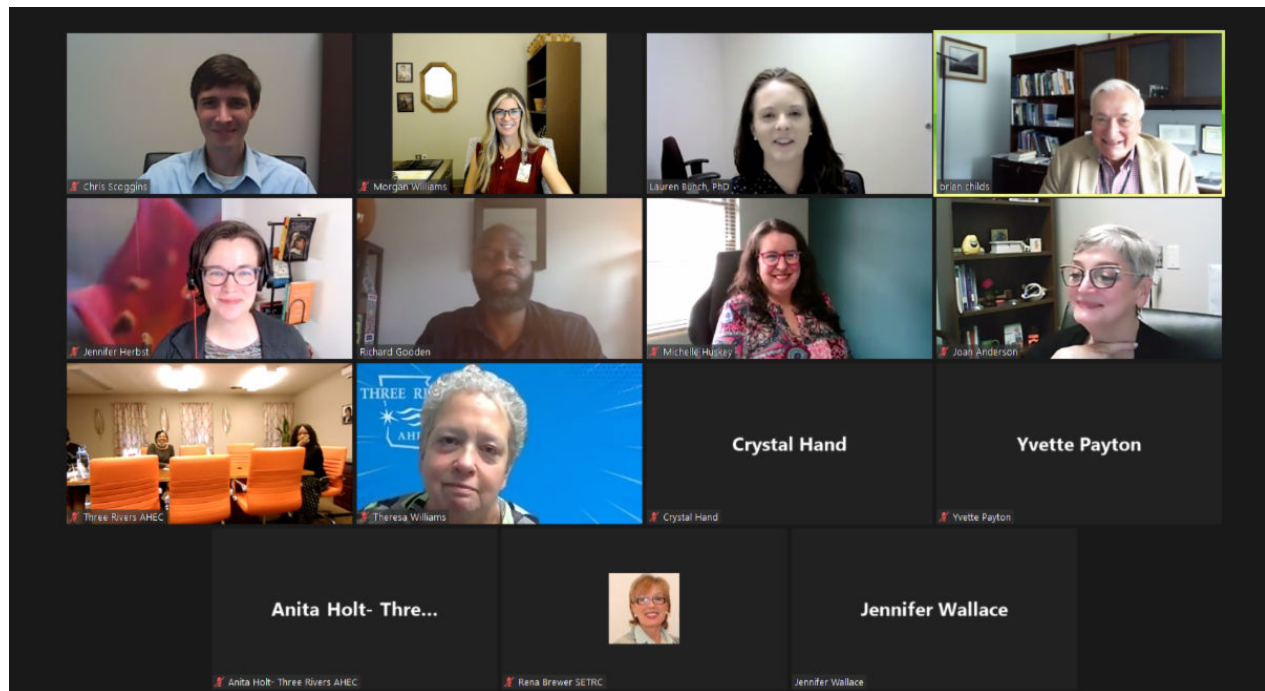


GEORGIA Rural Health INNOVATION CENTER

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.

The Center Hosts First Rural Healthcare Ethics ECHO



On Wednesday September 22, 2021 the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center (GRHIC) hosted its first Rural Healthcare Ethics ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) session with Dr. Brian Childs and Dr. Lauren Bunch, Mercer University School of Medicine. The group of fourteen participants consisted of a wide range of rural health professionals from all parts of the state. The sessions started with an overview of Informed Consent, allocation of scarce resources, defining death (universal definition of death), withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment and how technology interacts with ethics to start the discussion.

[Read More](#)

Center Projects

Center Offers Community Health Needs Assessments



The Center has recently partnered with Harmony Medical Foundation to provide a Community Health Needs Assessment for Greene, Hancock, Morgan, and Putnam counties. Using primary and secondary data retrieval, namely, surveys and focus groups, the Center will provide information on their healthcare providers and healthcare infrastructure, as well as the health behaviors of the community members. This Community Health Needs Assessment will provide these communities with data and information to better understand their unique healthcare needs allowing them to effectively expand medical services for the area.

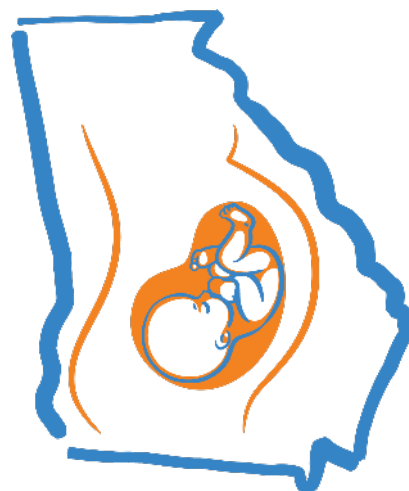
[Read More](#)

The Maternal Health Pilot Project - Bringing Prenatal Services to Rural Georgia

The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center is collaborating with community partners Dr. L. Joy Baker, MD, FACOG, PMH-C, C-EFM, MT (ASCP), WellStar Medical Group Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Dr. Keisha Callins, MD, MPH, OB/GYN, Community Health Care Systems (Jones/Twiggs) to develop and implement the Maternal Health Pilot Project.

The goal of this program is to bring monthly prenatal services to rural Georgia counties that currently do not have any prenatal care services. Working with office-based, high-end general imaging ultrasound equipment and hand-held ultrasound equipment, approved practice guidelines for the performance of obstetrical ultrasound will be used.

[Read More](#)



Hancock County Needs Assessment Audience Testing

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



"I was a little hesitant at first, I had to do a little studying, but I just prayed to God and said - I'm gonna take this shot. I took it because I have underlying conditions and I wanted to protect myself, my son and my family. I advise everyone to pray about it and go take that shot. We need everybody to be protected."

-Patricia Morgan

Protect your family, get vaccinated.



Currently, the COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Hesitancy Needs Assessment in Hancock County, Georgia is moving forward in the Audience Testing Phase. The Center has worked with its partners in Hancock County to identify local residents who can speak to the concerns of their community in regards to vaccinations and has developed a testimonial campaign around the theme "Protect your family, get vaccinated". The Center will also be running several Fake or Fact ads through social media to dispel common myths about the vaccine and its side effects.

[Learn More](#)

Center Collaborates with MUSM on Autism Detection

Article Submitted by Joy Joseph, MPH, PhD Research Assistant



Research Assistants, Joy Joseph, MPH and Dahlia Al-Haleem, MSES under supervision of Dr. Anne Montgomery, have teamed up with Dr. Sarah Rotschafer, Assistant Professor, Mercer University School of Medicine, for the analysis of demographics and symptoms of autism that lead to testing for autism in children. The data collection and organization was managed by Dr. Rotschafer, and led to approximately 700 patient intake forms filled out by parents of children with suspected autism spectrum disorders.

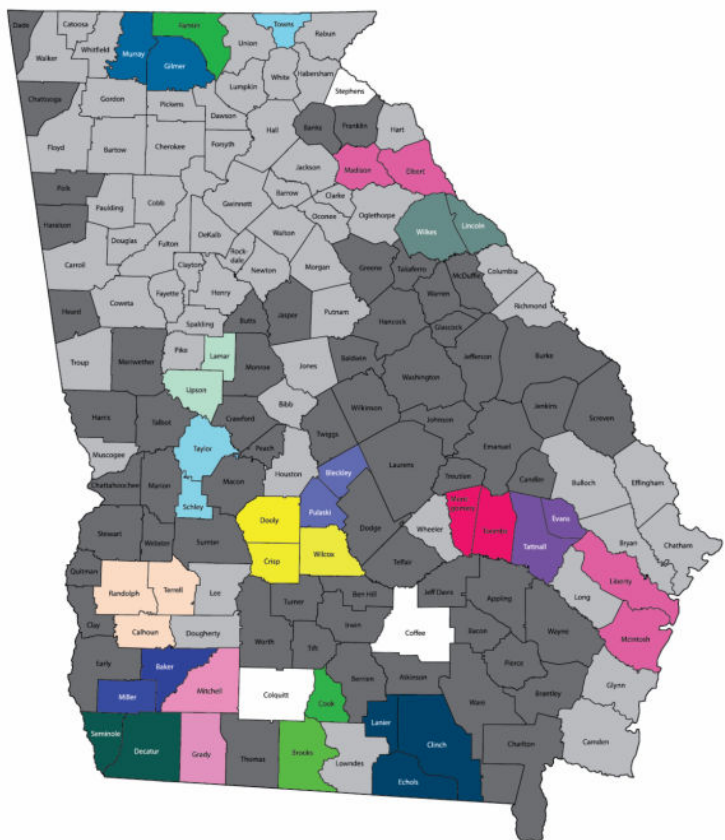
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Community Health Reporter Program

The Community Health Reporter Program allows the Georgia Rural Health Innovation center to assess the healthcare services and providers in Georgia's rural counties. This database will be developed by our Community Health Reporters. We are happy to have more than 28 Reporters ready to enter this rewarding work experience upon receiving orientation to the Center and the Program.

We still have territories that need a Community Health Reporter! Please check the map (right) for updated territories in need (Full color and white locations have openings, all territories in gray are unavailable). If you see that your county/territory is among this group, please follow the link below to apply for this rewarding role in community innovation.

Community Health Reporter



The Center Hosts Mental Health First Aid Virtual Courses



On September 18, 2021 **Dr. Kedrick Williams**, Community Resource and Assessment Specialist, Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center (The Center) and Dr. Sharon Jones, Certified Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Instructor, hosted the second virtual MHFA training session for Sumter County. This interactive course was attended by 14 participants comprised of Phoebe Sumter Medical Center team

members, leaders of local churches, high school students, and community members. MHFA training addresses several [Grand Challenges of Rural Health](#) including Mental Health, Health Literacy, and Substance Abuse by teaching participants how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders.

[Read More](#)

Health Fairs & Events

Visit us at these upcoming events for giveaways and wellness activities

Georgia National Fair | October 7, 2021

Washington County | COVID-19 Vaccination October 30, 2021 - Health Fair March 5, 2021

Hancock County | coming soon

Clay County | coming soon

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

Please email [Morgan Williams, MPH](#)



Dr. Kimberly Carr Presents to Georgia Senate Committee on Improving Health Food Access and Ending Food Deserts



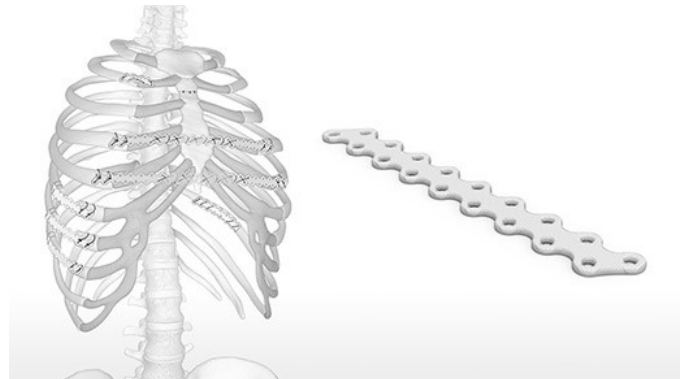
Dr. Kimberly Carr, Community Resource Specialist, Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center reports on improving health through food access.

On September 15, 2021 at Valdosta State University, **Dr. Kimberly Carr**, Community Resource Specialist, Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, presented, “Addressing the Food Plight in Rural Georgia: Innovative Ways for Community Involvement” to the Georgia Senate Study Committee and other invited stakeholders. The Georgia Senate formed the Senate Study Committee on Improving Healthy Food Access and Ending Food Deserts to address these public health and economic issues facing many rural Georgians.

[Read More](#)

The Dr. Anne Montgomery Co-Authors Study on Rib Plating

On October 1, 2021, Dr. Dennis Ashley, MUSM, Trauma Surgeon at Atrium health, will be presenting to the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST) on a rib plating study paper titled “Prospective Randomized Trial of Metal vs Resorbable Plates in Surgical Stabilization of Rib Fractures.” This paper which was co-written by, Dudley B. Christie, III, MD, Eric L. Long, MD, Rajani Adiga, MS, Tracy J. Johns, MSN, Josephine Fabico-Dulin, RN, and **Anne Montgomery, PhD** - Atrium Health Navicent, Mercer University School of Medicine and Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center,



looked at the differences between typical titanium rib plating done for broken ribs, and the newer resorbable plates (which integrate and dissolve into the bone).

Pictured Above are handsewn resorbable plates

[Read More](#)

The Center Makes Donation to Live Well Twiggs Community Collaborative



During the month of October, Live Well Twiggs (LWT) will be distributing 200 Health Bags to residents in their community. **Joan Anderson, MPH, MBA, JD** Senior Field Representative, Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, provided healthcare giveaways to help fill the bags.

"It is inspirational to participate in the LWT collaboration," said Joan, "I am honored to serve along side the dedicated professionals, community leaders and volunteers who chose to come together and improve the health care status and access to health services in Twiggs County."

Additionally, the health bags will include toothbrushes, and other health care items including blood pressure cuffs and glucometers for those who may need them. The health bags will be available at the Twigg County Health Department, IHS Pharmacy, and the Community Health Care Systems Clinic in Jeffersonville.

Georgia Cancer Summit - Save The Date

SAVE THE DATE

Georgia Cancer Summit

Friday, January 21, 2022

The **Georgia Cancer Summit** on January 21, 2022, will bring together public health professionals, health care providers, health policy advocates, researchers, and community organizations involved in community-engaged cancer research, prevention, and control efforts across the state. This free virtual meeting is designed to:

- Broaden your knowledge of evidence-based programs for cancer prevention and control.
- Share information on advocacy and other efforts to reduce cancer disparities in Georgia.
- Provide opportunities to network and develop new partnerships for community-engaged research and dissemination of effective programs.



The Georgia Cancer Summit is offered free of charge by Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, Georgia Cancer Control Consortium, Georgia CORE and the Georgia Department of Public Health, in partnership with the American Cancer Society, Georgia Health Policy Center, Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, and Morehouse School of Medicine. Be on the lookout for registration information soon.

Visit our website to learn more.



Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center | 1550 College St, Macon, GA 31207

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