

Western Maryland Area Health Education Center Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Report



The Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC) is a 501 (c) 3 organization whose mission is to improve access to and promote quality in healthcare through educational partnerships.



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Continued Dedication and Advocacy for Health Professions Education

The Western Maryland Area Health Education Center's (WMAHEC) commitment to serving the community is now thirty years strong. That's thirty years of working to recruit and retain health professionals in a region that historically experiences shortages. Thirty years of serving as a bridge between the community and the resources of the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

WMAHEC goes above and beyond for the Western Maryland region and continues to provide continuing education courses, build programs to prepare students for the rigors of health professions education, inform the public on health concerns, train citizens and health professionals to respond effectively during and after a disaster, and coordinate the Allegany County Family Violence Council. The organization remains dedicated to geriatric and interdisciplinary training, as well as evidence-based practice.

Fiscal Year 2006 brought many changes. Because federal budget cuts and increased competition for financial resources eliminated three major programs, we said good-bye to dear colleagues, who dedicated years of service to the organization, and said hello to new staff. We also said good-bye to long-standing programs that benefited the youth of our community. Through all of these changes, the remaining WMAHEC staff has continued its dedication and advocacy for health professions education, and has also displayed a willingness to adapt to rapid change and handle it in a professional manner without sacrificing quality programs. In fact, we increased Health Professions Pipeline participation by five-fold in one program and two-fold in another, while facing deep funding cuts.

In spite of the challenging circumstances, WMAHEC continued to build upon successes to meet targeted community needs.

Troy Raines

Chair Person, Board of Directors



Board of Directors FY 2006

Officers

Chair:	Troy Raines, BS
Vice Chair:	Earl Stoner, BS
Secretary:	Sue Raver, MD
Treasurer:	Frank LaParle, DDS

Board Members

Aiken, Rebecca	RN
Ambrosia, Todd	PhD, MSN, CRNP
Baquet, Claudia	MD, MPH
Bezuneh, Meseret	MS, Ed.
Browning, Bethany	RN, CCRN
Cashdollar, Lee	LGSW
Edwards, Jason	PhD
Hoffman, Joe	PhD
Keane, Elaine	MS, OTR
Kenney, John	LCSW-C
Kessell, James	RPh
Kiddy, Amy	RN, BSN
Lease, Henrietta	BS, MBA
Pommett, Francis	MHA, FACHE
Preaskorn, Diane	PTA
Rozas, Ramon	JD
Rulle, Mark	Ed.D
Schneider T. Brooke	MS, LPC, MAC, NCAPIII
Sheetz, Anne	MS, MA, LCPC
Sweitzer, Jeannette	FNP, PNP
Ward, James	PTA
Wilson, Jennifer	M.Ed., RD, LD

Information

Learning Resource Center

In May, the Learning Resource Center (LRC) completed West Virginia Health Information Outreach, a sub-contract awarded from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine/Southeastern Atlantic region. The goal of the project was to improve access to electronic health information for librarians, health professionals and their patients, public school students, the faith community, and the community at large. The Western Maryland Area Health Education Center provided hands-on training sessions on accessing reliable online health information for 148 participants in 12 Eastern and North-western counties in West Virginia.

In addition, LRC staff continued to provide contractual services to Garrett County Memorial Hospital, Somerset Hospital Center for Health, and the Western Maryland Health System. Staff also supported other WMAHEC projects and area health professionals by providing training, medical literature searches, document delivery, and maintaining the journal and monograph collection.

"I changed to internal medicine due in large part to the positive experiences I had in Garrett and Allegany counties as a part of the AHEC's clinical education program."

— Clinical Education Participant

Development & Advocacy

Allegany County Family Violence Council

The Allegany County Family Violence Council is a volunteer organization that brings together community leaders dedicated to ending family violence and significantly reducing incidents of family and interpersonal violence. It creates a coordinated response that protects victims, holds offenders accountable, and offers treatment and education as a means of prevention. Western Maryland Area Health Education Center worked hard to save the Allegany County Family Violence Council and secured funding through the Allegany County Sheriff's Office.

The Council plans to acquire a comprehensive data collection system. Thorough Assault Case Tracking (TACT) will allow the Council to link cases—without identifying individuals—from numerous local and regional entities. The Council finished its final year of the Enhancing Rural Resources project, which provided training, equipment, and support for the Forensic Nurse Examiners. Additionally, it provided training for Council members, two Assistant State's Attorneys, four Forensic Nurses, and four Victim Service professionals to attend conferences on pertinent issues.



After a speech at Cumberland City Hall, Governor Robert Ehrlich greets local organizations and agencies that conduct anti-violence programs and crime prevention activities. Left to right: Delegate Leroy Myers; WMAHEC Allegany County Family Violence Council Coordinator, Kristin Morton; Governor Robert Ehrlich; WMAHEC Associate Director, Susan Stewart; Delegate Kevin Kelly; and Allegany County Sheriff, David Goad.



Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center (MAPHTC)

Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC), with leadership from local partners in Western Maryland and the *Project Aware* program, was the sponsor of two regional continuing education programs, which reached 309 area health professionals. The programs were *Pandemic Flu: A Public Health Perspective*, which provided practicing public health professionals with background knowledge, case study examples, and prevention strategies to address the threat of an emerging pandemic flu. *Workplace Issues for Nurses: Making it Possible to Love Nursing in the 21st Century* addressed the central and persistent issues in contemporary nursing in the workplace. WMAHEC support was made possible

through a Public Health Training Contract from the Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center of the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University and a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration grant.

"I believe a major advantage of participating in the Western Maryland AHEC's clinical education program is the continuum of service it provides to place qualified, entry-level health care professionals in area jobs."

— Clinical Education Participant





Covering Kids & Families

Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC) is a partner of *Maryland Covering Kids & Families* and conducts outreach and education about the Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program (MCHIP) for uninsured working families. Its goal is to simplify enrollment for health insurance and coordinate services for uninsured populations. This year's activities included a Back-to-School Program, with a kid's poster contest and bike giveaway to the winner, an information table at the Greater Cumberland Anti-Drug Festival, proclamations in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties, and a citation issued by Senator John Hafer. The end of the grant period was this year and WMAHEC hosted a luncheon to "pass the torch" to other agencies that

will work with the public on the MCHIP premium and to reward local and regional representatives with plaques as tokens of appreciation, as well as a donation to the Governor's Wellmobile for its participation in the WMAHEC portion of the grant.

Medical Reserve Corps

The Allegany County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), a pilot program of the Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC) funded through the Office of the Surgeon General, ended September 30, 2005. In its last quarter of operation, MRC staff continued partnering with Allegany County Health Department (ACHD) to assess how to best serve Special Needs Populations (SNPs), provided support for a Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT), and participated on the Citizen Corps Council. As part of MRC sustainability under Project Aware, WMAHEC and health department staff networked locally, regionally, and nationally to explore MRC sustainability options. Specifically, a Project Aware contract was set up with ACHD to develop a written protocol for recruitment and membership (based upon evolving state policy and law), to identify potential members, and to establish methods for credentialing, as well as protocols for volunteer training and activation.



Project Aware

Project Aware continued to facilitate regional volunteer response in public health, public safety, and emergency response and disaster preparedness by growing volunteers (specifically volunteers age 55 and older) in the Upper Potomac/Cumberland Valley region and parts of nearby Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Seventeen regional emergency preparedness programs were conducted, including six Abbottville tabletops that enabled emergency responders, health professionals, and volunteers to work together as a team facing real life scenarios by utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The six program field sites—Garrett County Area Agency on Aging, Volunteer Center of Allegany County, Washington County Department of Emergency Services,

Volunteer Frederick, Grant Memorial Hospital (Grant County, WV), and the Western Maryland Health System Parish Nurse Program—brought in 19,320 volunteer hours and reported 811 volunteers in the pipeline with 324 outcome-based volunteers (age 55 and older). Project Aware is funded through a Corporation for National and Community Service Special Volunteer Program grant.



Recruitment & Retention

Clinical Education

In 2006, eighty-seven health professions students, representing eight disciplines from eighteen universities, colleges, and programs, completed 538 weeks of clinical experience in ninety-two rotations with preceptors in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties, and nearby areas of Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Dr. Marjorie Fridkin, as a University of Maryland medical student, completed a clinical rotation with Margaret Kaiser, MD. Dr. Fridkin has returned to Garrett County to practice as a general surgeon.

The Clinical Education program also facilitates clinical rotations for students from Western Maryland, which provides opportunities to build relationships that lead to future employment with local health services providers.

New preceptors shared time and expertise with students: Ken R. Buczynski, MD; Manzar J. Shafi, MD; Bruce E. Weneck, MD; Ruben Cerri, MD, John Lapid, PT, MBA; and Donna Moser, PT. Area health professionals also mentored clinical education students during elective site visits.

Jack Gladstein, MD, the course director for the Western Maryland Area Health Education Center rotation at the University of Maryland, visited medical preceptors in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties to discuss the primary care rotation and how the School of Medicine can support preceptors in their teaching.

Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP)

West Virginia University (WVU) and Western Maryland Area Health Education Center collaborate to provide the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP). The primary goal is to provide students with knowledge, skills, support, and abilities to enter and graduate from post-secondary schools that offer careers in allied health, medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy, and then 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 campuses. In 2006, forty students spent six weeks in a residential academic program where basic foundations in biology, writing, chemistry, study techniques, and math were enhanced. Students gained knowledge and skills needed to successfully transition from high school to college, including team building, dorm life experience, and early exposure to college-level work and requirements. Students also visited a regional hospital and medical institutions, spoke with practicing professionals, and participated in community events. Funding is provided through a grant received from the Bureau of Health Professions. Academic partners include Frostburg State University, Ruby Memorial Hospital, West Virginia University, the University of Maryland Baltimore, and the University of Maryland Medical System.



Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR)

Thirteen Western Maryland organizations collaborated with Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC) on six projects supported by GGEAR mini-grants. Two hundred forty-nine health care professionals and caregivers attended continuing education programs in Allegany and Washington Counties. In addition, health care professionals, caregivers, and volunteers completed all, or part, of 17.5 hours of Volunteer Ombudsman training. Volunteers now provide a critical service through the Washington County Commission on Aging.

In Garrett County, Mental Health Outreach Volunteers were recruited and trained. They continue outreach home visits and the program is seeking sustainability funding. Additionally, a conference attendance scholarship was awarded to an elder care professional in the county to attend the annual Maryland Dementia Conference.

In Allegany County, 117 older adult participants attended sessions on Safe Medication Use, Managing Blood Pressure Medication, and Managing Medications for Diabetes.

GGEAR funding also supported the distribution of resource materials at senior events in Allegany and Washington counties, a presentation to Frostburg State University Introduction to Social Welfare class students, the facilitation of access to web-based training and resources, and maintenance and enhancement of WMAHEC

online gerontology and geriatrics resources. Aging awareness activities, team skills, and career opportunities in gerontology and geriatrics were also shared with thirty-six students in the Exploring Careers in Health Occupations (high school) and Health Careers Opportunities Program (pre-college) health career programs.

A new GGEAR funded project was the development of electronic newsletters that highlighted web-based geriatrics information and resources available through WMAHEC's Learning Resource Center. It is emailed to over 100 health professionals and agencies that provide services to older adults in Western Maryland.

The GGEAR program at the University of Maryland Baltimore facilitates education, research, and community-driven trainings on aging and clinical care of older adults.



Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Training (GAIT)

Geriatric care sites in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties hosted interdisciplinary teams of health professions students for two-day experiential trainings that developed knowledge and skills in interdisciplinary team care for older adults, promoted practice opportunities in Western Maryland, and increased awareness of aging and issues in geriatrics and gerontology.

Students met and assessed clients and discussed their team assessments with host site staff. Focus topics included: Dementia Care in Adult Medical Day Care, Leaving the Nursing Home: Rehabilitation Services in Long-Term Care, Geriatric Rehabilitation, and Community Based Hospice Care.

Participants represented Counseling Psychology, Medicine, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, and Social Work from Frostburg State University, Towson University, and the School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy at the University of Maryland Baltimore.

The Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR) Program at the University of Maryland Baltimore directed a University System of Maryland Redeployment Grant that provided the eleventh year of funding for these projects. It also facilitated interdisciplinary learning for students from health professions programs in Maryland, enhanced university contacts with rural communities, and promoted practice opportunities at

rural sites to a diverse group of health professions students.

“The best of the experience was having the opportunity to work with a real world patient in a real world setting; to devise suggestions and then see how these suggestions could be implemented; and understanding practical barriers to implementation.”

— GAIT Participant

Rural Interdisciplinary Health Promotion (RIHP)

This Quentin N. Burdick Rural Program for Interdisciplinary Training project is designed to provide programs for health professions students. Together with ten faculty partners from the University of Maryland Baltimore, Towson University, West Virginia University, Frostburg State University, and Allegany College of Maryland, the project sponsored a Faculty Development Workshop on Incorporating Interdisciplinary Education in the Curriculum, a Continuing Education Symposium on Public Health Preparedness, and a four-day Service Learning Project on Health Care in Rural Communities. The program is also developing a didactic module on the topic of All Hazard Emergency Preparedness. RIHP is supported in part by funds from the Division of State, Community, and Public Health (DSCPH), Bureau of Health Professions (BHP), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).



Exploring Careers in Health Occupations (ECHO)

ECHO is one of two Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC) health professions programs that aim to recruit tomorrow's health professionals today. The one-week residential camp is for 8th-12th graders and affords them hands-on experiences and field trips to enhance their awareness of community health needs, available health resources, and associated health career opportunities. ECHO 2006 had twenty-five students who participated in activities at Camp Allegheny, toured the Western Maryland Health System, attended presentations on Forensic Nursing, Geriatric Health and Aging, Smoking Cessation, and the Diversity of the Nurse Practitioner Role by Frostburg State University Brady Health Center. Students also visited Adams Funeral Home; the University of Maryland School of Medicine; Allegany College's Allied Health Departments, including Therapeutic Massage, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Radiology

Technician, Medical Lab Technician, Physical Therapy Assistant, and Respiratory Therapy; and the National Aquarium and Inner Harbor. Students also received training and certification in American Red Cross CPR and First Aid. Funding for ECHO is provided through the Model AHEC grant, from the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Cancer Network Partnership

As part of the University of Maryland School of Medicine Maryland Regional Cancer Network, the Western Maryland Area Health Education Center became a Community Network Partner to reduce cancer health disparities in Western Maryland. The program has provided numerous educational activities related to Clinical Trials and Oral Cancer. One of the goals of the project is to conduct community-based participatory research on a targeted cancer. The WMAHEC is working with community partners to get this portion of the project underway.



2006 Preceptors

Jacquelyn Bauer, CRNP
Gerald Beachy, RPh
Matthew Beckwith, MD
Anthony Bollino, MD
Brian Bonham, MD
Keith Broome, RPh
J. Nelson Brouillette, MD
Alice Browning, PT
Ken R. Bucznski, MD
Vincent Cantone, MD
Ruben Cerri, MD
Cathy Chapman, MS, CRNP
Thomas Chappell, MD
K. Jill Ciccarelli, MD
Maureen Conroy, DO
James Crable, RPh
Malinda Darber, PharmD
Robert Dawson, MD
Charles Downs, PharmD
V. Raul Felipa, MD
Kandy Fink, CRNP
Carla Fritz, CRNP
Gene Gall, DDiv
Tom Hartsuch, MD
B. Allen Haworth, DO
Debra Hurtt, MD
Joseph Jurand, MD
Margaret Kaiser, MD
Mashukur Khan, MD
Shiv Khanna, MD
John Lapid, PT, MBA
Michael Levitas, MD
Celestino Menchavez, MD
Anita Meyers-Vagnoni, MD
Mary Money, MD
Donna Moser, PT
Susan Nuber, MD
Timothy Purdy, CRNP, MSN
John Reed, MD
Diane Romaine, DMD
Sanjay Saxena, MD
Manzar J. Shafi, MD
Huma Shakil, MD
Frank Slabinski, PA-C
John Staggars, MPT
Randall Stroup, PA-C
Christopher Vagnoni, MD
Annette Warrenfeltz, MD
Leon Weaver, MD
Bruce E. Weneck, MD
Vicki Willey, MS, FNP
Rodney Williams, MD
Betty Jo Zonis, MPT

National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine Fellowship Award

Through the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Office of Student Research, the Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC) awarded a National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine (NYLF/MED) fellowship to Brad Westfall, a junior at Allegany High School.



The fellowship was made possible via a request from Dr. Jordan Warnick, University of Maryland School of Medicine Office of Student Research, who was seeking an outstanding student from Western Maryland. A participant is nominated by teachers or mentors and must have a grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or above to be eligible.

University of Maryland School of Nursing Western Maryland Outreach

The University of Maryland School of Nursing continued its commitment to nurses in Western Maryland by operating the RN to BSN Outreach Degree Program in Cumberland. Several classes were offered at the Western Maryland Area Health Education Center, which served as the program's "home" and provided a faculty office and classroom space, including interactive video and computer access. Staff in the Learning Resource Center provided library services and the front office staff provided administrative support. Eight students were on track to graduate in 2006 and regularly scheduled recruitment activities were conducted in Western Maryland to ensure continued program growth and development.





FY06 Financial Highlights

Income*

Maryland Statewide Medical Education & Training System Services (MSMETS)....	\$ 324,000
Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
State of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)	130,556
Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Central Appalachian Health Careers Opportunity Network	106,316
DHHS, HRSA, Bureau of Health Professions, Subcontract with West Virginia University	
Model AHEC Funding	41,857
HRSA, Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Project Aware	322,692
Corporation for National and Community Service	
Rural Interdisciplinary Health Promotion.....	149,259
Quentin N. Burdick Program, DHHS, HRSA, Bureau of Health Professions	
Medical Reserve Corps	15,711
DHHS, PHS, Office of Minority Health, Office of the Surgeon General	
Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team Project (GAIT).....	45,555
Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Allegany County Family Violence Council	36,931
Violence Against Women Grant Program, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention	
Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program (GGEAR).....	24,300
Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Maryland Statewide Health Network.....	10,000
DHMH, Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
National Network of Libraries of Medicine.....	40,000
National Library of Medicine, Subaward Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Covering Kids & Families	14,000
Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Maryland Special Populations Cancer Network	14,420
National Cancer Institute, Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Western Maryland Health Information and Resource Network.....	21,950
Service Agreements with area hospitals	
The Maryland Regional Community Network Program to Eliminate Cancer	28,000
National Cancer Institute, Subaward Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Enhancing Rural Resources	7,351
Maryland Victims of Crime Fund, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention	
Statewide Academic Health Center Tobacco-Related Diseases Research Grant.....	48,000
DHMH, Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center.....	3,000
Contract with the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University	
Total	\$1,383,898

Line Item Expenditures*

Personnel.....	\$ 687,235
Contractual Services	423,096
Insurance	8,932
Communications	19,443
Printing and Supplies	29,261
Equipment and Equipment Contracts	55,794
Office Space & Utilities.....	68,123
Travel	34,152
Direct Student Support.....	45,561
Learning Resources.....	12,302
Total.....	\$1,383,898

Expenditures by Functional Category*

Recruitment.....	\$ 941,132
Retention	222,114
Information	141,721
Advocacy	78,931
Total.....	\$1,383,898

** For the fiscal year of July 1, 2005,
through June 30, 2006*

FYI

During Fiscal Year 2006, WMAHEC sponsored or co-sponsored 61 continuing education courses with 2,128 participants in attendance and 32 trainings with 1,079 participants attending.

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 20,980 volunteer hours.

Western Maryland Area Health Education Center Staff

Beaulieu, Michele – Program Coordinator
Beeman, Jean – Senior Aide
Bird-Middleton, Martha – Program Coordinator
Booth, Jackie – Administrative Assistant
Clites, Mary – Custodian
Coyle, Sue – Coordinator UMB Western Maryland Nursing Outreach
Deter, Robin – Administrative Specialist
Donahoe, Sharon – Human Resource Specialist
Folk, Nancy – Clerical Aide
Hartman, Cindy – Finance Coordinator
Hummel, Kery – Executive Director
Morton, Kristin – Program Coordinator
Myers, Carolyn – Information Systems Manager
O'Baker, Gigi – Office Manager
O'Boyle, Angel – VISTA Member
Powell, Renae – Administrative Assistant
Roberson, Tina – Finance Assistant
Smith, Mark – Grant Writing/Public Relations
Snyder, Christa – Administrative Specialist
Socha, Terri – Program Coordinator
Stewart, Susan – Associate Director
Taylor, C. Joy – Program Coordinator

*"I want to have the ability to help
and cure people when they are in need."*

– ECHO Participant



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.



WMAHEC
11 Columbia Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-777-9150
<http://www.allconet.org/ahec>