

## WVRHA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



*Committed to affordable health care for all West Virginians... and doing something about it!*

### West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care was founded in November 2005 by a diverse group of individuals concerned about the rising cost of health care and health care insurance coverage. WVAHC is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization with funding through membership dues, public donations, and grants. The volunteer Board of Directors along with Executive Director, Perry Bryant and the WVAHC staff provide leadership and guidance in sharing accurate and objective information about affordable health care resources, legislation and movements. The Guiding Principles of the WVAHC include:

- Our health care system should use limited resources wisely
- Health care cost containment is essential
- Communities, providers, and individuals all have important responsibilities to promote and protect health
- Quality health care depends on the conscientious, explicit and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients

Since its inception WVAHC has been on the cutting edge of efforts to create positive change within the health care industry and to provide the most current and accurate information about health care reform efforts to the public. Most recently in May, June and July 2011, WVAHC scheduled a series of training sessions around the state on the details of the national reform measure adopted by Congress and signed into law in March 2010. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is the most significant piece of health care reform legislation passed since Medicare and Medicaid were adopted in 1965. As part of the training WVAHC developed a DVD with West Virginians telling their own stories about how the ACA has impacted them and their small businesses. Over 200 people across the state were trained on the details of the ACA through these sessions and those participants in turn are educating 50 of their friends, neighbors and colleagues. WVAHC's goal is to reach 10,000 West Virginians with solid, objective information on the ACA understanding that the more people know about the ACA, the more they are supportive of it. WVAHC is interested in providing additional training sessions. If you know an organization that would bring together 20 people to be trained on the ACA, contact Perry Bryant at [pbryant@wvahc.org](mailto:pbryant@wvahc.org) to schedule a session. You can also visit the WVAHC website for links to materials used in these training sessions.

**For more information  
about WVAHC  
visit their website at  
[www.wvahc.org](http://www.wvahc.org)**

In addressing other aspects of the ACA WVAHC Executive Director Perry Bryant comments, "The WVAHC is particularly interested in working with the WVRHA on workforce development issues. This is an extremely important issues as we begin to enroll hundreds of thousands of West Virginians in either Medicaid or subsidized health insurance policies in 2014. We need to be prepared for that on all fronts." The WVRHA is pleased to have West Virginians for Affordable Health Care as a member and work together on workforce development and other important issues as we advocate to empower all West Virginians in advancing their quality of life, well-being and access to excellence in rural health care.

*The West Virginia Rural Health Association advocates for empowering all West Virginians to advance their quality of life, well-being and access to excellence in rural health care.*

