

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

## Center Hosts Rural Community Health Fairs



*Pictured Above health fair participants at Washington County (left) and Clay County (right).*

During the month of March, the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center co-hosted two community health fairs in rural Georgia communities. On March 5, 2022, in collaboration with St. James Christian Fellowship Church, Representative Mack Jackson, Washington County Regional Medical Center, and UGA College of Pharmacy, the Center hosted the [Washington County Health Fair](#), with over 30 vendors and 60 community participants. On March 19, 2022, the Center co-hosted the [Clay County Health and Resource Fair](#) with Clay County Family Connections with over 25 vendors and 50 community participants. Both of these events had health screenings, glucose and blood pressure checks, HIV testing, and COVID vaccinations as well as giveaways and hands-on health exhibits.

If you are interested in co-hosting a health fair in your rural community, please fill out the form on the link below.

[Learn More](#)





# NEWS & NOTABLES

## Three Rural Georgia Hospitals Recognized Nationally



**Lorraine Smith, CEO,  
Monroe County Hospital**



**Laura Gentry, BSN, RN, CEO,  
Atrium Health Navicent Peach**



**Wendy Martin, CEO,  
Jefferson County Hospital**

The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center would like to congratulate Lorraine Smith, CEO of Monroe County Hospital, and Laura Gentry, BSN, RN, CEO of Atrium Health Navicent Peach for making the Becker's Hospital Review's 67 Rural Hospital CEOs to know in 2022. The Center also extends congratulations to Jefferson County Hospital for making the National Rural Health Associations' Top 20 Rural and Community Hospital list.

These three rural hospitals received nationally-recognized honors for their excellent work serving their patients throughout the pandemic and helping ensure the hospital's future financial stability. While hospitals across the country struggled the last few years, these rural organizations and their leaders have developed successful models for navigating the pandemic.

[Read More](#)

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## Article Co-Authored by Dr. Anne Montgomery Wins Award

**Dr. Anne Montgomery**, pictured right, co-authored an article with Tracy Johns, Trauma Nurse Manager, Josephine Fabico-Dulin, Quality Improvement Coordinator, and Dr. Dennis Ashley, Director of Trauma and Adult Critical Care at Atrium Health on their Comprehensive Initiative to Decrease Trauma Venous Thromboembolism. This article recently won the Journal of Trauma Nursing's Best Quality Improvement Article 2021; the Journal of Trauma Nursing presented the award during the Conference of the

Society of Trauma Nurses in April 2022 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ref: Johns, T., FabicoDulin, J., Montgomery, A., & Ashley, D. (2021). *Comprehensive Initiative to Decrease Trauma Venous Thromboembolism*. *Journal of Trauma Nursing*, 28 (4), 250-257.

[Learn More](#)



## Dr. Kimberly Carr Presenting on the Rural Perspective of Hunger

SDSN USA Diversity, Equity, and Justice for Sustainable Development Working Group & Zero Hunger Pathways Project Dialogue

### EXPLORING EQUITABLE APPROACHES TO ENDING HUNGER IN AMERICA: FOOD, FAMILIES, FARMING, AND JUSTICE

**Goulda A. Downer, PhD, FAND, CNS, LN, RD, College of Medicine, Howard University**

**Kimberly N. Carr, PhD, MPH, Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, Mercer University School of Medicine**

**Schuyler W. Bond, B.S., Agriculture Education, Farmer in Haywood County Tennessee**

**Eloris Speight, B.S., MBA, Executive Director, SDFR Policy Research Center, Alcorn State University**

Center for Women, Gender and Global Leadership at Howard University

**Monday, March 28th**  
**3:00 - 5:00 PM ET**

**SDSN** United States of America

**DEJ4SD** DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND JUSTICE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**ZHPP** ZERO HUNGER PATHWAYS PROJECT

On March 28, 2022, “Exploring Equitable Approaches to Ending Hunger in America: Food, Families, Farming, and Justice” critical dialogue series featured [Dr. Kimberly Carr](#), Community Resource and Assessment Specialist, discussing the rural perspective of hunger, measured as “very low food security” by the United States Department of Agriculture. This webinar is sponsored by the United States of America chapter of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Diversity, Equity, and Justice for Sustainable Development Working Group (SDSN DEJ-4SD), the Zero Hunger Pathways Project (SDSN ZHPP), and the Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership at Howard University. Dr. Carr is a national working group member of SDSN ZHPP whose focus is on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Ending Hunger in the United States.



# Center Projects

Ongoing Center Projects 2022

- [Maternal Health Improvement](#) - All Rural Counties
  - [Maternal Health Observership](#) - All Rural Counties
  - [Maternal Health Symposium](#) - All Rural Counties
  - **Barber/Beauty Shop Project** - Rural counties to be determined
  - [Sow a Seed Grant](#) - Putnam, Heard, Ben Hill
  - [Community Health Reporter](#) - All Rural Counties
  - **Clergy/Physician Program** - Rural counties to be determined
  - **Community Health Needs Assessment** - Morgan, Greene, Putnam, Hancock
  - [Hancock County COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Hesitancy Study](#) - Hancock
  - [Clinical Ethics ECHO](#) - All Rural Counties
  - [Lean Six Sigma Webinar](#) - All Rural Counties
  - [Mental Health First Aid](#) - All Rural Counties
  - [Pediatric Mental Health Initiative](#) - Ben Hill, Washington
  - **Health Fairs** - All Rural Counties
  - **QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention** - All Rural Counties
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## Maternal Health Observership 2022



## Maternal Health Observership Summer Experience 2022

Are you a Georgia resident and rising 2nd-year medical student in good standing?

Are you interested in obstetrics/gynecology and rural practice?

### Apply Today



### Use this Summer to achieve:

- An expanded learning experience practicing in rural, medically underserved communities
- A rewarding opportunity to become familiar with best-in-practice care
- An opportunity to understand the role that telemedicine plays in providing care options to underserved communities
- Selected candidate(s) must reside in Central Georgia during this experience
- Stipend offered

Now accepting applications. Application Deadline: **April 29, 2022**

For more details, visit our website

[www.georgiaruralhealth.org/maternalhealthexperience](http://www.georgiaruralhealth.org/maternalhealthexperience)

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## Maternal Health Symposium 2022

Mark your calendar, the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center is hosting a Maternal Health Symposium highlighting care delivery models that are improving maternal health outcomes in Georgia.

### Maternal Health Symposium

June 23-24, 2022

President's Dining Room, Mercer University

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## Center Launches Community Health Reporter Program

The Community Health Reporter Program has commenced with 31 reporters across the state of Georgia. This month we are proud to highlight two of our reporters who have truly represented the mission of the program.



***Briana Hart, serves Peach and Crawford county***

To date, Briana has contacted more than 35 health care providers who offer primary care, pharmaceuticals, and specialty health care services in these counties. Upon reflecting on her experience as a Community Health Reporter, Ms. Hart shared “One reason that I’ve found this program so beneficial to my community is during COVID, I had a lot of family members that were affected personally and in Peach County and Crawford County, I have family ties in both. And just to listen to them sit back and talk about ‘I had to go all the way to Macon or Warner Robins to see somebody.’ I’m like I know there are options closer by so knowing that I can be that person to provide them with resources close by where they don’t have to travel so far and they can get medical care or assistance quicker is one of the reasons that this [program] touched so close to home for me.”

[Read More](#)



***David Floyd, serves Liberty and McIntosh county***

David has identified and contacted more than 23 health care providers who provide health care services in primary care, pediatrics, and dental care. As Mr. Floyd reflected on his experience as a Community Health Reporter, he shared “One of the things that I’ve learned that has been sort of interesting working in Liberty and McIntosh counties is that a lot of doctors’ offices are joint properties . . . if you have a doctor like a heart specialist that comes every Thursday or something, one of the values that I’ve added is that as a general rule, they are not a part of that practice. They have their own separate practice in another city, so be sure to list them as a separate [provider] at that particular address only on Thursdays so their actual hours of operation have value . . . to show that they are only available on Thursday in that community.”

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## **Theology, Medical Schools and GRHIC Partner to Support Holistic Health Outcomes**

Mercer University’s School of Theology and School of Medicine have partnered with the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center to support the physical, mental and spiritual health of five rural Georgia counties by coordinating the efforts of clergy, physicians and health care professionals.

“Recognizing that in many rural counties religious leaders and health care professionals serve an important role in the well-being of the population, we want to bring these two groups together for the purpose of better serving in a holistic way the needs of the community,” said Greg DeLoach, D.Min., dean of the School of Theology.



Pictured Right: *Paul Byrd, Project Director*

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## 2022 Grantees Positioned for Success

The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center is hosting free, informational, grant preparation seminars. These seminars will focus on developing skills to equip organizational leaders with the tools to successfully compete for grant funding.

### ***Introduction to Public Health & Community Impact***

Tuesday, March 8, 11:00am - 12:00pm

### ***Building Beneficial Budgets***

Tuesday, April 12, 11:00am - 12:00pm

### ***Searching for Suitable Grants***

Tuesday, May 10, 11:00am - 12:00pm

### ***Proposal Planning & Design***

Tuesday, June 14, 11:00am - 12:00pm

### ***Engaging Communities with Enthusiastic Communication***

Tuesday, July 12, 11:00am - 12:00pm

### ***Activity Assessment Amidst Implementation***

Tuesday, August 9, 11:00am - 12:00pm

**Please register here**

**[www.georgiaruralhealth.org/grant-program/](http://www.georgiaruralhealth.org/grant-program/)**

*In 60  
minutes!*

## Center Surveying Georgia Paramedics and EMT

[\*Dr. Anne Montgomery\*](#) and the Center's PhD students in Rural Health Studies are collecting data on Georgia's paramedic and EMT populations. If you are a paramedic or EMT based in Georgia, please take the survey below.



# Georgia EMS Survey



Are you a Georgia-based paramedic or EMT? We are looking into the self-reported pros and cons of joining the field. Interested? Scan the QR code to fill out a brief survey!



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### Health Fairs & Events

Join us at these upcoming events for giveaways, free healthcare screenings, and wellness activities.

**Sumter County** | June 25, 2022

**Hancock County** | July 2022

**Putnam County** | September 24, 2022

**Peach County** | coming soon

**Harris County** | coming soon

Are you interested in hosting a health fair in your community or being a vendor at one of the fairs listed above?

Please email [Morgan Williams, MPH](mailto:Morgan.Williams@ruralhealthcenter.org)

Visit our [website](https://www.ruralhealthcenter.org) to learn more.

