



### **Rural Advisory Council:**

The RAC met at the Cottage Grove Hospital on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. The RAC discussed the VERB Summer Scorecard program and how they can be helpful in recruiting agencies to coordinate the program. The request for proposals will be issued in February. Members committed to providing contacts in their community and to help spread the word. They also proposed that the application evaluation include the following:

- Degree of collaboration amongst agencies or organizations;
- What other opportunities are available in the community (need);
- Willingness to cover more than just on city (for example if an application is from a Florence agency, will they also offer the program to Mapleton residents.)

The RAC members identified member engagement as a priority for this year. Members feel that they should do a better job at being a “voice” for the Trillium membership. The group proposes to:

- Plan out the schedule of meetings for 2014, including the location and topics to be covered;
- Meetings will be advertised in newspapers. We will compile a list of other sources to help notify people about the meetings (newsletters, websites, calendars, etc.)
- The first part of each meeting will feature information/education that will be of interest to Trillium members.
- We will work with Trillium to host two rural community meetings for Trillium members (similar to those held in Eugene)
- The RAC will conduct some informal surveys and or focus groups with Trillium members to gather information about healthcare use, barriers, knowledge of benefits, etc. We will partner with HACSA and DHS to reach members.

The February meeting will be on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> in Florence, OR at the Laurelwood Homes Community Room and will feature a presentation by Christy Inskip, Lane County Public Health Tobacco specialist.