

# GEORGIA Rural Health INNOVATION CENTER

AT MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

This is the official newsletter of the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center designed to keep stakeholders up-to-date on key information and events.

## Mercer Medical Camp 2021



## MERCER MEDICAL CAMP COVID EDITION

Mercer University School of Medicine and the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center virtually welcomed 47 students, representing 21 counties including 16 from rural and underserved communities in Georgia to a week-long medical camp focused on education surrounding COVID-19.

Mercer Med Camp began in 2018 as a Distinction in Service to the Community (DISC) Project by two Mercer Medical School students at Dalton Middle School. With the many challenges that the pandemic has brought for in-person events, Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) and The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center (GRHIC) teamed up to take Med Camp virtual and offer it to students in rural and underserved communities throughout Georgia. Both partners have a commitment to resolve the grand challenges of healthcare in rural Georgia through education, research, community engagement and promoting STEM education, and activities, to middle and high school students as an important part of their missions.

[Read More](#)



# Center Projects

## The Center is Now Accepting Applications for the Sow a Seed Grant Program

The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center invites you to apply for its 2021-2022 Sow a Seed Grant Program. The Center will provide funding directly to organizations in rural communities to implement and evaluate programming that enhances rural Georgians' access to quality care and overall health and wellness. The goals of this program are as follows:

1. Provide funding for innovative projects addressing the health needs of rural communities in Georgia.
2. Provide support to new and less experienced grantees to build their skillset and ability to identify, secure, and manage grants.
3. Develop a library of projects, best practices, and strategies that can be applied and adapted to new communities.



To apply today, please complete the required information below and provide attachments as described in the each of the following categories. Application deadline is Friday, October 1, 2021.

[Read More](#)

## Hancock County Needs Assessment Preliminary Findings

### *The Center awarded grant sub-contract with the Georgia Department of Public Health*

Preliminary findings of the Phase 1 Initial Needs Assessment were presented to the North Central Health District of the Georgia Department of Public Health (NCHD-DPH) on July 28, 2021 in Sparta, Georgia. Phase 1 occurred between May 5, 2021 and July 31, 2021. The purpose of the initial assessment is to better understand the attitudes, motivations and beliefs of vaccine hesitancy among African Americans living in Hancock County, Georgia. The initial needs assessment will also inform NCHD-DPH's ongoing COVID-19 and flu vaccine efforts.

[Read More](#)



*Pictured above is the Hancock County Needs Assessment Team with the Hancock County Health Department at the Kam Kares event in Hancock County.*

## Hospital Leadership Training Program

### PATHWAYS TO RECERTIFICATION

#### REPEATED TRAINING

- ✓ Repeat the original eight training standard courses

#### RECERTIFICATION UNITS

- ✓ Seven hours of new training
- ✓ One hour review course

#### HYBRID

- ✓ Seven hours of new or repeated training
- ✓ One hour review course



The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center is now offering three distinct options for recertification of your hospital leadership training.

All options can be seen on the left with more details available at the link below.

If you have any questions about recertification, please email [Chris Scoggins, MPH](mailto:Chris.Scoggins@grhic.org), Director of Special Projects.

[Recertification Details](#)

## Community Health Reporter Program



Community Health Reporters will provide the Center with monthly reports verifying new and existing healthcare practices and providers, their hours of service, physical address, and if new patients are being accepted at these practices within their region.

They will also be reporting any local news regarding health departments, hospitals, surgery centers, and ancillary medical services in the community.

If you are interested in becoming a Community Health Reporter, or would like to learn more about the program, please click the link below.

[Community Health Reporter](#)



## **The Center Leads Pediatric Mental Health Initiative in Ben Hill County**



*Pictured above are the participants of the Ben Hill Planning Workshop.*

The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center in collaboration with the Ben Hill County Board of Education, Global Partnership for Telehealth (GPT) and College of Professional Advancement at Mercer University, is working to develop and implement a Pediatric Mental Health Initiative. There are several components to this initiative including, but not limited to, mental health screening tools, individual, group and family counseling, assessment services via telehealth, suicide and mental health awareness training, and community wellness events such as health fairs.

[Read More](#)

## **Farm Worker Well-being Survey Preliminary Report**

*Dr. Anne Montgomery*

The Resource and Analysis team at the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center has designed a multiple-year study to assess the mental well-

being and stressors for agricultural workers in Georgia. This large community has traditionally been underrepresented in mental health research.

The team is working closely with the Georgia Foundation for Agriculture, which was founded with the primary objective of advancing Georgia agriculture and creating healthy communities.

The preliminary report can be found at the link below.



[Read More](#)

## Health Fairs



On Friday June 18, 2021 Live Well Twiggs, a community collaborative in Twiggs County, hosted a Health Fair to help increase positive health outcomes in their community. Morgan Williams, MPH, Director of Communications and Events and Hannah Williams, Rural Health Assistant, provided a nutritional information booth at the Twiggs County Health Fair.

Joan Anderson, MPH, MBA, JD, Senior Field Representative, was on the Live Well Twiggs planning committee for this event. "The Live Well Twiggs Collaborative was thrilled with the community's participation and vendor support at the LWT's sponsored Health Fair. We hope that this event will continue to grow each year since it was a great benefit to the community."

**Visit us at these upcoming health fairs for giveaways and wellness activities**

Washington County | coming soon  
Hancock County | coming soon  
Clay County | coming soon

**Are you interested in hosting a health fair in your community?**

**Please email [Morgan Williams, MPH](#)**

# NEWS & NOTABLES



## **The Center Welcomes Kedrick Williams, DHA, MPH as new Community Resource & Assessment Specialist**

Kedrick L. Williams, DHA, MPH joined the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center in June 2021 as the Community Resource and Assessment Specialist. A proud native of Macon, he brings to this role his background in community outreach and programming, company partnership development, database management, and formative program evaluation. Holding a nationally-recognized certification as a Mental Health First Aid Instructor, Kedrick values creating enlightening sparks of education and awareness in the minds of youth and the young at heart. He has obtained his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Morehouse College and Master of Public Health from Morehouse School of Medicine. Kedrick has recently completed his Doctorate of Health Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina in July 2021. His service to the local community comes in the form of his ministry as an Ordained Minister of the Gospel and President of the Macon-Middle Georgia Chapter of the Morehouse College National Alumni Association.



Kedrick and his wife, Brandi, just welcomed their firstborn daughter this summer. His ultimate motto is “to become an effective leader, you must first be willing to follow”!

# Rural Healthcare

## Ethics Webinar

Presented by  
Brian Childs, MDiv, PhD, HEC-C  
Lauren Bunch, PhD, HEC-C

This webinar will provide insight into the role of clinical ethics and the process of decision making as it pertains to issues of end of life care, proxy decision making, scarcity of resources, pediatrics, and difficult discharge.



AUG 11 • NOON TO 1:00 PM

[GeorgiaRuralHealth.org/rural-healthcare-ethics](https://GeorgiaRuralHealth.org/rural-healthcare-ethics)



Visit our website to learn more.



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