

**Rural Solutions**  
**Executive Director's Activity Report**  
**For August 2010**  
**Submitted by Jackie Reynolds**

**Highlights of August 2010**

- August has been a month of meetings for me, a month of meetings that has me "thinking 'bout things!" I attended a health equity conference that emphasized the connection between poverty, race, and health in the United States. Fascinating information. I attended the Bighorn Leadership Reunion which was totally political in nature. I also attended a Small Business Seminar that reinforced the differences in attitudes and priorities of businesses versus services industries. Interesting month.
- I completed and submitted the Colorado Trust grant application. We should know in September if we are a finalist for this grant
- I interviewed Kimberly Van Scoy, a *Getting Ahead Program (GAP)* graduate to become a facilitator for the *GAP* training. How exciting to have a person who has completed the program become a part of it.
- Larry Worth from *NECALG* audited our *ARRA* grant to provide *GAP* programs in the counties. I think it went well.
- I met with Heidi Zajic-Eckland a couple of times this month. She is the new office manager for the *CSU Engagement Office Project* here in Sterling. I think we might have a chance to work with this project on a project or two. She would like to attend one of our board meetings to talk about this new program in NE Colorado.
- I ate lunch with Amanda Bickle, a member of the *Joint Budget Committee Non-partisan staff*, and Jerri Spear. She visited a couple of the county human services directors and met with me during her day-long "fact-finding trip" to NE Colorado. I got the chance to show case *Rural Solutions* and the programs we work in here in the region.
- I met with Chris Down from *Weld County 211 system*. They have received a grant to get counties in NE Colorado up and running with this system. They plan to sub-contract with *Rural Solutions* to work on this project—again! They have \$\$\$ this time to bring to the collaborative table.
- The *Colorado Health Foundation* is coming to our office for a pre-grant meeting in September. I wrote a grant to offer *Healthier Living Colorado Trainings* to people with chronic health conditions. I also attended a meeting at *Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment* for Sandy Baker. There are state grant funds for this program as well. Sandy and I plan to write for these state funds that will be administered out of her office and *Rural Solutions* will provide these trainings to people in the region. An exciting collaboration!!

- I met with Shawn Young from the Advocates for Young Adults out of Louisville. We continue to talk about our programs and how they might be able to complement each other. He has a Bootstraps program that may be a referral source for GAP participants. He is very interested in establishing a presence in NE Colorado.

### **Financial News**

- Rural Solutions received word that we will receive the Women's Wellness Connection grant from CDPHE for 5 years! We will work with women in 8 counties in NE Colorado to navigate eligible women to the WWC program for screening services. The Women's Wellness Connection grant should begin in September.
- I continue to be optimistic that we will receive the Colorado Health Foundation grant.
- We will be working with 211 to sub-contract for some of their funds to help make this system accurate for our region.
- Michelle fell on the sidewalk outside our office on Monday, August 30. She may have broken her little finger. I filed a worker's compensation claim.

### **Preventing Suicide Initiative and Office of Suicide Prevention Grant for Seniors.**

### **Rural Philanthropy Days Continuation Grant**

### **Community Connections**

August 5<sup>th</sup>: Attended the Brush Rotary meeting to showcase the Second Wind Fund Project.

August 16<sup>th</sup>: Attended the Executive Director's Support Group meeting in Akron.

August 17-18<sup>th</sup>: Attended a Health Equity conference in Denver.

August 25<sup>th</sup>: Attended the NE-3 Consortium meeting, a newly formed consortium to bring together education and businesses in Logan County. I don't know if this is a group I need to belong to but I plan to continue with them for at least a few months.

August 26<sup>th</sup>: Attended the Small Business Development Seminar in Sterling.

August 27<sup>th</sup>: Ate lunch with Shawn Young from Advocates for Young Adults.

August 27-28<sup>th</sup>: Attended the Bighorn Leadership Program Reunion in Denver.

August 31<sup>st</sup>: Attended the NE Colorado Health Department Recess Program advisory meeting in Sterling. This program provides respite Saturdays for families that have developmentally disabled children, to give the families a break.

### **Upcoming Events and News:**

Staff and I are working on a plan to visit all counties in Northeast Colorado in September and October with a very systematic plan. We need to visit schools, your offices, chambers of commerce, etc., to talk about Rural Solutions and the programs we offer. We'll be in your county soon!

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Reynolds  
Executive Director