

HEARTLAND NEWS
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Funding: Look for weekly postings of funding opportunities on the listserv and website. These postings will begin the week of **February 19, 2007**.

Pilot Projects: Four pilot project applications were submitted and are currently under review. Awards will be announced March 1, 2007. If you are interested in applying, we anticipate another cycle will open late summer/early fall 2007. Visit our website for information about how to apply, the types of projects we have accepted in the past. The priorities adjust a bit each cycle, so always use a current application form.

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. The bid will be regional, so let us know if there is an excellent webmaster/company we should contact.

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. The Clinical Services committee is now compiling a “how to” manual on “telegenetics” services.

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.

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New members:

Stacey Montgomery (lay advocate from Iowa)

Holly Johnson (lay advocate from Arkansas)

Michelle Stringer (lay advocate from Oklahoma)