July 24, 2023

*OUR 100th EPISODE!*  
Governance vs. Politics

VRHA News
Welcome our newest Program Coordinator!
Mary Jo Oliver-Hedrick, MS

Mary Jo is currently pursuing her doctoral degree at East Tennessee State University in Experimental Psychology, concentrating on community-based research. She holds a master’s degree in Developmental Psychology and has worked in multiple roles facilitating positive mental health and reduced substance use in community settings. Mary Jo grew up in Southwest Virginia and enjoys being outdoors, hiking, kayaking, and fishing with her husband.

Members in the News

Reisa Sloce promoted to director at LENOWISCO, Cumberland Plateau health districts

Longtime public health professional Reisa Sloce has been promoted to director of the LENOWISCO and Cumberland Plateau Health districts in Southwest Virginia.

A former elementary school teacher who managed multiple physician practices for St. Mary’s Medical Management prior to entering public health, Sloce has been serving as chief operation officer for both districts.

Dr. Noelle Bissell, who had been acting director for the past two years, will retain her role as medical consultant for both districts. Sloce, meanwhile, is the first to permanently
occupy the director position since Dr. Karen Shelton left the post to take a job with Ballad Health. Dr. Shelton is now the State Health Commissioner.

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**Tri-Area looking to expand in Carroll**

Now offering services in a five-county, one-city area, **Tri-Area Community Health Clinic** is looking to expand in its original home - Carroll County.

Tri-Area, which opened its first clinic in Carroll County in 1982, is looking to expand and offer more services through a strategic plan. Started in 1979 with some funds from the public health service and community donations, Tri-Area opened its first clinic in the basement of Tory Creek Church before moving to where the company’s corporate office is currently located.

Tri Area Community Health has a staff of about 150 and about half of them are in Carroll County between the clinic, pharmacy and corporate site. In Carroll specifically, Tri-Area saw 3,210 patients in 2022 with over 10,000 visits. The company also provides pharmaceutical items on a sliding scale. Just in Carroll County in 2022, Tri-Area had 74 patients with 393 requests for almost $1 million in medications.

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**Calendar**

**2023 National Farm Safety and Health Week**  
**September 17-23, 2023  Virtual**

Webinars each day at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm CST. Daily topics include:

- Monday, September 18, 2023 – Equipment & Rural Roadway Safety
- Tuesday, September 19, 2023 – Health & Wellness
- Wednesday, September 20, 2023 – Priority Populations
- Thursday, September 21, 2023 – Confined Spaces
- Friday, September 22, 2023 – Brain Health

**Maternal Health: Black Women in Crisis**  
**October 3, 2023  2:00 - 6:00 pm  Danville, VA**

Resources

Expanded Medical Training Could Help Hospitals in Rural, Underserved Areas

Describes actions taken by states to ensure adequate access to clinical training for medical graduates and address physician shortages in rural and underserved areas. Covers statewide collaboration and appropriations, Medicaid payments, and incentives for rural clinical training.

Funding Opportunities

Building Workforce Capacity of Rural and Frontier Local Health Departments to Respond to COVID-19 *NEW*

Training and technical assistance for local health departments that serve rural and frontier jurisdictions to effectively respond to, recover from, and build community resiliency related to the COVID pandemic and future public health emergencies.

Application Deadline: August 4, 2023

Center for Health, Environment and Justice: Small Grants Program *NEW*

Provides support for grassroots groups working on environmental health and justice issues in the US. The focus is on addressing environmental threats and associated public health harms. Support is provided for projects that help groups move toward their goals by building leadership, increasing capacity, or providing training and education.

Application Deadline: August 14, 2023

PCORI Engagement Award: Capacity Building *NEW*
Funds projects that encourage the integration of patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other stakeholders as members of the patient-centered outcomes research/clinical effectiveness research process.

**Letter of Intent (Required): Sep 28, 2023**
**Application Deadline: Jan 10, 2024**

**PCORI Engagement Award: Dissemination Initiative *NEW***

Funding to plan for dissemination or actively communicate pertinent PCORI-funded research findings to relevant stakeholders in ways that will command their attention and interest and encourage use of information in their healthcare decision making.

**Letter of Intent (Required): Sep 28, 2023**
**Application Deadline: Jan 10, 2024**

**PCORI Engagement Award: Stakeholder Convening Support *NEW***

Funding for organizations and communities to hold convenings that include patients, researchers, clinicians, purchasers, payers, health system leaders, and other stakeholders. Convenings should focus on supporting collaboration around patient-centered outcomes research and clinical comparative effectiveness research.

**Letter of Intent (Required): Sep 28, 2023**
**Application Deadline: Jan 10, 2024**

**The Certified Professional by the American Heart Association - Telehealth (CPAHA) program *NEW***

A certification program for healthcare professionals interested in demonstrating a commitment to telehealth.

**Applications accepted on an ongoing basis**

**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. Priority is placed on increasing equity and improving customer experience across all HUD programs, which includes people who live in rural areas and those otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

**Application Deadline: August 31, 2023**
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: September 7, 2023

Tobacco Control Policies to Promote Health Equity

Funding for observational or intervention research focused on reducing disparities in tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure. Populations of focus include older individuals, black Americans, Hispanics, people with low socioeconomic status, and people living outside metropolitan areas.

Application Deadline: September 7, 2023

Notice of Special Interest: Advancing the Science of Geriatric Palliative Care

Notice of Special Interest to encourage research focused on palliative care in geriatric populations. Studies may take place in a variety of settings including hospitals, post-acute care settings, outpatient clinics, doctors' offices, homes and other residential settings, long-term care facilities, hospices, and other healthcare or community settings. Research in disparity populations and in rural/remote settings is encouraged.

Application Deadline: September 8, 2023

Tobacco Control Policies to Promote Health Equity (R01 and R21 Clinical Trial Optional)

Funding for observational or intervention research focused on reducing disparities in tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure. Populations of focus include older individuals, black Americans, Hispanics, people with low socioeconomic status, and people living outside metropolitan areas.

Application Deadline: September 8, 2023

APhA Foundation Incentive Grants

Offers pharmacists seed money to implement or support an innovative patient care service within their pharmacy practice.
**Application Deadline: September 12, 2023**

**Walmart Health Equity Scholarship for Pharmacy Students**

Scholarships for Doctor of Pharmacy degree students who are enrolled in a U.S. college or school of pharmacy. Awardees must demonstrate leadership, academic success, and a commitment to serving rural or medically underserved patient populations.

**Application Deadline: September 15, 2023**

**John and Polly Sparks First Responder Grant for Rural First Responders**

**Mental Health Interventions**

Grants for evidence-based research and intervention in providing mental health training dissemination to first responders in rural areas.

**Application Deadline: October 15, 2023**

**Dental Trade Alliance (DTA) Foundation Pilot Project Grants**

Funding for innovative projects and research designed to increase access to and utilization of oral healthcare.

**Application Deadline: November 30, 2023**

**Walmart Foundation Community Grant Program**

Grants to support the unique needs of local communities in the service areas of Walmart and Sam's Club stores.

**Application Deadline: December 31, 2023**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) Hearing Healthcare for Adults: Improving Access and Affordability**

Notice of Special Interest for research to improve access and affordability of hearing healthcare (HHC) in adults, which includes research addressing rural health issues potentially affecting HHC utilization and the unique HHC needs of rural populations.

**Application Deadline: January 7, 2024**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Telehealth in Cancer Care**

Notice of Special Interest for research on the use of telehealth in cancer-related care, with a focus on populations that experience inequities in access to care and have worse cancer
outcomes compared to the general population.

**Application Deadline: March 8, 2024**

**Technology Development to Reduce Health Disparities (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Funding to develop and translate medical technologies aimed at reducing disparities in healthcare access and health outcomes. Medical technologies should be effective, affordable, culturally acceptable, and deliverable to those who need them. Priority health disparity populations include racial and ethnic minorities, socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals, sexual and gender minorities, and medically underserved populations in rural and urban areas.

**Application Deadline: May 2, 2024**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Risks for Abuse and Injury Among Vulnerable Children and Youth**

Notice of Special Interest to fund research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and risks for abuse and injury among vulnerable children and youth. Emphasis is placed on disparity populations related to abuse and neglect prior to the pandemic, as well as populations that have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus. Disparity populations include LGBT youth and children seen at rural emergency departments.

**Application Deadline: May 8, 2024**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Risks for Abuse and Injury Among Vulnerable Children and Youth**

Notice of Special Interest to fund research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and risks for abuse and injury among vulnerable children and youth. Emphasis is placed on disparity populations related to abuse and neglect prior to the pandemic, as well as populations that have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus. Disparity populations include American Indians, Alaska Natives, LGBT youth, and children seen at rural emergency departments.

**Application Deadline: May 31, 2024**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Dissemination and Implementation Research to Advance Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Health Preventive**
**Interventions in School Settings**

Notice of Special Interest for dissemination and implementation research to support innovative approaches to overcoming barriers to the adoption, adaptation, integration, scale-up, and sustainability of evidence-based interventions to support children’s mental, emotional, and behavioral health in school settings. Health disparity populations, including individuals living in **rural** areas, are a priority.

**Application Deadline: June 5, 2024**

**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: September 7, 2024**

**Comprehensive Care for Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus from Populations with Health Disparities (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Funding for research focused on developing and testing strategies that adapt/implement recommended guidelines of comprehensive clinical care for individuals with Type 2 diabetes from health disparity populations.

**Application Deadline: September 7, 2024**

**Effectiveness of Implementing Sustainable Evidence-Based Mental Health Practices in Low-Resource Settings to Achieve Mental Health Equity for Traditionally Underserved Populations (R01)**

Grants for research to develop and test the effectiveness of strategies for implementation and sustainable delivery of evidence-based mental health treatments and services to improve mental health outcomes for underserved populations in under-resourced settings. Under-resourced settings and populations include members of minority groups, other individuals experiencing disparities in mental health outcomes, and people living in a geographic area with a shortage of healthcare services.

**Application Deadline: September 7, 2024**

**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: September 7, 2024**

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**Application Deadline: September 7, 2024**

**Innovative Mental Health Services Research Not Involving Clinical Trials**

Funding for innovative research that will inform and support the delivery of high-quality, continuously improving mental health services to benefit individuals with, or at risk for developing, a mental illness. Research on innovative service delivery models that seek to reduce disparities in service access, quality, and outcomes for racial and ethnic minority groups, individuals limited by language or cultural barriers, sexual and gender minorities, individuals living in rural areas, socioeconomically disadvantaged persons, and other underserved groups is encouraged.

**Application Deadline: September 7, 2024**

**Health Care Models for Persons with Multiple Chronic Conditions from Populations that Experience Health Disparities: Advancing Health Care towards Health Equity (R01 - Clinical Trials Optional)**

Funding for research to study the effective adaptation, integration, and implementation of recommended guidelines of care of persons with multiple chronic conditions from populations that experience health disparities.

**Application Deadline: September 7, 2024**

**Innovative Mental Health Services Research Not Involving Clinical Trials (R01)**
Funding for innovative research that will inform and support the delivery of high-quality, continuously improving mental health services to benefit individuals with, or at risk for developing, a mental illness. Research on innovative service delivery models that seek to reduce disparities in service access, quality, and outcomes for racial and ethnic minority groups, individuals limited by language or cultural barriers, sexual and gender minorities, individuals living in rural areas, socioeconomically disadvantaged persons, and other underserved groups is encouraged.

**Application Deadline: September 7, 2024**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research to Improve Pre-Pregnancy Care and Enhance Healthy Birth Intervals**

Notice of Special Interest for research that assesses the social and behavioral processes that facilitate or hinder the achievement of healthy interbirth intervals and to identify public health interventions that promote healthy birth outcomes.

**Application Deadline: September 8, 2024**

**The Role of Work in Health Disparities in the U.S. (R01 Clinical Trials Optional)**

Grants for innovative population-based research in how work or occupation influences health outcomes and health status among health disparity populations and how work functions as a social determinant of health.

**Application Deadline: September 8, 2024**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Social, Behavioral, and Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Underserved and Vulnerable Populations**

Notice of Special Interest for research in understanding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic to help prepare more effectively for future public health emergencies. Populations that experience health disparities are a particular focus.

**Application Deadline: September 8, 2024**

**The Role of Work in Health Disparities in the U.S. (R01 Clinical Trials Optional)**

Grants for innovative population-based research in how work or occupation influences health outcomes and health status among health care disparity populations and how work functions as a social determinant of health.
**Application Deadline: September 8, 2024**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Disparities Affecting Healthcare Utilization and Health Outcomes Among Childhood Cancer Survivors**

Notice of Special Interest for research to understand and address the full spectrum of factors that contribute to disparities in survivorship care, healthcare utilization, and health outcomes among childhood cancer survivors. Proposed projects must include populations commonly experiencing disparities based on race or ethnicity, sex, sexual or gender minority status, insurance status, rural residence, socioeconomic disadvantage, or other demonstrated differences.

**Application Deadline: October 9, 2024**

**Stimulating Research to Understand and Address Hunger, Food, and Nutrition Insecurity**

Notice of Special Interest for research on interventions that address nutrition security and the mechanisms of food insecurity on a variety of health outcomes. Priority populations include racial/ethnic minority populations, lower income populations, and rural and remote populations including tribal communities and insular areas.

**Application Deadline: November 29, 2024**

**Leveraging Health Information Technology (Health IT) to Address Minority Health and Health Disparities (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**

Grants for research that examines how health information technology adoption impacts minority health and health disparity populations in access to care, quality of care, patient engagement, and health outcomes.

**Application Deadline: May 7, 2025**

**Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research Using Implementation Science to Support the Delivery of Evidence-Based Practices in Community-Based Mental or General Medical Healthcare Settings**

Notice of Special Interest for mental health services and implementation research to support the adoption and sustainability of evidence-based practices in community-based settings that deliver care to people with mental illness. Health disparity populations, including individuals living in rural areas, are a priority.

**Application Deadline: May 8, 2025**
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Implementation Science to Advance Maternal Health and Maternal Health Equity for the IMPROVE Initiative

Notice of Special Interest for research to address health disparities associated with pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated morbidity and mortality. Populations of focus include American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and underserved rural populations, among others.

Application Deadline: May 8, 2025

Research Using Implementation Science to Support the Delivery of Evidence-Based Practices in Community-Based Mental or General Medical Healthcare Settings

Notice of Special Interest for mental health services and implementation research to support the adoption and sustainability of evidence-based practices in community-based settings that deliver care to people with mental illness. Health disparity populations, including individuals living in rural areas, are a priority.

Application Deadline: May 8, 2025

Stand Down Grants

Provides funding for events that offer homeless veteran populations a variety of social services designed to help them to reintegrate into their communities, such as housing, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

Application Deadline: September 30, 2025

Co-infection and Cancer

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: November 16, 2025

Notice of Special Interest: Research to Address Vaccine Uptake and Implementation among Populations Experiencing Health Disparities

Notice of Special Interest for research on strategies and interventions to increase vaccine uptake and implementation among populations experiencing health disparities.
Application Deadline: June 6, 2026

**Assessing Real-World Effectiveness & Implementation of Telehealth-Guided Provider-to-Provider Communication among Rural Communities**

Notice of Special Interest for research that generates evidence on the real-world effectiveness of telehealth collaboration among healthcare providers for consultation, second opinions, and other purposes, referred to as provider-to-provider telehealth (PPT). PPT offers remote access to critical health expertise that might not exist locally in some rural communities.

Application Deadline: October 10, 2026

**AHRQ Small Research Projects to Advance the Science of Primary Care (R03)**

Funding to support small research projects that advance the role and capacity of primary care to increase the value and quality of care and improve patient outcomes and population health. Rural populations are considered a priority.

Application Deadline: March 19, 2027

For ongoing funding opportunities, visit our website

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