Weekly Update

May 30, 2023

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VRHA News

Daily Yonder Interview:
‘Masks, Misinformation, and Making Do’ Chronicles Experience of Appalachian Healthcare Workers during the Pandemic

‘Masks, Misinformation, and Making Do’ was edited by Wendy Welch, executive director of the SWVA Graduate Medical Education Consortium, and features contributions from VRHA executive director Beth O’Connor and National Rural Health Association CEO Alan Morgan. The book was recently one of a few selected to be open access – meaning that the information it presented was deemed important enough to be available for free to scholars around the world.

"Through personal experiences, the book takes readers inside what was happening in rural healthcare settings. From the search for lifesaving equipment to the burden Covid placed on rural patients already dealing with a myriad of health concerns, the articles paint a picture of life inside rural hospitals during the pandemic. The book looks at how some residents ignored public-health mandates because they believed the misinformation they heard – that Covid was a hoax and nothing more than a cold."

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Virginia News

Groundbreaking this summer for new hospital in Isle of Wight County

Riverside Smithfield Hospital will be a 50-bed acute care facility built on land owned by Riverside Health System near the intersection of Routes US-258 and VA-10.

Services offered:

- Emergency department
- Labor and Delivery Department with Level 1 Neonatal Nursery
- Diagnostic imaging services, including CT and MRI

The hospital will feature:

- 34 medical/surgical beds
- 10 intensive care unit beds (ICU)
- 6 obstetrics beds
- 4 operating rooms
Riverside Health plans to break ground on Riverside Smithfield Hospital on July 26th. They anticipate about two years of construction before they start recruitment efforts.

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**Calendar**

**One Care of SWVA Educational Forum on Stimulant Use Disorders**  
July 28, 2023  8:30 am - 5 pm  Virtual

Consequences, Prevention, and Treatment. Topics include content that meets both VA and TN opioid prescribing requirements. 6.0 AMA PRA Category Credits.

**2023 Appalachian Translational Research Network Summit**  
October 5-6, 2023  Morgantown, WV

"Connecting Academia, Communities, and Health Systems: Inclusive Engagement Across Appalachia"

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**Resources**

**Appalachian Diseases of Despair**

Uses data from the 2020 Multiple Cause of Death database to provide information on mortality from overdose, suicide, and alcoholic liver disease/cirrhosis among people ages 15-64. Includes data and statistics, with information broken down by Appalachian state, region, gender, and metropolitan or nonmetropolitan status.

**Pandemic Era Telehealth Innovations in the Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Fields: Practice-Informed Findings and Recommendations**

Report highlights some takeaways from the expansion of telebehavioral health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Discusses the ways behavioral health providers adapted telehealth to their practices and the effect that had on access, outcomes, and care utilization, among other factors. Details the effect telebehavioral health had on expanding access to rural areas.

**RHC Billing 101 Webinar**

Additional links: Presentation Slides

**Closing the Opportunity Gap for Young Children**

Discusses the factors that cause inequities and limited access to resources for young children, such as poverty, food insecurity, abuse and violence, lack of social and emotional safety, inadequate healthcare and schooling, and more. Discusses policy and practices aimed at reducing opportunity gaps, with a focus on historically disadvantaged populations, including those in rural areas.

Additional links: Read Online

**Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender & Gender Diverse People**

Provides clinical guidance for health professionals to assist transsexual, transgender, and gender nonconforming people with safe and effective pathways to achieving lasting personal comfort with their gendered selves, in order to maximize their overall health, psychological well-being, and self-fulfillment. Developed by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

**Evidence-Based, Whole-Person Care for Pregnant People Who Have Opioid Use Disorder**

Report presents care recommendations for treatment of opioid use disorder during pregnancy. Discusses the risks of opioid use during and after pregnancy and explores factors to consider when treating pregnant people. Highlights barriers for rural patients.

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**Funding Opportunities**

**Medicare Shared Savings Program Advance Investment Payments** *NEW*

The Medicare Shared Savings Program offers providers and suppliers an opportunity to create an Accountable Care Organization that is held accountable for the quality, cost, and experience of care of an assigned Medicare fee-for-service beneficiary population through different payment models. A new payment option in 2023 is the Advance Investment Payments designed to encourage healthcare providers in rural and underserved areas to join together to form an Accountable Care Organizations.
Application Deadline: June 15, 2023

**CareQuest Institute for Oral Health: Community and Care Transformation Initiative** *NEW*

Seeks to fund innovative, community-driven projects that advance oral healthcare transformation best practices. Support will be provided for projects and partners that carry forward the care transformation concepts of medical-dental integration, value-based care, teledentistry, and minimally invasive care; and ensure authentic and deep community engagement is embedded in the practical implementation of those concepts.

Application Deadline: June 30, 2023

**Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Simulation Education Training Program** *NEW*

Funding to enhance nursing education and strengthen the nursing workforce through experiential learning opportunities, including the use of simulation-based technology. Funding should expand the capacity of nurses to advance the health of patients, families, and communities in rural or medically underserved areas.

Application Deadline: July 3, 2023

**Community Care Corps** *NEW*

Supports local organizations for programs in which volunteers provide nonmedical assistance to family caregivers, adults age 60 and older, or adults with disabilities in order to maintain their independence. Provides 18-month grants to establish, enhance, or grow model volunteer programs in home or community-based settings. Applications will also be accepted for programs providing volunteer chaperone assistance to non-emergency medical appointments and outpatient procedures.

Application Deadline: July 7, 2023

**Healthy Start Initiative - Enhanced** *NEW*

Grants to improve health outcomes before, during, and after pregnancy and reduce the racial/ethnic differences in rates of infant death and adverse perinatal outcomes. The program priority is diverse communities and populations, such as non-Hispanic Black and rural areas that are experiencing the greatest disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes.

Application Deadline: July 17, 2023
**Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grants** *NEW*

Grants for education and training programs to help identify, avoid, and prevent unsafe working conditions in and around mines. Special emphasis is given to programs and materials that target workers at smaller mines, including training miners and employers about new MSHA standards, high-risk activities, or hazards identified by MSHA.

**Application Deadline: July 21, 2023**

**Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas** *NEW*

Grants for new organizations to assist veterans with transportation in highly rural areas. Applicants should provide transportation services to VA medical centers and assist with transportation services in connection with the provision of VA medical care to these veterans.

**Application Deadline: July 30, 2023**

**John and Polly Sparks First Responder Grant for Rural First Responders Mental Health Interventions** *NEW*

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

**Application Deadline: October 15, 2023**

**Outcomes Building Capacity to Reduce the Burden of Menthol and Other Flavored Commercial Tobacco Products in Communities that Experience Health Disparities**

Funding to advance health equity through strategic partnerships and community engagement by addressing disparities caused by menthol and other flavored tobacco product marketing and use. Applications from rural communities are encouraged.

**Application Deadline: July 6, 2023**

**Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program**

Funding to improve access to, and continuity of, maternal and obstetrics care in rural communities through regional aggregated care, coordination of a continuum of care, use of telehealth, and the implementation of financial sustainability strategies.

**Application Deadline: July 7, 2023**

**National Community Care Corps Local Models Program**
Funding for innovative local models in which volunteers assist family caregivers, older adults, and adults with disabilities to help individuals maintain their independence and age in place.

**Application Deadline: July 7, 2023**

**Community Level Interventions to Improve Minority Health and Reduce Health Disparities**

Funding for research to develop and test community-level interventions to improve minority health and reduce health disparities. Populations of focus include American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, and underserved rural populations, among others.

**Application Deadline: July 7, 2023**

**AHRQ Small Research Grant Program (R03)**

Supports different types of health services research projects, including pilot and feasibility studies; secondary analysis of existing data; small, self-contained research projects; development of research methodology; and development of new research technology.

**Application Deadline: July 8, 2023**

**AHRQ Health Services Research Projects (R01)**

Support for specified health services 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: July 8, 2023**

**Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grants**

Grants to support communities in the development and implementation of comprehensive safety action plans to significantly reduce or eliminate roadway fatalities and serious injuries. Ensuring investment in rural communities is a priority.

**Application Deadline: July 10, 2023**

**Emergency Award: RADx-UP Dissemination and Implementation Research on COVID-19 Testing Interventions among Underserved and Vulnerable Populations**
Funding to support dissemination and implementation research focused on increasing access to and uptake of COVID-19 testing interventions with the goal of reducing COVID-19 disparities and promoting health equity among underserved and vulnerable populations.

**Application Deadline: July 10, 2023**

**Closing the Gap with Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plans**

Funding to collaborate with multi-sectoral partners to develop an implementation-ready Social Determinants of Health Accelerator Plan to reduce disparities in health outcomes related to chronic disease in a tribal jurisdiction, community, or catchment area. Health disparity populations include socially, economically, geographically, and environmentally disadvantaged populations.

**Application Deadline: July 11, 2023**

**Minority Research Grant Program**

Grants to encourage innovative health services research that can directly contribute to the improvement of health outcomes for people from all minority populations, which includes racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with limited English proficiency, rural populations, and individuals adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

**Application Deadline: July 12, 2023**

**Community Economic Development Planning Grants**

Funding for community development corporations to build administrative capacity to design a sustainable business project and package a competitive grant application. An application should be submitted in a Community Economic Development competition within the 12 months of the end of the project period. Applications from rural areas are encouraged.

**Application Deadline: July 12, 2023**

**Virginia Health Access Grants**

Funding for projects to increase access to healthcare for uninsured Virginians and those who live in areas with limited access to care.

**Letter of Intent (Required): July 14, 2023**

**Application Deadline: September 5, 2023**
Healthy Families Community-Based Perinatal Health Initiative

Grants to develop and implement innovative models for integrating community-based maternal support services into perinatal systems of care. Models should be designed to improve pregnant and post-partum people's health outcomes and reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Rural and other minority populations are a priority.

Application Deadline: July 18, 2023

Kent Richard Hofmann Foundation Grants

Grants to support community-based organizations providing direct services, education, or research in the areas of HIV and AIDS, with priority given to smaller communities and rural areas.

Letter of Intent (Required): August 5, 2023
Application Deadline: September 1, 2023

Berkeley Public Health Online Rural Health Innovation Program

Scholarships for public health leaders working in rural communities to attend the online MPH program at Berkeley and participate in a rural health curricula cohort.

Application Deadline: August 13, 2023

Rural Health Innovation Program

Berkeley Public Health Online, with backing from the Barr-Campbell Family Foundation, will offer 25 fully paid scholarships per year to eligible online MPH students. All 25 Rural Health Scholars will study alongside a larger cohort of public health masters students across disciplines as well as a more intimate cohort that is equipped with a specialized rural health curricula.

Application Deadline: August 13, 2023 (for January 2024 start date)

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**

**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

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

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

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**

**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**
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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