

Western Maryland Area Health Education Center Fiscal Year 2004 Annual Report



Garrett County



Allegany County

The mission of the Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC), a community-based organization, is to improve access to and promote quality in health care through educational partnerships with centers for higher education, community health professionals, and other vital supporters.



Washington County

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FY - 2004

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Wilson, Jennifer	RD
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Expanding the Horizons of WMAHEC

Fiscal Year 2004 brought the continued expansion of WMAHEC's horizon on several levels. Nationally, Executive Director, Kery Hummel, served as NAO's President elect, helping the organization to plan for the national workshop in Baltimore, MD, serving as the Co-editor of the NAO Bulletin; and testifying before congressional committees and legislative staff members on behalf of AHECs nationwide.

On the state level, WMAHEC enjoyed an increase in coordination of efforts with schools and programs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. For the first time all three Maryland AHEC centers met with the schools of Social Work, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing, Medicine, Occupational Therapy, and the Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program at the invitation of the WMAHEC Program Office. The meeting led to the strategic planning of how to integrate AHEC rotations into students' experiences. It also led to increased awareness of how AHECs can be included in University grants as "living laboratories" since AHECs are well suited to facilitate access to local populations through their many partner organizations.

On the local level, WMAHEC continued to diversify its funding sources because of the consistent instability in federal AHEC monies. The Center is and will continue to focus on health professions education and health career development, but is also expanding program possibilities in order to increase future sustainability. WMAHEC will continue to develop programs based on the needs of the community. In FY04 WMAHEC submitted three large federal grants from a diversity of agencies: *Reproductive Interdisciplinary Health Promotion* (Bureau of Health Professions), *Research in Science* (National Institutes of Health), and *Project Aware* (Corporation for National and Community Service). With an eye on the future and feet firmly planted in the community, WMAHEC moves into the next fiscal year with exciting possibilities both traditional and non-traditional.

Henrietta Lease
President, Board of Directors

Kery C. Hummel
Executive Director

Information

Western Maryland InfoHealth II

The Consortium of Health Information Libraries Outreach with WMAHEC as lead agency fully implemented the project *Western Maryland InfoHealth II*. Funding

was provided by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Southeastern/ Atlantic Region. The goal of *Western Maryland InfoHealth II* was to ensure that

health professionals, their patients and general public of the Western Maryland region are connected to the health information resources they need to make informed health care decisions.

Western Maryland InfoHealth II train more than 100 regional librarians, community partners, public school students, nursing students and nurses, as well as members of the general public, enhance their ability to access reliable health information resources. Additionally, the program redeveloped the *Western Maryland InfoHealth Website*, creating a new searchable database to better serve us. The Web address is **www.allconet.org/health**.

Project personnel were proud to be invited to present this exciting and successful project to approximately 1,000 participants of the National AHEC Organization Workshop in Baltimore, MD, on August 2, 2004.



Development & Advocacy

Maryland Special Populations Cancer Network

Through grant funding from the University of Maryland Office of Research and Development, WMAHEC is Western Maryland's partner in the Maryland Special Populations Cancer Network. The Network's goal is to create an awareness of cancer prevention and treatment; to encourage cancer screening; and to boost participation in cancer clinical trials. In partnership with health departments and hospitals in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties; National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Services; University of Maryland's Statewide Health Network; and other organizations, WMAHEC provided educational outreach to health professionals and community members on cancer. The special populations primarily targeted are medically underserved, elderly, and minorities. The program conducted continuing education courses on cancer clinical trials for 77 health professionals; offered Internet search technique trainings to 74 community members and 120 health professionals; provided community cancer awareness presentations to 174 senior citizens at senior centers and 120 children at summer camps; and participated in and conducted presentations at five health fairs with 290 in attendance.

Allegany County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

The Allegany County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has achieved several major goals this year to increase the number of trained, deployable health professional and lay volunteers during an emergency event: an extensive, diverse, and solid partnership network; a future home for the MRC with the Allegany County Local Emergency Planning Committee; inroads on liability coverage for MRC volunteers; and the start-up of a Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT). An exciting, new partnership accomplishment is that all five of the funded Maryland MRCs have begun working together to share best practices and planning resources.

From a national perspective, the Allegany County MRC is recognized for its diversity of partnerships. When meeting at WMAHEC, Allegany County MRC Advisory Committee members put aside "in the box" thinking to forge new and atypical partnerships in order to secure the resources necessary to build a viable, sustainable MRC. The Allegany County MRC Advisory Committee has grown from 11 to 24 member organizations, with 29 agency representatives involved on the advisory committee and its workgroups. The MRC looks forward to adding more new partners and community members as it evolves to meet the needs of Allegany County.

Allegany County Family Violence Council

Fiscal Year 04 was a tumultuous one for the Allegany County Family Violence Council (FVC). In October, the FVC

learned that it had not been selected for continued funding. Fortunately, with the help of several key members of the Council, Executive Director, Kery Hummel, was able to secure partial funding for the Council, allowing it to continue operating. The Council rebounded from this crisis and made powerful strides toward achieving its goals. Major accomplishments include the following: 1. Providing training on domestic violence stalking and strangulation cases for area law enforcement and victim service professionals. 2. Securing funding for the Western Maryland Health System (WMHS) to train Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Nurses and purchase forensic equipment to be used in sexual assault and domestic violence cases. 3. Training area professionals on recognizing and treating domestic violence in later life. 4. Continuing community outreach through participation at FSU's V-Day and Ending Violence Against Women events and at the Western Maryland Health System's Health Fair. 5. Advocating for a bill that significantly improved Maryland's legislation against stalking.

Covering Kids & Families

In FY04 WMAHEC completed its 5th year as a Western Maryland partner in *Maryland Covering Kids & Families (CKF)*, conducting outreach and education about Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) and MCHP Premium for uninsured working families. This project is funded by the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Representatives from the Governor's Wellmobile, health departments, social services, and hospitals participated in the local CKF coalition, with members collaborating in outreach activities to reach families. The two main promotional campaigns were *Back to School (BTS)* conducted in the fall and *Cover the Uninsured Week (CTUW)* in the spring. During the *BTS* campaign, information was distributed through public schools, churches, Western Maryland Food Bank, APPLES for Kids, laundromats, 564 radio advertisements, and five health fairs. Fifty-three community professionals attended a small business breakfast. Highlights of *CTUW* activities included participating in a radio-remote public relations activity, sending letters-to-the-editor, and spearheading the signings of proclamations by commissioners in the three counties. In all, WMAHEC distributed more than 8,000 CKF fliers, applications, and posters in FY04.

MidAtlantic Public Health Training Center (MAPHTC)

As a partner in the MAPHTC, WMAHEC sponsored three continuing education programs for health professionals and community members. "SARS-Training for Health Professionals" was held in

conjunction with the Allegany County Medical Reserve Corps and Allegany College of Maryland. "Before Disaster Strikes: A Seminar to Provide Tools/Strategies to Address the Special Needs of Older Adults" and "Assisting the Elderly with Special Needs: When Disaster Strikes: A Workshop for Care Provider and First Responders" were both held in Garrett County and were conducted in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association, Greater MD Chapter and its partners in Western Maryland. Funding was provided through WMAHEC's contract with the MAPHTC and a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration grant. WMAHEC participates through the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. Additional trainings will be held in FY05.

HealthChoice

In January 2004, WMAHEC signed a six-month contract with Health Management Resources, Inc. (HMR), a subcontractor of Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) to primarily educate residents and human service agencies in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties on Maryland's HealthChoice Managed Care Program. WMAHEC staff conducted 26 HealthChoice presentations, which also include enrollment activities, and reached 67 consumers and human service staff members who work with HealthChoice consumer. These educational and enrollment presentations were geared, but not limited to, programs involving health, education, housing, employment, and training. WMAHEC also provided HealthChoice outreach through links with the public



school system, HealthChoice medical providers, social services departments, health departments, outreach centers, faith-based, and community organizations.

Obesity / Diabetes Survey

FY04 brought WMAHEC the opportunity, in cooperation with the Health Departments of Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties, to conduct a mail and interview survey of 348 primary care providers (PCPs) on obesity and diabetes. The aim of this study was to determine what local resources and community support services PCPs utilized or felt were needed within Western Maryland to increase treatment compliance among their diabetic and obese patients. Participating in the project were Clinical Education students, who conducted face-to-face interviews with practitioners as follow up to mail and telephone surveys. In summary, the PCPs felt that the lack of a good support system and available community education, nutrition and exercise programs were key barriers to their diabetic and obese patients' compliance with treatment. These findings provide a base of information from which to springboard new grants, programs, and research in obesity and/or diabetes management.



Recruitment and Retention

Clinical Education

Three Internal Medicine residents, and 82 health professions students representing eight disciplines from 16 universities, colleges, and programs completed 542 weeks of clinical experience with preceptors in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties and nearby areas of West Virginia. Area practitioners also continued to share their knowledge and skills with students during site visits or "sub-rotations."

Medical students learned about community health needs from Mr. Fred Tola, Allegany County Health Department, Ms. Nancy Forlifer, Western Maryland Health System (WMHS) and Dr. Ronald Keyser, Washington County Health Department. Students also interviewed Western Maryland primary care providers about obesity and diabetes issues. Christopher Murphy, MD, a former clinical education student, is a psychiatrist at Washington County Health System. Timothy Sines, DDS, from Accident, MD completed a dental rotation with Dr. Jeffery Rhodes and has returned to Western Maryland to practice.

Long-standing WMAHEC preceptor, Raul Felipa, MD, was named Physician of the Year at the WMHS. Eight new preceptors shared their time and expertise with students: Wayne Crowder, MD; Malinda Darber, PharmD; George Hennawi, MD; Joseph Jurand, MD; Earle McFerren, RPh; Bryan Wodaski, MS, OTR/L; Norman Wood, DO; and Betty Jo Zonis, MPT.



Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP)

West Virginia University (WVU) and WMAHEC collaborate to facilitate education and retention programs by conducting HCOP, a summer educational experience to prepare students for health professions schools. This year 20 students from disadvantaged backgrounds participated in the program, which seeks to provide students with the knowledge, skills, support and abilities to enter and graduate from post-secondary schools offering careers in allied health, medicine, dentistry and pharmacy. Ultimately, HCOP promotes the concept of "growing our own health professionals" who, once educated, remain or return to practice

in the Central Appalachian region. The preliminary education portion of the project is conducted simultaneously on the WVU and Frostburg State University (FSU) campuses. Students spend six-weeks in a residential academic program where basic foundations in biology, writing, chemistry and math are enhanced, gaining knowledge and skills needed to transition from high school to college. Throughout the program students visit regional hospital and medical institutions, speak with practicing professionals, and participate in community events. Funding is provided through a grant received from the Bureau of Health Professions.

2004 Preceptors

Jacquelyn P. Bauer, CRNP
Matthew Beckwith, MD
Anthony Bollino, MD
J. Nelson Brouillette, MD
Thomas Chappell, MD
Robert Coughlin, MD
James Crable, RPh
Wayne Crowder, MD
Malinda Darber, PharmD
Robert J. Dawson, MD
Amy DeMay, CTRS
Charles Downs, PharmD
Reed Erickson, MD
V. Raul Felipa, MD
Kandy Fink, CRNP
Rev. Gene Gall, DDiv.
Thomas Gilbert, DO
Matthew Hahn, MD
B. Allen Haworth, DO
George Hennawi, MD
Gerard Herpel, PD
Debra B. Hurtt, MD
Jesse Jalazo, MD
Joseph Jurand, MD
Margaret Kaiser, MD

Dinesh Kalaria, MD
Shiv Khanna, MD
William Lamm, MD
Michael Levitas, MD
Kristin L. Koontz, PA-C
Celestino Menchavez, MD
Elmaslias Menchavez, MD
Rohollah Moainie, MD
Anita Meyers-Vagnoni, MD
Mary Money, MD
Susan M. Nuber, MD
John Reed, MD
Jeffery Rhodes, DDS
Sanjay Saxena, MD
Husam Semaan, MD
Huma Shakil, MD
Jerry Stewart, PD
Randall A. Stroup, PA-C
John Stuckey, OTR/L
Leon Weaver, MD
Rodney Williams, MD
Bryan Wodaski, MS, OTR/L
Norman Wood, DO
Betty Jo Zonis, MPT



Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research

The Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR) program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore facilitates training and research on aging and the clinical care of older adults. GGEAR funding supports WMAHEC geriatrics and gerontology activities in Western Maryland.

Fourteen Western Maryland organizations collaborated with WMAHEC on 7 projects supported by GGEAR mini-grants. There were 596 participants, a 30% increase over the previous year, at continuing education programs for health care professionals and presentations to older adults and service providers. Topics included managing medications in older adults, legal issues and the elderly, nutrition and wellness issues with the elderly, coping with an emergency, senior services summit, caring for the caregiver, and disaster preparedness.

WMAHEC staff facilitated access to Web-based training and resources on the Medicare Prescription Card. GGEAR funding also supported the maintenance and enhancement of WMAHEC's on-line

gerontology and geriatrics resources for consumers, health professionals, and student career exploration.

Aging awareness, interdisciplinary geriatric care, and career exploration activities were implemented with elementary, middle, and HCOP students.

Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team (GAIT)

Five GAIT projects during the program's ninth year of funding provided geriatric clinical experiences in Western Maryland for 57 health professions students in Counseling Psychology, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, and Social Work. Participants represented Frostburg State University, Towson University, and the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

GAIT is a University System of Maryland Redeployment Grant directed by the Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR) Program at the University of Maryland Baltimore. The program promotes interdisciplinary geriatric care, practice in rural settings,

gerontology and geriatrics careers, and awareness of elder issues. Geriatric care sites in Garrett, Allegany, Washington, and Frederick counties hosted projects on community-based hospice care, assisted living, dementia treatment in adult medical day care, caring for people with Alzheimer's, and quality activity programs.

As part of the University of Maryland's academic outreach to rural communities, GAIT projects provide unique educational opportunities for health professions students and academic contacts for rural geriatric care sites, as well as support for WMAHEC health professions recruitment programs.

FYI

During Fiscal Year 2004, WMAHEC sponsored or co-sponsored 37 continuing education courses for 1,504 area health professionals.

Many thanks go to WMAHEC's preceptors, ten health professions caucuses, and partner organizations for a great year of dedication and service to the community. Preceptors and caucuses contributed more than 24,037 volunteer hours.

United in recruiting and retaining quality healthcare professionals in Western Maryland, WMAHEC looks forward to continued collaborations.

University of Maryland School of Nursing Western Maryland Outreach

The University of Maryland School of Nursing continues to operate two off-campus sites in Western Maryland. Outreach efforts are based at the Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC), and classes are offered at WMAHEC and the Hagerstown Center of Frostburg State University. WMAHEC provides classroom and office space as well as support services. In addition, Outreach students have access to interactive video, computers, and library services with the assistance of staff in the Learning Resource Center and main office.

In the 2003-2004 program year, eight students completed the program of study to become Family Nurse Practitioners, and eight students completed their baccalaureate degrees at the two off-campus locations. Regularly scheduled recruitment activities are conducted in Cumberland and Hagerstown to ensure continued program growth and development.

Core Funding

Maryland Statewide Medical Education & Training System

University of Maryland

Donald E Wilson, MD

Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Claudia Baquet, MD, MPH

Associate Dean for Policy and Planning, University of Maryland School of Medicine;
Project Director, Maryland AHEC Program

Malinda B. Orlin, Ph. D.

Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Maryland;
Dean, Graduate School

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Nelson J. Sabatini

Secretary, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

WESTERN MARYLAND

AHEC

WMAHEC thanks its many partner organizations for a great year of service to the community. United in working toward quality healthcare in the rural region, WMAHEC looks forward to continued collaborations with these partners in future endeavors.