

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

Pediatric Mental Health Initiative Expanding



*Pictured Above is **Brad Wells**, Global Partnership for Telehealth, and **Wanda Kimbrell**, Ben Hill County School System setting up telehealth services for the program.*

Ben Hill County School System's Pediatric Mental Health Initiative has been selected as a Sow a Seed 2021 grant recipient based on their collaborative approach to addressing the mental health needs of their students through telehealth and to support the continuation of this program into the summer months, and beyond.

The Pediatric Mental Health Initiative's pilot program began providing services in October 2021 at Ben Hill County Elementary School. This initiative has now been expanded to all five schools in the county with approximately 20 students being served. This partnership is a collaboration that continues to grow; including the Ben Hill County Board of Education, College of Professional Advancement, Mercer University (CoPA), Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) Program at Mercer University School of Medicine, and Global Partnership for Telehealth. The cornerstone of the initiative is the delivery of virtual counseling services to students. The initiative also provides mental health screening tools, suicide prevention training to educators, community members, and students and sponsors community special events and health fairs.

NEWS & NOTABLES

Autism Awareness Program Expands Resources



Many families in rural Georgia face barriers to receiving a diagnosis and attaining treatment for autism spectrum disorder. The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center partners with Global Partnership for Telehealth and their Toddler Tracks program to bring awareness to this issue and present online options for support. The Toddler Tracks program, directed by Boyd Mark, spoke with us about the expansion of their program. This virtual autism resource boasts a full website with training and early detection modules available at no cost to the public. It helps caregivers understand the early warning signs of autism because early detection leads to better outcomes for the child. Their website also provides modules on behavior modification for those who suspect autism, but who have not yet been diagnosed or treated for their symptoms.

Toddler Tracks is also expanding its program to specifically target parents in need of this information directly in their pediatrician's office. They are reaching out to rural providers to place pamphlets and easy scan QR codes in the patient rooms to increase knowledge about the program and their caregiver training.

If you are interested in learning more about the Toddler Tracks program or are interested in learning about other autism resources available in the state, please visit the Centers Autism Resource page at the link below.

[Learn More](#)

Reach 2 Teach Hosts Vaccine Drive and Health Literacy Festival



Pictured Above: Dr. Kedrick Williams, GRHIC, Cecil Kilgore, Reach2Teach, Janice Stanford, MPH, CHES, GRHIC and James Kilgore, New Life Outreach Christian Center

On April 23, 2022, Reach2Teach located in Putnam County hosted a Health Literacy Festival at the New Life Outreach Christian Center. Reach2Teach was a recipient of the Sow A Seed Grant provided by the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center in 2021. Reach2Teach has been diligently working to increase vaccination rates for the COVID-19 virus as well as bring awareness to other chronic illnesses affecting the Putnam County community and hosting blood drives to increase blood donations. During the health literacy festival participants were provided health education materials, a healthy lunch, and tickets to win door prizes. CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort) was also on hand to provide the opportunity for participants to sign up for upcoming COVID-19 vaccination events. Local physician Dr. Eddie Richardson spoke to participants regarding vaccine hesitancy, the importance of getting the COVID-19 vaccination and living a healthy lifestyle.

[Learn More](#)

Grocery Store Initiative in Talbot County to Address Food Disparities

On April 1, 2022, a community meeting was held at the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority to discuss a grocery store initiative to address food disparities inclusive of lack of access and availability to healthy and nutritious foods and the grocery store's impact on local economic development. This initiative is spearheaded by community and food advocate leader, **Jane Lockhart**, pictured right, owner of Frank and Olive's Marketplace, Inc. In attendance at the community meeting were federal and local governmental leaders, pastors, and community members.

Talbot County, population 6,321, currently has no grocery store with a food insecurity rate of 17.7%, higher than that of the food insecurity rate in Georgia (14.4%) and the United States (12.6%), per the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Data Hub sourced by the United

States Census Bureau and *Feeding America*. Residents have to drive to neighboring counties such as Muscogee (Columbus) and Meriwether (Manchester), approximately 20-40 minutes away, to have access to a grocery store. A grocery store has not been present in Talbot County for close to 20 years.

[Read More](#)



National Drug Take Back Day - Warren County



*Pictured Above: **Tonja Dukes**, Warren County Sheriffs Department and **Chranda Baker**, Warren County Family Connections*

On Friday June 22, 2022 Rural Health Representatives **Jay Burton**, **Janice Stanford**, and **Davis Perkins**, assisted the Warren County Family connections and the Sheriff's Office of Warren County for National Drug Take Back Day. This annual events allows for county officials to safely and correctly dispose of unused prescription drugs no longer needed by community members.

If you are interested in a drug takeback day in your community, please contact **Jay Burton** at **burton_jm@georgiaruralhealth.org**.

Dr. Kedrick Williams to take on new role at the Center

Dr. Kedrick Williams, Community Resource & Assessment Specialist, pictured right, will be entering into a new role at the Center as the Senior Rural Health Project Manager. In his new position, he will be a technical focal point for Center projects throughout Georgia as well as spearheading the Center's Maternal Health Initiative. Please join us in congratulating him as he steps into this new role.



Center Projects

Ongoing Center Projects 2022

- [Maternal Health Improvement](#) - All Rural Counties, *Dr. Kedrick Williams*
- [Maternal Health Observership](#) - All Rural Counties, *Dr. Kedrick Williams*
- [Maternal Health Symposium](#) - All Rural Counties, *Morgan Williams*
- **Barber/Beauty Shop Project** - Rural counties to be determined, *Davis Perkins*
- [Sow a Seed Grant](#) - Putnam, Heard, Ben Hill, *Dr. Kedrick Williams*
- [Community Health Reporter](#) - All Rural Counties, *Dr. Kedrick Williams*
- **Clergy/Physician Program** - Rural counties to be determined, *Chris Scoggins*
- **Community Health Needs Assessment** - Morgan, Greene, Putnam, Hancock, *Jay Burton*
- [Hancock County COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Hesitancy Study](#) - Hancock,

Dr. Kimberly Carr

- [Clinical Ethics ECHO](#) - All Rural Counties, *Chris Scoggins*
- [Lean Six Sigma Webinar](#) - All Rural Counties, *Chris Scoggins*
- [Mental Health First Aid](#) - All Rural Counties, *Dr. Kedrick Williams*
- [Pediatric Mental Health Initiative](#) - Ben Hill, Washington, *Joan Anderson*
- **Health Fairs** - All Rural Counties, *Morgan Williams*
- **QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention** - All Rural Counties, *Joan Anderson and Dr. Kedrick Williams*

Maternal Health Symposium 2022

Let's Talk Maternal Health

What's working in Georgia?

JUNE 23, 2022

8 : 00 AM - 4 : 30 PM

JUNE 24, 2022

8 : 00 AM - 12 : 00 PM

MERCER UNIVERSITY

MACON CAMPUS

PRESIDENT'S DINING ROOM



For more information and
FREE event registration, scan
the QR code above.

Please join us for a two-day symposium with healthcare professionals across Georgia to advance the dialogue on maternal health initiatives that are currently improving maternal health outcomes.



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AT MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Let's Talk Maternal Health

What's working in Georgia?

June 23, 2022

8:00-9:00 am

Check-in and Networking Breakfast

Provided Free with Registration

9:00-9:30 am

Jean R. Sumner, MD, FACOG

Dean of Mercer University Medical School

Welcome

9:30-10:15 am

Edson Jean Jacques

Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center

Maternal Mortality Data & Tracking the Cause of Maternal Death

10:30-11:15 am

Becky Mitchell, RN, IBCLC

Southeast Health District

Maternal Health Initiatives - Perinatal Health Partners

11:30-1:00 pm

Lunch and Networking

Provided Free with Registration

1:15-2:00 pm

Chris Sikes, RN

Houston County Health Department

Maternal Health Initiatives - Nurse Family Partnership

2:15-3:15 pm

Suleima Salgado, MBA

Georgia Department of Public Health

Maternal Telehealth Programs

3:30-4:30 pm

Erika Pope, LSW, MHRM

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies

Maternal Health Programs



Let's Talk Maternal Health

What's working in Georgia?

June 24, 2022

8:00-9:00 am

Check-in and Networking Breakfast

Provided Free with Registration

9:00-11:00 am

Jennifer Barkin, PhD

Mercer University School of Medicine

The Barkin Index

Rebecca Woo, MD, FACOG

Emory University

Maternal Mental Health

11:00-11:45 am

Cheryl Franklin, MD, MPH, FACOG

Morehouse School of Medicine

IMPROVE project

11:45-12:00 pm

Glenda Grant, MBA

Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center

Closing Remarks



Mercer Virtual Medical Camp 2022

MERCER VIRTUAL MEDICAL CAMP

GAMES
INTERACTIVE
EXPERIMENTS
GOODY BOX
FREE T-SHIRT



Mercer University Medical School is hosting a FREE Virtual Medical Camp for Georgia Middle and High School Students!

DATE: June 27 - July 1

TIME: 10AM - NOON

CALL: 478-301-4700 for questions

REGISTER: GeorgiaRuralHealth.org/Mercer-Medical-Camp

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The Center Hosts Virtual Mental Health First Aid Classes



Mental Health is an area of wellness often camouflaged by stigma, fear, doubt, and even

embarrassment. The National Council for Mental Well-being even says that “people living with mental health and substance use challenges were imprisoned, tortured and subjected to inhumane treatment. Our society has come a long way since then, however, the stigmatization of these challenges is still a significant problem.” It is for these very reasons that the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center has made the commitment to educate community members and health care professionals with the Mental Health First Aid Course. This 6-hour virtual course provides participants with “a single 5-step action plan known as ALGEE, which includes assessing risk, respectfully listening to and supporting the individual in crisis, and identifying appropriate professional help and other support”.

On March 30, 2022, ***Dr. Kedrick Williams*** and ***Glenda Grant*** presented this course to employees of Phoebe Sumter Medical Center, leaders of civic organizations, and community members. The 12 participants learned how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders. Upon evaluating the course, a participant shared that “The Course was very beneficial for me as a participant and for those that I will be able to assist with the knowledge gained. The material was very well presented and the atmosphere was great.” Another participant expressed their thoughts by saying, “AWESOME!! AWESOME!! COURSE. THE INSTRUCTORS WERE AWESOME AS WELL!!”

Recruitment is already underway to fill the next virtual Mental Health First Aid training course which will be held on June 14, 2022.

[Learn More](#)

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/

*In 60
minutes!*

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If you were unable to attend the previous sessions the video recordings can be found at the link below.

[GPS Recordings](#)

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!



SCAN ME

Health Fairs & Events

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

Johnson County | June 4, 2022

Hancock County | June 18, 2022

Sumter County | June 25, 2022

Randolph County | September 10, 2022

Putnam County | September 24, 2022

Peach County | coming soon

Harris County | coming soon

[Learn More](#)

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](#)

The Center Supports the Work of Resilient Middle Georgia



RESILIENT MIDDLE GEORGIA

KINSHIFT Trainings

KINSHIFT will customize and facilitate trauma-and-resilience-informed antiracist virtual training with the aim of building a shared knowledge and understanding of how stress and trauma affect individuals, institutions and communities, along with providing practical tools for mitigating stressors in institutional and direct service settings.

New Training Date

Friday May 13th
1pm-3pm

New
Date
Added!

June Coalition Meeting

June 16th, 11:30am-1pm

Debra Kibbe

Georgia Health Policy Center



KINSHIFT Project

The aim of this project is to support Resilient Middle Georgia (RMG) coalition members in building capacity for trauma-and-resilience-informed and anti-racist systems change. The caustic effect of systemic racism and trauma can be mitigated through the creation of diverse, equitable, and healing systems and communities that foster resilience.



Leadership Collaborative!

Individuals from partner agencies and the community will take part in a 6-month mentoring and coaching opportunity with KINSHIFT and RMG. Those who successfully complete the 6-month collaborative will be eligible for funding to complete a policy, system, or environmental change.



Publications

[Prospective Randomized Trial of Metal vs Resorbable Plates in Surgical Stabilization of Rib Fractures](#)

Dennis W Ashley, MD, FACS, Dudley B Christie III, MD, FACS, Eric L Long, MD, FACS Rajani Adiga, MS, Tracy J Johns, MSN, RN-BC, CPHW, TCRN, Josephine Fabico-Dulin, RN and Anne Montgomery, PhD

[Do All Isolated Traumatic Subarachnoid Hemorrhages Need To Be Transferred To a Level 1 Trauma Center?](#)

Eric D. Forney, MD, Anne Montgomery, PhD, Marshal Williams, BS, Mital Patel, BS, and Dennis W. Ashley, MD

Dr. Anne Montgomery, Biostatistician for the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center, is available to conduct research for rural counties upon request. To contact Dr. Montgomery, please email her at **Montgomery_A@georgiaruralhealth.org**.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

