[NRHA Annual Conference](#)

The NRHA Frontier Constituency Group will meet the morning of May 5th.

National Center for Frontier Communities Moves to Silver City, NM!



NCFC Board of Directors and staff. From left to right is Carol Miller, NCFC outgoing Director, Caroline Ford, Board President, David Squire, Board Treasurer, Antonio Mazanares, Board Director, Charlie Alfero, incoming NCFC Director, and Magdeleno Manzanarez, Board Director.

In January 2011 the National Center for Frontier Communities relocated its national headquarters from Ojo Sarco to Silver City, New Mexico. Founded in 1997, after years of state and national advocacy, the Center for Frontier Communities operates as a national clearinghouse, conducting research and education, and offering leadership on issues of importance to frontier communities of the United States. Supported by legislation passed by Congress in 1987 addressing frontier issues, the Center is the only national organization dedicated completely to the smallest and most geographically isolated communities in the United States - the Frontier

We hope to see you there!

The Center welcomes Dr. Magdaleno Manzanárez of Western New Mexico University to the Center's Board of Directors. In partnership with Hidalgo Medical Services (HMS) and Western New Mexico University, the Center is working with Dr. Manzanárez and other community members to develop non-profit management certificate and degree programs to support the delivery of health care and social services in rural and frontier communities. The collaboration also has a focus in local, state and national policy efforts to recognize the critical importance of frontier America and its unique needs.

The Center is deeply grateful to Carol Miller who will be stepping down as the Center's director after ten years. Carol was one of several individuals who initiated the frontier movement over 25 years ago and who continues to advocate for frontier communities at the local, state and national levels. She served as the Center's director from 2001 to 2010. The Center welcomes three new staff members, Charlie Alfero, Director, Susan Wilger, Health Disparities Policy Assistant and Melanie DeLaGarza, Administrative Assistant. The National Center for Frontier Communities is located at 610 North Bullard Street in downtown Silver City. For more information, contact Susan Wilger at 575-534-0101, ext 2108, or www.frontierus.org.

NCFC Board Member Appointed to COGME

Frontier and Rural Communities Have a Vote In Graduate Medical Education Policy

The National Rural Health Association, in collaboration with several rural and frontier partners, the National Center for Frontier Communities, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, the National AHEC Organization, and others, nominated David Squire as a candidate to the Health Resources and Services Administration's Council on Graduate Medical Education last year. We are pleased to announce that Kathleen Sebelius has appointed Mr. Squire to a term beginning immediately and ending November 30, 2014.

David is the Executive Director of the Utah Medical Education Council. The Council is a state agency that coordinates funding for graduate medical education, determines healthcare workforce requirements, advises state government and makes policy recommendations, and addresses other various healthcare workforce issues in preserving health professions education in Utah.

David has extensive experience in accounting, auditing, budgeting, and governmental (Medicaid and Medicare) payment policies. He received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Brigham Young University School of Management and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Utah State University. He currently serves on the board for the National Center for Frontier Communities as treasurer and has served as the president of the Utah chapter of Healthcare Financial Management Association. He is also a member of the Frontier and Rural Expert Panel which consults with the Office of Rural Health Policy on various issues facing frontier communities.

"It is an honor to be invited to serve on the Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME) and I would like to thank the NRHA members and all who have supported me in this nomination" stated Mr. Squires. "As a member of COGME, I look forward to applying Utah's experience in balancing the healthcare workforce needs of its urban and frontier/rural populace to national efforts. GME policies should be more proactive in attracting and retaining future physicians to areas of need. I look forward to contributing my expertise to policies that enhance and improve graduate medical education throughout the country with guidance and insight from each of our NRHA members."



Charlie Alfero NCFC
Director

Meet the Staff of NCFC

We are honored to have Charlie Alfero as the new director for the National Center for Frontier Communities. Charlie has been an advocate of frontier and rural issues for over 30 years, bringing to the Center great vision and a breadth of experience in rural health policy, system change and program development. He also serves as Chief Executive Officer of Hidalgo Medical Services, a private, non-profit organization providing primary medical, dental, mental health, family support and economic development services in southwestern New Mexico. Charlie has been Director of Rural Outreach for the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center and Director of Rural Health, Primary Care and Community Health in the NM Department of Health where he either developed or assured the continuation of hospital, primary care and related service delivery systems in numerous communities in New Mexico. Currently, he serves on the National Rural Health Task Force, the Board of Directors of the National REACH Coalition, the National Rural Health Association, Chair of the NRHA Frontier Constituency Group, the Grant County Health Council and various state

legislative and administrative health care committees.



Susan Wilger Policy
Assistant

We are really excited about the new roles that Susan is taking locally in New Mexico and nationally to improve health programs and outcomes in frontier communities. Susan is the new Health Disparities Policy Assistant with the Center for Health Innovations at Hidalgo Medical Services. In this role she will provide administrative, development, advocacy and fundraising support to the National Center for Frontier Communities.

Susan brings over 25 years experience as a program manager, executive director, advocate and grant writer in the fields of behavioral and primary health care, child care, prevention and domestic violence prevention. For the past 10 years Susan worked in four rural and frontier counties in southwestern New Mexico where she assisted in developing several new regional partnerships and programs. She currently serves on the board of the New Mexico Alliance for School Based Health Care and is an active participant of several local and regional committees that focus on health and behavioral health initiatives. Susan received her Bachelors Degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a Masters Degree in Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin. Susan currently lives in the Mimbres Valley outside of Silver City New Mexico where she and her partner have a small community farm and support local efforts to provide nutritious and affordable

locally grown food.



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