
Flex Program News

Sandra Assasnik Makes the Move to Flex

Sandra Assasnik, former Recruitment Services Coordinator, is our new Community Grants Coordinator. Sandra succeeds Jean Chung, who left the position in early October. Sandra brings her expertise as a Program Manager from the Utah State Office of Rural Health & Primary Care and Diabetes Control Program, as well as the Office of Rural Health HERO program. Please update your records to show Sandra Assasnik as Community Grants Coordinator. She may be contacted at 503-494-4450 or via email at assasnik@ohsu.edu.

CAH Program Advisory Committee Meets

Critical Access Hospital administrators and other interested parties from across the state met on Thursday, October 2, 2003. Michael Bell, CPA, Micheal Bell & Company, CPAs and Consultants, spoke to the group in the morning about financial management of Critical Access Hospitals and the effective use of swing beds. Following lunch, the group discussed the new project year's grant funded activities.

This group will meet again next summer; watch your email for an announcement about the date and location.

OMPRO Announces the 2004 Oregon Hospital Quality Awards

In partnership with the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems and the Office of Rural Health, OMPRO, Oregon's quality assurance organization, has created the Oregon Hospital Quality awards. The Oregon Hospital Quality Awards were designed to recognize performance improvement and overall excellence in inpatient care in Oregon hospitals. The first application period for this annual award begins in October 2003.

The awards were created to recognize individual hospital performance improvement in all Medicare inpatient clinical topic areas. All Oregon hospitals are encouraged to apply. To be eligible, the hospital must focus on all of the quality measures in at least one CMS clinic topic. Hospitals must satisfy one of the two requirements for each measure:

- Demonstrate a 10 percentage-point improvement from the baseline measurement to the final measurement at the end of the re-measurement period.
- Achieve and sustain a 90 percent or higher performance rate for three consecutive quarters.

Hospitals will receive the awards at the Annual Oregon Rural Health Conference (October 1 – 3, 2004 at the River House in Bend, Oregon), or at the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems Conference in 2004.

OMPRO will provide the winning hospitals with a press release to send to the hospital's local publication of choice. OMPRO will also work with the hospital to publicize its performance improvement actions in the OMPRO newsletter and on their web site.

For more information, please contact Connie Mueller, RN, CPHQ Project Coordinator at 503-279-0100, or go to OMPRO's web site at www.ompro.org.

