

HEARTLAND NEWS

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Funding: The new application to HRSA was due on January 5. Funding is available for a five year cycle (rather than three) and two priority areas were also available for application. The Heartland Regional Coordinating Center applied for five years of base funding and facilitated Heartland investigators to apply for the priority funding areas. Project abstracts are attached. This application required a huge team effort and collaboration both within and beyond the Heartland region. THANKS to all who contributed to the application!

Pilot Projects: The deadline for pilot project applications (cycle #3) is **January 29, 2007 5pm**. Visit the website for more details and the guidance.

Website (<http://heartland.ouhsc.edu>): New pages and information are continually being added to the website. Check out the **Heartland Calendar** for upcoming meetings. All meeting minutes are also posted on the respective committee page. The website designer will soon be changing as the OUHSC-Pediatrics ITS team can no longer support us. We have selected a team to assist us until the end of the fiscal year. At that time, we will accept bids for a new website master.

Telehealth: Congratulations to Blaine Bendure, et al. whose poster was accepted for roundtable presentation at the 2007 12th Annual International Meeting and Exposition of the American Telemedicine Association to be held in Nashville, TN May 13-15.

Newborn screening parent education: The Newborn Screening committee along with our lay advocates have selected, reviewed, and purchased two videos (DVDs) about newborn screening that targets the expectant parent. Your state genetics coordinator and newborn screening coordinator will be receiving your states' order soon. The videos and DVDs will be shown in publicly funded prenatal clinics in each Heartland state.

CURRENT WORK GROUPS: *If you are interested in any of the following activities, please let us know and we will connect you with that group. Anyone with interest and expertise can participate in a work group—you need not formally serve on a Heartland committee nor be a council member.*

Family Health History: The Education committee is gearing up for a spring educational campaign with genealogy societies in our region. The plan is to provide newsletter article for the genealogy societies, article for "rural electric cooperative" magazines, and a "family health history tool kit" available for anyone to obtain either from our website or from the coordinating center.

Genetics Education at the Capitol: The Policy committee is developing a toolkit and assisting interested in states in organizing an educational event for legislators.

Preserving NBS blood spots: The Policy committee is beginning to look at this issue. Preservation of the NBS cards is an important QA/QC, research, and clinical issue.

Membership changes:

Resignations: Norm Hess (Kansas March of Dimes) and Kerri Wagner (lay advocate from North Dakota). We sincerely appreciate their contribution.

New member: Stacey Montgomery (lay advocate from Iowa). WELCOME!!!!