



GRHA Hires Interim Director, Charts Plan for its Future

The Georgia Rural Health Association announced today the hire of an interim director and set forth a national search for full-time leadership. Katherine Cummings, who served for five years as executive director of GRHA, unexpectedly resigned on August 5, 2010.

At a meeting on August 13, the Georgia Rural Health Association (GRHA) Board of Directors unanimously voted to hire Rita Salain, former director of the Georgia Office of Rural Health and Primary Care and owner of Health Management Consultants, LLC, as its Interim Executive Director.

Salain will work part-time and is responsible for operations, working with the Board to develop proposals and other resources to implement the Association's strategic plans and advocacy over the next few months. GRHA Board President Greg Dent said "We are fortunate to have Rita's steady and knowledgeable leadership during this transitional time."

The Board will retain a search firm to identify candidates for a full-time executive director. "We have tremendous opportunity to augment GRHA's advocacy efforts with service to rural Georgians, including helping rural providers adapt and grow in the changing health care environment, creating mentorships for young people interested in working in rural health administration, research and other education priorities," said Dent. "The Board will seek input on the strategic plan and the executive director search from attendees at the GRHA Annual Meeting to be held September 20-22, 2010 in Brasstown Valley, Georgia." <http://grhainfo.org/2010Conference/2010Conference.html>

Founded in 1981, the Georgia Rural Health Association is the nation's oldest state rural health association and advocates to improve the health and health care services of rural Georgians.