Weekly Update
May 24

New Episode! #58 Stimulants

VRHA News

Members in the News
Tri-Area Community Health Provides Community Focused Integrated Care

Tri-Area Community Health (TACH) was established as a Federally Qualified Health Center, which means they do not turn anyone away because of an inability to pay. They continue to grow along with the community they serve, evaluating the needs of their patients and adapting as needed, including adding services for their growing Hispanic population. The diverse needs of the community they serve led to TACH designing a community-focused approach to integrated care, which takes into account the characteristics and unique behavioral health needs of the community.

Virginia News

Virginia Launches Nation’s First Statewide Health Equity Dashboards

Governor Ralph Northam unveiled the nation’s first public statewide health equity dashboards, providing a snapshot of the Commonwealth’s COVID-19 response and recovery efforts and making key data more accessible to Virginia residents. The two dashboards—Equity in Action and Equity at a Glance—were created by the Virginia Health Equity Leadership Taskforce (ELT) in partnership with several state agencies.

National News

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

The American Rescue Plan will deliver $350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and bring back jobs. The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery. Funds can be used to:

• Respond to or mitigate the PHE with respect to the COVID-19 emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.

• Provide government services to the extend of the reduction in revenue (i.e. online, property, income taxes) due to the PHE.

• Make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
• State and local governments can transfer the funds to a private nonprofit organization, a public benefit corporation involved in the transportation of passengers or cargo or a special-purpose unit of State or local government.

• Respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the county that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work.

**HRSA Orders Drug Manufacturers to Resume 340B Sales for Contract Pharmacy Dispensing**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) sent letters to six drug manufacturers stating that their policies placing restrictions on 340B Program pricing to covered entities that dispense medications through pharmacies under contract have resulted in overcharges and are in direct violation of the 340B statute. In it’s letter HRSA is requiring each manufacturer to:

• immediately begin offering its covered outpatient drugs at the 340B ceiling price to covered entities through their contract pharmacy arrangements and

• refund or credit all covered entities for overcharges that resulted from the manufacturers' policies regarding drugs dispensed by contract pharmacies.

The 340B Program Ceiling Price and Civil Monetary Penalties (CMP) final rule states that any manufacturer participating in the 340B Program that knowingly and intentionally charges a covered entity more than the ceiling price for a covered outpatient drug may be subject to a Civil Monetary Penalty not to exceed $5,000 for each instance of overcharging. Assessed CMPs would be in addition to repayment for overcharging.

HRSA stated that it had determined that these policies have resulted in 340B ceiling price overcharges and are in direct violation of the 340B statute.

**HHS Announces $3 Billion in American Rescue Plan Funding for SAMHSA Block Grants to Address Addiction, Mental Health Crisis**

The Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) Program and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Program (SABG) will disperse $1.5 billion each to states and territories (with the latter also awarding money to a tribe). This follows the March announcement of supplemental funding of nearly $2.5 billion for these programs. SAMHSA, an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has expedited federal funding to grantees to help communities grappling with mental health and substance use needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Calendar

**National Rural Business Summit - Strengthening Vaccinations in Rural Areas & Small Cities**
*Thursday, June 3rd, 2021  1:00 pm*

The Health Action Alliance, COVID Collaborative and partners representing rural America will host a National Business Summit on engaging employees and residents in rural areas and small cities, offering case studies, best practices and actionable tools for employers and other leaders.

**Rural Health Data Institute**
*June 7th - July 26th, 2021*

The RHDI is a set of eight 90-minute web-based sessions designed to create a basic skill set for working with rural health data. Whether working with community health needs assessment (CHNA) data or implementing a quality improvement initiative, RHDI will provide the foundational skills needed to critically analyze, interpret, and communicate using data. Can’t step away during the day to attend? All sessions are recorded and uploaded to our learning management system, EduBrite, to watch at your convenience. Registrations closes June 4th, 2021.

**Racism Is a Public Health Crisis Webinar Series #2**
*"The National Landscape and Next Steps for Virginia"*
*Thursday, June 10th, 2021  10:00 - 11:30 am*

The Institute for Public Health Innovation is proud to partner with Voices for Virginia’s Children and the Virginia Public Health Association to present a webinar series that will explore the background, context, and future for this resolution. The second webinar will provide perspectives on the national landscape for similar resolutions and the next steps for Virginia. More details and a registration link will be available soon. Please reach out to Rebecca Epstein if you have any questions at repstein@institutephi.org

Resources

**Project N95**

Project N95 is the National Clearinghouse for personal protective equipment and COVID-19 tests. We protect communities and the people who live and work in them by providing
equitable access to the resources they need to stay safe through the COVID-19 pandemic. ProjectN95 is a National Rural Health Association initiative.

**Rural Communities Toolkit**

Resources for how to build vaccine confidence and promote preventive measures. Features tailored materials you can use to educate rural residents about the COVID-19 vaccines and to increase their confidence in the vaccines while reinforcing basic preventive measures.

**Rural Maternal Health Toolkit**

Resources and best practices to help rural communities support maternal health. Identifies program models and examples, and discusses implementation, evaluation, sustainability, and dissemination of program results.

**Pain in the Nation: Alcohol, Drug, and Suicide Epidemics - Special Feature: COVID-19 and Trauma**

Explores the effect the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent trauma it has had on rates of suicide and alcohol- and drug-induced deaths across the nation. Breaks down data by a number of indicators, such as by age, race, and rural versus urban location.

**COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts in Rural Communities Hit by Opioid Epidemic**

Examines the COVID-19 response, including vaccination efforts, of HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) grantees. Examines COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and vaccination efforts. Discusses challenges related to vaccination efforts to reach rural individuals with substance use disorder/opioid use disorder and other rural residents.

**Impact of Socioeconomic Status, Race and Ethnicity, and Geography on Prenatal Detection of Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome and Transposition of the Great Arteries**

Results of a study of 1,862 prenatal and postnatal patients from 21 North American cardiology centers, to determine whether socioeconomic and geographic factors were correlated with lower rates of prenatal detection of hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS) and transposition of the great arteries (TGS). Also compares social determinants of health between the U.S. and Canada due to different healthcare systems. Features demographics and statistics with breakdowns by rural or nonrural location.

**Medicaid and Rural Health**

Provides an overview of rural residents, including socioeconomic characteristics, insurance status, and health status. Explores the availability of healthcare providers in rural areas, with a focus on primary care providers and hospitals. Discusses the role of
Medicaid in rural health, as well as Medicaid policies and services that are important for providing healthcare in rural communities.

**Interorganizational Care Coordination of Rural Veterans by Veterans Affairs and Community Care Programs: A Systematic Review**

Details the findings a systematic review of the efficacy of care coordination initiatives by Veterans Affairs (VA) to care for rural veterans. Distinguishes data from pre- and post-Veterans Choice Act and post-MISSION Act. Defines organizational policy and administration, culture, and mechanisms of community care programs, as well as relational practices, contextual factors, and third-party administrators.

**Preferences for Long-Term Care Arrangements among Rural and Urban Older Adults**

Describes long-term care preferences of 4,333 older people with functional limitations. Features statistics on characteristics of respondents, with breakdowns by urban or rural location.

**RHC COVID Initiatives Webinar**

Recording of a May 19, 2021, webinar providing an overview of federal actions regarding COVID-19 vaccine confidence, testing and mitigation, and vaccine access specific to Rural Health Clinics. Covers program funding, eligibility, and application processes. Additional links: [Presentation Slides](#)

**Evaluation of the 2020 Pediatric Emergency Physician Workforce in the US**

Results of a study of 2,403 self-identified pediatric emergency physicians (EPs), examining their characteristics and their practice locations. Features a county-level map showing pediatric EP density per 100,000 population, and statistics with breakdowns by age, sex, U.S. census division, training specialty area, board certification, and urban, large rural, or small rural location.

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**Funding Opportunities**

**Improving Postpartum Maternal Outcomes for Populations Experiencing Disparities *NEW***

Funding for clinical effectiveness research that compares multicomponent strategies to improve early detection of and timely care for complications up to six weeks postpartum among women in underserved populations, including women living in rural areas.
Letter of Intent Due: June 1, 2021
Application Deadline: August 31, 2021

**HIV Positive Action Southern Initiative** *NEW*

Grants and learning community support for projects focused on reaching more people with HIV in southern communities who are out of care and connecting them to care. Projects should focus on populations that are disproportionately impacted by HIV, especially people in rural communities, young people, women of color, gay and bisexual men of color, transgender people, people currently or formerly incarcerated, sex workers, and people who use drugs.

**Application Deadline: Jun 23, 2021**

**Decoding Disparities QuickFire Challenge** *NEW*

A challenge seeking innovative ideas to better understand health disparities in the areas of mental health, inflammatory bowel diseases, and cardiovascular disease. Populations of interest include racial and ethnic minority populations, as well as the rural and urban poor. Innovator(s) with the best data-driven concepts, tools, or technologies aiming to better detect, understand, or reduce disparities prevalent in health care will receive grant funding in increments up to $200,000, $100,000, or $50,000.

**Application Deadline, June 25, 2021**

**Opioid Affected Youth Initiative** *NEW*

Funding and technical assistance for states, local governments, and tribal jurisdictions to develop and implement a data-driven, coordinated, statewide or community-wide response system to assist with the identification, prevention, treatment, enforcement, and deterrence needed to address the opioid epidemic and its impact on youth and communities.

**Application Deadline: June 28, 2021**

**American Rescue Plan Act - Pediatric Mental Health Care Access - New Area Expansion** *NEW*

Funding for the expansion of state and/or regional networks of pediatric mental healthcare teams into new states and geographic areas. Teams will provide tele-consultation, training, technical assistance, and care coordination for pediatric primary care providers to diagnose, treat, and refer children with behavioral health conditions. Projects should focus on achieving health equity related to racial, ethnic, and geographic disparities in access to care, especially in rural, frontier, hard to reach, and other underserved areas.

**Application Deadline: July 6, 2021**

**Community Mobility Design Challenge Grants** *NEW*

Grants to support planning activities for communities seeking innovative ways to address the particular mobility challenges experienced by low-income community members for whom a lack of transportation is an obstacle to the pursuit of economic, health, and social well being.

**Application Deadline: July 12, 2021**

**Opioid Crisis Innovation Challenge 2021** *NEW*
Grants for innovative, multi-disciplinary projects to address the opioid crisis reducing overdoses, increasing access to treatment, and supporting long-term recovery. Projects should focus on vulnerable populations, which includes rural communities.

**Application Deadline: July 19, 2021**

*Service Area Competition Funding for Health Centers Program (Areas Served with a Project Period Start Date of February 1, 2022) *NEW*

Funding to provide comprehensive primary healthcare services to an underserved area or population. Areas with a February 1, 2022 project period start date are eligible to apply.

**Application Deadline: July 19, 2021**

*NBCC Foundation Rural Scholarships *NEW*

Scholarships for students residing in rural areas who are currently enrolled in a master's level counseling program and are committed to practicing in rural communities after graduation.

**Application Deadline: July 31, 2021**

*Alcohol and Other Substance Use Research Education Programs for Health Professionals (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) *NEW*

Grants to support research educational and outreach activities that complement other formal training programs in the mission areas of the NIH Institutes and Centers, especially the public health impact of alcohol, opioids, and other substances, their associated consequences, and the persistent stigma associated with them.

**Application Deadline: August 10, 2021**

*Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project (RHPTP) *NEW*

Technical assistance for rural healthcare providers to build capacity in value-based care (VBC), with emphasis on efficiency, quality, patient experience, and safety. The program’s goal is to guide small rural hospitals and rural health clinics that are not currently participating in VBC to prepare for participation in a health system focused on value.

**Application Deadline: September 10, 2021**

*Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health (R01, R03, and R21) *NEW*

Funding for research that seeks to identify, develop, test, evaluate, and/or refine strategies to disseminate and implement evidence-based practices into public health, clinical practice, and community settings. This program is featured in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences Selected List of Funding Opportunities Relevant to Rural Cancer Control.

**Application Deadline: May 7, 2022**

*AHRQ Health Services Research Demonstration and Dissemination Grants (R18) *NEW*

Supports the dissemination and implementation of research projects related to AHRQ's mission to produce evidence to make healthcare safer, higher quality, more accessible,
equitable, and affordable. AHRQ’s priorities include an interest in rural and frontier healthcare delivery.

**Application Deadline: September 30, 2022**

**Evidence for Action: Investigator-Initiated Research to Build a Culture of Health *NEW***

Grants for research that expands the evidence needed to build a Culture of Health. A Culture of Health is broadly defined as one in which good health and well-being flourish across geographic, demographic, and social sectors; public and private decision making is guided by the goal of fostering equitable communities; and everyone has the opportunity to make choices that lead to healthy lifestyles.

**Application Deadline: Accepted on an ongoing basis**

**Virtual Living Room - Using Technology to Address the Critical Healthcare Needs of Veterans in Rural Areas *NEW***

A grant program that combines rural technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs resources, and local support to provide solutions to improve healthcare access for veterans in rural areas.

**Application Deadline: Accepted on an ongoing basis**

**American Rescue Plan – Health Center Construction and Capital Improvements**

Grant to health centers for construction, expansion, alteration, renovation, and other capital improvements to modify, enhance, and expand healthcare infrastructure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Application Deadline: June 24, 2021**

**Research in Transforming Health and Health Care Systems**

The purpose of this 2021 RTHS call for proposals is to fund research studies that evaluate or predict how enrollees are effected by Medicaid policy changes enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on communities of color, we are requesting studies that examine the impact of Medicaid policies on communities of color and/or explore how current or proposed policies may alleviate or exacerbate racial inequity and structural racism in the context of Medicaid. The goal of this funding opportunity is to generate rigorous evidence on the effects of recent Medicaid policy changes on enrollees, states, and others, and to inform and advance equitable policies and racial equity in Medicaid.

**Application Deadline: June 28, 2021**

**Leadership and Management of the RWJF Culture of Health Prize**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation seeks an organization to lead and manage its signature RWJF Culture of Health Prize program. Over the past seven years, the Prize program has spotlighted efforts to address the social and economic factors that impact how long and how well we live. In this new phase, the new lead will create a national Prize recognition program that dives more deeply into place-based barriers to opportunity, including structural racism, and how communities are overcoming them. Based on the results of this RFQ, one organization will be awarded a planning contract and, if successfully completed, an implementation contract.
Morgan Stanley Alliance for Children's Mental Health Innovation Awards

The Morgan Stanley Alliance for Children's Mental Health Innovation Awards program aims to fund mental healthcare solutions for children and young adults across the United States. This program focuses on new or piloted projects from direct-service organizations that will help address the far-reaching challenge of stress, anxiety, depression or other mental health issues in children and young adults. Projects must tackle specific issues and address unmet needs, with a goal of reducing stigma, increasing access to care, improving equity in mental health, and enabling early identification/prevention or enhancing intervention, especially among disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. Proposed projects can be on a national, regional, or local level; priority will be given to projects that can show feasibility of replicating the service to benefit children and youth in broader communities. Grants of up to $100,000 will be awarded to each finalist. These organizations will also have the opportunity to showcase their projects to other funders during the awards presentation day.

Application Deadline: July 2, 2021, at 5 PM ET

Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program

Grants to rehabilitate and modify the primary residence of veterans who are low-income and living with disabilities, with a focus on helping them regain and/or maintain their independence to alleviate critical health, life, and safety issues. Applicants from rural and other geographic areas that lack reliable internet access may request a waiver from the electronic submission requirement through HUD's Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development.

Application Deadline: July 30, 2021

Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service

Monetary awards that honor health delivery organizations that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to community service.

Application Deadline: July 31, 2021

Foundation for Rural Service Community Grant Program

Grants to support a variety of local efforts to build and sustain a high quality of life in rural communities across America. Focus areas include business development, community development, education, and telecommunications.

Application Deadline: September 15, 2021

The Home Depot Foundation: Community Impact Grants Program

The Home Depot Foundation's Community Impact Grants Program provides support to nonprofit organizations and public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve their communities. The Program focuses on support for organizations that serve veterans in local communities, as well as organizations that serve vulnerable and underserved communities. Grants of up to $5,000 are made in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services.

Requests will be accepted on a rolling basis through Dec 31, 2021
**Long-Term Effects of Disasters on Health Care Systems Serving Health Disparity Populations (R01 - Clinical Trial Optional)**

Grants for research focused on understanding the long-term effects of natural and/or human-made disasters on healthcare systems serving health disparity populations. Health disparity populations include, but are not limited to, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and underserved rural populations.

**Application Deadline: Sep 7, 2023**

**Co-infection and Cancer (R01 and R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)**

Grants for research on the roles of co-infection and cancer to inform prevention and treatment strategies for infection-related cancers. Applicants are encouraged to investigate co-infection and its relation to causes of risk among racially/ethnically diverse populations and those from urban and rural areas who are poor and medically underserved, and populations who may have a disproportionate burden of infection-related cancers.

**Application Deadline: Jan 7, 2023**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Telehealth Strategies for Individuals with HIV and Substance Use Disorders**

Notice of Special Interest for research to explore and develop telehealth methods and strategies for diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and population analysis in individuals living with HIV and substance use disorder.

**Application Deadline: Sep 7, 2024**

**COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund**

The US Department of Health and Human Services, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has announced a new program covering costs of administering COVID-19 vaccines to patients enrolled in health plans that either do not cover vaccination fees or cover them with patient cost-sharing. Since providers cannot bill patients for COVID-19 vaccination fees, this new program, the COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund (CAF), addresses an outstanding compensation need for providers on the front lines vaccinating underinsured patients. The CAF is funded through the Provider Relief Fund Program and will accept eligible claims from providers dated on or after December 14, 2020.

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Pioneering Ideas Brief Proposals**

Grants for innovative projects that are working to build a culture of health, ensuring that everyone has access to the care they need and all families have the opportunity to make healthier choices.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**Angel Flight East COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment and Vaccine Transport**

A volunteer pilot network that transports personal protective equipment and COVID-19 vaccines for distribution to areas in need.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**