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**Dr. Keith Shute, Chief Medical Officer, Androscoggin Valley Hospital,  
Recognized as a “Community Star” on the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Rural Health Day**

Berlin, NH – On the third Thursday of November every year, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) leads National Rural Health Day, an annual day of celebration that shines a light on those serving the vital health needs of an estimated 57 million people living in rural America.

NOSORH is the member association serving all 50 State Offices of Rural Health (SORH).

SORHs provide support to rural hospitals, clinics, and other rural stakeholders in several ways, including technical assistance, funding that supports workforce development, population health management, quality improvement initiatives, and more.

In 2015, NOSORH put out a nationwide call to nominate individuals, organizations and coalitions making a positive impact in rural communities. Soon after the stories started coming, the book of National Rural Health Day Community Stars was created. This year, nominations came in from 48 states, a record for this annual inspiring recognition program.

Dr. Keith Shute will appear in the 2020 edition of the book of Community Stars, published on the official NHRD website, [powerofrural.org](http://powerofrural.org), the morning of November 19, 2020. “On behalf of AVH, I wish to congratulate Dr. Shute and thank him for his years of service to residents of, and visitors to, the North Country,” commented Michael Peterson, President and Chief Executive Officer. “This recognition is a tribute to his commitment to AVH’s Mission, to Deliver the Best Healthcare Experience to Every Patient, Every Day.”

Dr. Shute was the driving force behind the creation of a New Hampshire Stroke Collaborative Education Session, which, for the first time, targeted Critical Access Hospital (CAH) staff across New Hampshire. Dr. Shute partnered with the NH State Office of Rural Health (SORH) to get this education session organized and circulated to CAH staff. It was this energy and innovation which allowed the first ever CAH-focused NH Stroke Collaborative Education Session to bring together the voices of Prospective Payment System (PPS) hospitals and CAHs to learn from one another and discuss how to improve the

Stroke System of Care in NH. Through the Stroke Collaborative, Dr. Shute's efforts will strengthen quality care for our rural communities

The National Organization of State Office of Rural Health is the membership association of the nation's 50 State Offices of Rural Health. State Offices of Rural Health are anchors of information and support for rural communities, health professionals, hospitals and clinics across the nation. They are dedicated to collaboration, education, communication and innovation to improve health in small towns around the country.

Based in Berlin, and with outreach clinics spanning multiple towns, Androscoggin Valley Hospital is a proud partner of North Country Healthcare (NCH), which works to provide high quality, accessible, and integrated healthcare. For more information about AVH, please visit [avhnh.org](http://avhnh.org).

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