

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 20, 2017



NATIONAL  
RURAL HEALTH  
RESOURCE CENTER

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## **Rural Health Care Quality Supporter Wins Calico Leadership Award**

Lawrence D. Baronner, Deputy Director at the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health, was awarded the 2017 Calico Leadership Award at the State Flex Program Reverse Site Visit held July 19-20 in Bethesda, Maryland.



The Calico Leadership Award is presented annually by the Technical Assistance and Services Center ([TASC](#)), a program of the National Rural Health Resource Center, as well as TASC's national advisory committee, to an outstanding rural health leader. The Calico Award was created in honor of long-time rural health leader, Dr. Forest Calico, for his life-long commitment to improving the quality of rural health. This year's award was presented to Baronner for his outstanding leadership, guidance and dedication towards improving the quality of health care in rural America. Lisa Davis, Director and Outreach Associate Professor of Health Policy and Administration; Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health states: "When Larry started at the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health in 2001 as the Flex Coordinator, the state was one of the last to implement the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Grant program. Since then, Larry has established our office as a leader in the Flex Program and with critical access hospitals through a well-rounded and balanced approach to hospital leadership, quality improvement and population health. He is a recognized expert in rural hospital administration and rural community development and has provided quiet, but powerful, leadership in organizational change and rural advocacy."

Larry Baronner has coordinated the Flex and Small Rural Hospital Improvement (SHIP) Program within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the past 16 years. Under Larry's leadership the Pennsylvania Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Consortium has adopted a performance management system using a Balanced Scorecard framework. Through projects with Penn State's College of Engineering and Penn State Continuing Education, the state's CAHs have been introduced to Lean concepts. Recently, Baronner is working on the Pennsylvania Rural Global Budget Approach for CAHs.

"Larry Baronner's leadership and innovation in the Pennsylvania Medicare Flex Program has helped to improve the performance of rural hospitals and contributed to the health and wellbeing of rural citizens in the state," commented Terry Hill, Senior Advisor for Rural Health Leadership and Policy of the National Rural Health Resource Center, in presenting the award.

For more information or questions about the National Rural Health Resource Center, please contact Tracy Morton at (218) 216-7027 or [tmorton@ruralcenter.org](mailto:tmorton@ruralcenter.org).