Addressing Rural Strengths and Challenges in Five Unique AHEC Regions

Arizona Rural Health Conference
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Marica Martinic, Director, NAHEC/North Country HealthCare
Martha McNair, Director, GVAHEC
Gail Emrick, Director, SEAHEC
Edgardo Figueroa, Director, WAHEC/Regional Center for Border Health
The purpose of AHEC is to develop and enhance educational networks (including clinical training) to improve the distribution and diversity of health professionals who serve rural and underserved populations and can provide quality care in the context of a transforming health care system.
AHEC Structure

- Academic-community partnership
- Program office (UA Health Sciences) and Centers (5 in AZ)
- Core Services
  - K-12 health career preparation
  - Community-based clinical/non-clinical rotations
    - Interprofessional Education
  - Continuing Education
  - Community Health
- HRSA priorities
  - Diversity of health workforce
  - Distribution of health workforce
  - Practice transformation
AHEC Core Topics

» Interprofessional Education
» Behavioral Health Integration
» Social Determinants of Health
» Cultural Competency
» Practice Transformation
» Current and emerging health issues
AHEC Scholars Program

• New federal requirement for all AHEC Programs
• Arizona AHEC will incorporate ASP into existing Rural Health Professions Program
• 2-year enrollment-based experience for current health professions students
• Students are assigned to an AHEC center and complete:
  • Orientation
  • 2-day immersion in AHEC region
  • Monthly seminars and Interprofessional training
  • Community assessment and presentation/report
• 2018 is the inaugural year
Rural Strengths and Challenges in the NAHEC Region

Marica Martinic, NAHEC Director
Overview

- NAHEC - North Country HealthCare unique relationship
- Patient-Centered Medical Home and population health initiatives
- Teaching Health Center
- NAHEC exists to improve the overall health of rural and underserved communities in northern AZ through excellence in education, training, and research.
# Education Pipeline for Healthy Communities

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<th>Youth Programs</th>
<th>Increasing workforce diversity by recruiting minority and disadvantaged students into health careers</th>
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<td><strong>Health Professions Student Support</strong></td>
<td>Providing meaningful community-based training experiences for health professions students and residents</td>
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<td><strong>Continuing Education</strong></td>
<td>Educating the primary care workforce in rural and underserved communities</td>
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<td><strong>Community Health Promotion</strong></td>
<td>Delivering evidence-based health promotion programs to communities in need</td>
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| **Healthcare Systems Transformation** | • Facilitating healthcare research and informatics to support underserved communities  
• Connecting communities to better care through telemedicine, interprofessional, and population health initiatives |

**Improving access to high quality healthcare professionals and services**
Strengths

• Clinical Resources
  • Integrated interprofessional education, behavioral health and SDOH
  • Building preceptor relationships

• Partnerships
• People
Challenges

- Geographic Distance
- Financial Resources
Strategies

• Family Medicine Residency Expansion
  • New programs in Native American Communities
• Data and Evaluation
• Partnerships
• Telehealth
Highlight: ASP NAHEC

- Windshield Survey with facilitated IPE cases
- Clinic tours and leadership panel
  - Highlighting FQHC, tribal, and/or hospital settings
- Health Partners social determinants of health overview
- Aging Empathic training
- Practice transformation activity
Serving the counties of Gila, Graham, Greenlee, and a portion of Pinal

Workforce boards
School and community programs
Health-profession student support
Clinical education
Clinical rotations
Professional and personal development initiatives

Jeri Byrne, MS, Executive Director
Helping to Address Rural Strengths & Challenges through Partnerships

Martha McNair, Director, Greater Valley Area Health Education Center at Empowerment Systems, Inc.
Workforce Pipeline Partnerships

GVAHEC works with partners to foster healthcare career development among our youth

Native Health Professions Day-
partnering with UA Office of Diversity & Inclusion, ASU, ATSU, UA COM.

Summer Scrubs Camp-
Airen Fortunato, Sophomore at Maricopa High School

June 2018 Med-Start Health Careers Program UA Tucson
Workforce Pipeline Partnerships

Future Health Leaders Camp, a partnership between the 5 Arizona AHEC Centers, June 2018
Workforce Pipeline Partnerships

Making a difference for our future healthcare workforce-
Tony Clarke: CAVIT Student, Volunteer, FHL camp Intern, GCU Pre-PA
Educational Partnerships Improving Rural Access to Care

- RHPP-AzAHEC Scholars Program
  - Partnership with the Rural Health Professions Programs from ASU, NAU and UA
  - Community Based Experiential Training (CBET)
  - Goal: Scholars acquire deep knowledge about Rural and Underserved populations

- ANEW Program at UACON
  - Provide support for longitudinal placements for advanced practice nurses in rural and underserved communities

- Community Health Worker Certificate at Central Arizona College
  - CHWs are trained in the communities where they live and work

- RHPP UACOM
  - Rural site development for rural health track medical students
Health Care Provider Partnerships

» Coordinate Inter-Professional Educational (IPE) events for students and health providers
» Continuing education for health care professionals
» Support for health professions student clinical rotations
» Chronic Disease Self-Management Education programs
» Mental Health First Aid
» HPV vaccination awareness and education
Connecting Students to Communities
Check us out at GVAHEC.org
and
Empowermentsystems.org
SOUTHEAST ARIZONA AREA
HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

Serving Counties of:
Santa Cruz, Pima and Cochise

To recruit, train and retain culturally competent health professionals in rural and underserved southeast Arizona.
Mariah Chingee

Graduating from University of Hawaii

Working on community health center
Making the Case for Arizona AHEC

WAHEC

Edgardo A. Figueroa, WAHEC Director
“Committed to improving the quality of life of the residents along the U.S.-Mexico Border by increasing accessibility to quality training and affordable healthcare”
Interprofessional Clinical Rotations (FYE 2017-2018)
125 Students

University of Arizona, AZ
(Colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy)

Northern Arizona University, AZ
(School of Nursing, Physician Assistant, Social Work)

Walden University, MN

Chatham University, PA

Indiana University, IN

Arizona State University, AZ

University of Queensland, Australia

University of Cincinnati

University of Phoenix, AZ

George Town University, DC

Maryville University, St. Louis

Midwestern University, AZ

Frontier Nursing University, KY

Maricopa County Community College District
The creation of a homeless coalition in La Paz County resulted in a better-integrated homeless services, better identification of the needs in the community and increased opportunities for obtaining additional resources.

**Objectives**
- Veteran Population
- Housing
- Coalition
- Stakeholders
- Services
The newest expansion is the Center for Children with Special Needs and Autism open on March 9, 2018. This unique interdisciplinary center brings behavioral health intervention and treatment services to the families with children with special needs and autism. Graduate Students will have the opportunity to rotate and learn about other fields of intervention and develop a comprehensive care plan for the child with Special needs and children with Autism.

**Interdisciplinary Team**

~ Psychology ~ Speech Pathology ~ Nurse Practitioner (Psychiatry)
~ Dietetics ~ Pediatrics ~ Social Work
~ Physical Therapy ~ Occupational Therapist ~Applied Behavioral Analysis(ABA)
The RCBH's outreach campaign is a six-week door-to-door community based census designated to identify and collect information from underserved/disadvantaged families by working with a cadre of Community Outreach Workers/Promotoras and High School Students, participating in the summer Youth Training Program.

16 students sponsored

**Nuestros Niños**

The goal of the Yuma County Asthma Camp for the Annual Camp Not-A-Choo is to teach children with moderate to severe asthma the self-management techniques that will help them control their asthma in a fun and exciting camp setting.

15 children sponsored

**Asthma Camp**

Med-Start Health Careers Health Program is a summer academic enrichment program for any 11th grade Arizona high school student interested in a health career. Students participate in the program during the summer between their junior and senior years.

11 students sponsored

**Med-Start**

FHL Summer camp is a week long Program for current high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors interested in becoming health leaders. Event took place at ASU downtown campus. 40 students from all over AZ.

8 students sponsored

**Future Health Leaders**
Nutritional Science Department

Amanda Aguirre, M.A., R.D. and Ms. Martina Sepulveda, BS

RCBH/WAHEC is currently working with U of A Department of Nutritional Sciences to establish an Registered Dietician Internship Program in Yuma, AZ. Ms. Martina Sepulveda B.S. and MS Student, Nutritional Sciences provided a 6-weeks wellness program at the SLWIC. The program utilized is approved by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Diabetes Division. The curriculum is called “Prevenga T2”. Moreover, RCBH/WAHEC is hosting a student from U of A to complete her capstone coursework on eating habits.
The Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. is actively working at combatting the opioid crisis in Yuma County by acquiring 6 (3 in Somerton, AZ. and 3 in San Luis, AZ.) single family homes financed by the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development–Arizona Office. These homes will be used to provide safe, affordable housing to any individual that has completed a treatment program and is working to re enter society.
To support the following basic services:

- Emergency care 24/7 and observation
- Supporting diagnostic tests (x-ray, CT, MRI, ultrasound, lab)
- Chronic Care Management (physical therapy, cardiopulmonary tests, etc.)
- Women’s Wellness & OB/GYN Center
- Outpatient procedures (surgery and endoscopy)
Thank You!

Amanda Aguirre
President & CEO
amanda@rcfbh.org

Edgardo A. Figueroa
WAHEC Director
Edgardo.figueroa@rcfbh.org

www.rcfbh.org