



WESTERN MARYLAND
AHEC

WMAHEC Happenings

Western Maryland Area Health Education Center
Promoting quality in healthcare through educational and other partnerships

September 2014

Western Maryland AHEC Coordinates with Several Partners to Provide “Introduction to Cultural Competency” Continuing Education Course



Western Maryland Area Health Education Center recently collaborated and co-sponsored the “Introduction to Cultural Competency” Continuing Education and Continuing Medical Education course with the Western Maryland Health System, Allegany County Health Planning Coalition, Frostburg State University and Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Medicine. The presenter, Tilly Gurman, DrPH, MPH, is a public health professional with expertise in cultural competency, health communication, adolescent health, reproductive health, and program evaluation. She has provided technical assistance regarding cultural competency to college health centers,

social service agencies, and area hospitals. Dr. Gurman is currently a faculty member in the Department of Global Health at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Sciences.



The four and a half hour education program explained why cultural competency matters in health care and social service encounters, how one’s own cultural orientation can impact interactions with culturally diverse individuals and how to identify strategies to enhance communication with diverse populations. The training program also included self-assessment activities and case study discussion. There were 46 attendees traveling from Hagerstown, Upper Tract WV, LaVale, Cumberland, Frostburg, Frederick, Baltimore and Keyser WV. Professional disciplines represented include psychologists, professional counselors, dental professionals, dietitians, social workers,

healthcare administrators and managers, nurses, occupational therapists, nurse practitioners and physicians. The program was very well received with 98% of attendees responding that they increased their knowledge as a result of the training and that they will implement at least one practice improvement.

Some evaluation comments included: “great interactive activities;” “excellent activities & discussion tying to cultural competency;” “very thought provoking;” “excellent training—very interactive and interesting;” “the activities were stimulating, exciting & a great learning experience.”

By providing quality, diverse, and affordable educational opportunities, WMAHEC is assisting with the retention of health professionals in the region as well as helping them to improve the health care provided to the citizens of Western Maryland.

For more information, call 301-777-9150, connect on Facebook, or visit the website at www.wmahec.org.

