

**Western Maryland
Area Health Education Center
Fiscal Year 2012
Annual Report**



*Our mission is to improve access to
and promote quality in health care
through educational and other partnerships.*



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Donna Walbert, RN, BSN, MS	At-Large (Garrett County)
Jennifer Wilson, MEd, RD, LDN	Dietetic Caucus

Volunteer Hours: 94

Maryland AHEC Program Office

Jay A. Perman, MD President, University of Maryland, Baltimore	E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine
Claudia R. Baquet, MD, MPH Associate Dean for Policy and Planning and Associate Professor, Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine University of Maryland School of Medicine	Leslie S. Robinson, MD Clinical Assistant Professor and Course Director, Introduction to Clinical Medicine University of Maryland School of Medicine

Dear WMAHEC Friends and Supporters,

Fiscal Year 2012 brought continued expansion for Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC), not only in program additions and services, but also in developing more efficient accountability and evaluation strategies. We concentrated on building new data collection infrastructures that will allow us to more efficiently manage, access, and report results, particularly tracking outcomes on programs and program participants.

Working in partnership with rural health care stakeholders, our focus remained on enhancing the region's health professions education pipeline, specifically through creating a new curriculum for Exploring Careers in Health Occupations (ECHO) that incorporates and sustains two past programs—Youth Health Service Corps and Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics; facilitating Western Maryland rotations under a newly developed curriculum for all medical residents in the University of Maryland (UM) School of Medicine (SOM) Department of Family and Community Medicine, along with workforce initiatives of the Garrett-Allegany Health Workforce Development Network (GAHWDN) and participation in county and state workforce development programs; and continuing our role of more than 30 years setting up preceptorships and housing in our region for UM SOM students, along with rotations and housing for students from other universities. We also partnered with the UM SOM Department of Family and Community Medicine on a new program to bring medical students to our region earlier in their education before they have decided where they hope to practice.

Our participation in local health planning coalitions has enabled us to better serve the specific goals of each county and to promote the work already being done. As always, partnerships with local, state, and national health care stakeholders drive WMAHEC's program development and are vital to implementing and sustaining our efforts. WMAHEC provided the region with quality continuing education and training programs; advocacy efforts through the Maryland Rural Health Association and our local, state, and national decision makers; access to evidence-based practice resources through medical librarian services for health professionals, students, and hospitals; and improved access to oral health disease prevention and treatment for low-income citizens through supporting efforts to increase dental services by Mountain Health Alliance, collaborating with Allegany Health Right to provide education and preventive care, and assisting the Mission of Mercy free dental clinic held on the Allegany County Fairgrounds in October 2011.

In recent annual reports, we highlighted our new digs on the fourth floor of the former Memorial Hospital where we have enjoyed panoramic views and private, well-appointed accommodations for our students and staff. Unexpectedly, we recently learned that we must once again move our offices and housing to a new location, so we will update you as these changes occur. Managing the ever-changing environment of Western Maryland AHEC is always an adventure!

Sincerely,

Henrietta Lease

Henrietta Lease
Chair, Board of Directors

Susan K. Stewart

Susan K. Stewart
Executive Director





Clinical Education



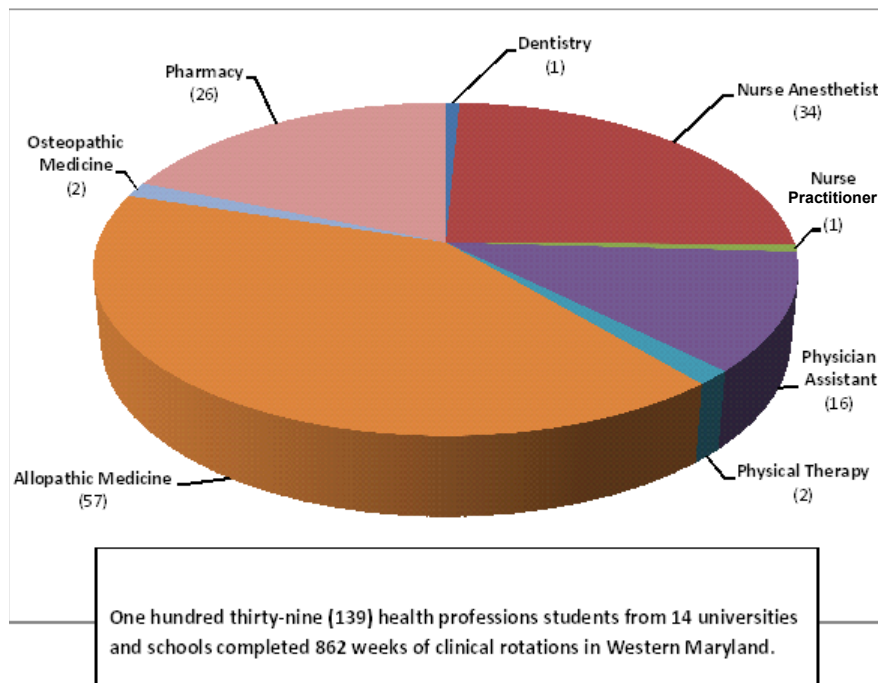
*Terri Socha
coordinates
WMAHEC's
Clinical Education
program as well as
GGEAR,
page 10.*

The clinical education program facilitates an opportunity for Western Maryland health practitioners to teach future health professionals. In addition to sharing their knowledge and skills, preceptors share the rewards of rural practice. All students become more aware of rural patients' needs and expectations.

Additionally, health professional students from Western Maryland have the opportunity to reconnect with practice opportunities in their home communities. In FY 2012, the

clinical education program facilitated 154 rotations for 139 health professional students, a 12% increase in students over the previous year.

Students representing Dentistry, Allopathic Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Nurse Anesthetist, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy, and Pharmacy from the University of Maryland Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, as well as Duquesne University, Georgetown University, Mountain State University, Shenandoah University, University of Charleston WV, University of Pittsburgh, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, West Virginia University and York College of Pennsylvania completed 862 weeks of clinical education.



Clinical Education

Western Maryland health professionals provided 34,500 hours of clinical mentoring, a 22% increase over the prior year. The following physicians and other health professionals generously served as preceptors to students in the WMAHEC Clinical Education Program during this fiscal year:

FY 2012 Preceptors

Matthew Allaway, DO
Jacqueline P. Bauer, CRNP
Gerald Beachy, RPh
Anthony Bollino, MD
Kenneth R. Buczynski, MD
Peter Bui, MD
Julie Caler, PharmD, CGP
Vincent Cantone, MD
Robert Carpenter, MD
Thomas Chappell, MD
K. Jill Ciccarelli, MD
James Crable, RPh
Wayne Crowder, MD
Subrato Deb, MD
Rita Fey, COTA/L
Andrew Foy, MD

Shiv Khanna, MD
Michael Levitas, MD
Jennifer Long, CRNA
Steven Lowery, PharmD
Erica Intyre, CRNA
Celestino Menchavez, MD
Julio J. Menocal, MD
Anita Meyers-Vagnoni, MD
Mary Money, MD
Mark Nelson, MD
Richard Perry, MD
Ghazala Qadir, MD
Joe Glass, RPh
Rosario Gonzaga, MD
Patricia Gotsch, MD
Melody Hanna, PT, DPT

Nadim Hawa, MD
Brian Hose, PharmD
Daniel Jackson, MD
Margaret Kaiser, MD
Samuel Rao, MD
John Reed, MD
Lance Rhodes, PharmD
Donald Richter, MD
Diane D. Romaine, DMD
Naheed Saif, MD
Sanjay Saxena, MD
Huma Shakil, MD
Amy Sines, PharmD
Christine Sturtz, CRNA
Leon Weaver, MD

In addition to its longstanding role coordinating rural rotations for third-year University of Maryland School of Medicine (UM SOM) students, WMAHEC now partners with the UM SOM Department of Family and Community Medicine to place first-year Primary Care Track students with Western Maryland preceptors, with the goal of introducing them to the needs and opportunities in rural primary care earlier in their medical education and before they have made choices on desired residency and practice locations. Richard Colgan, MD,



pictured above, secured funding for this effort from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. Dr. Colgan, with UM SOM faculty members involved in clinical education of medical students and residents, from left to right, Mozella Williams, MD, Linda Lewin, MD, and Nikkita Southall, MD, visited WMAHEC to discuss the new program.





Exploring Careers in Health Occupations (ECHO)



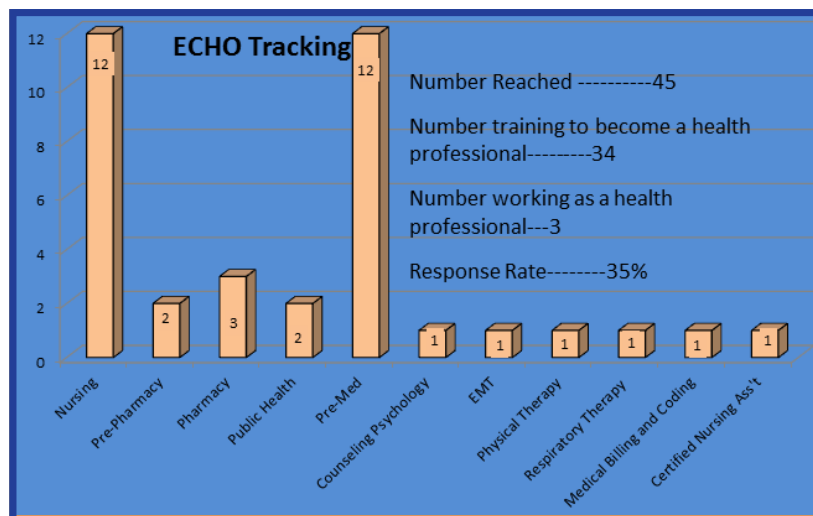
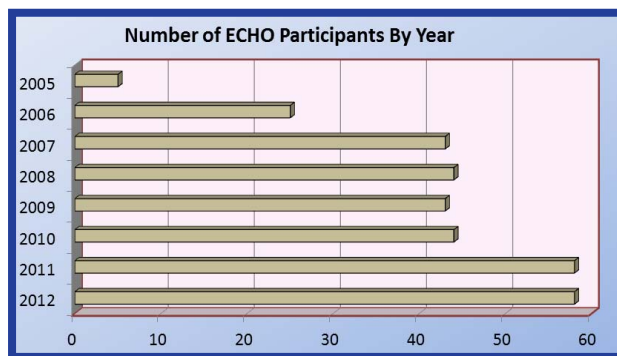
*Scottie Samples
coordinated ECHO
in 2012.*

FY 2012 was the eighth year of Western Maryland AHEC's Exploring Careers in Health Occupations (ECHO). The purpose of ECHO is to provide rising 10th through 12th graders hands-on experiences while exploring a wide variety of health careers in order to nurture an interest in becoming health professionals who ultimately practice in an underserved community, preferably in the Western Maryland region.

In FY2012, 58 students participated in ECHO 101 and 201. This was also our second year of conducting an ECHO 101 program funded in partnership with the Washington County Public Schools for their students.

The ECHO curriculum includes college entrance advice, financial aid advice, underscoring the importance of academic excellence and choosing appropriate high school courses, writing skills, health research basics, increased focus on careers in geriatrics and public health, job shadowing, touring healthcare facilities and institutions of higher learning.

Growth has reached its limit with existing funds, and we are beginning to see positive program outcomes.



Annual Awards Dinner

June 19, 2012 ~ Cumberland Country Club



Henrietta Lease, BS, MBA, current and past Board Chair was chosen for by WMAHEC for its Distinguished Service Award.



Anthony J. Bollino, Jr., MD, was presented with the Donald L. Spencer Award by its namesake. Don, longtime WMAHEC Executive Director, invited Mrs. Bollino to join her husband at the podium.



Michael Levitas, MD, of Children's Medical Group in Cumberland, was selected for the Jane A. Fiscus award, named for the former Health Officer of Allegany County.



Margaret Kaiser, MD, of Oakland, received the Award for Excellence in Geriatrics and Gerontology from the University of Maryland Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program and WMAHEC.





Annual Awards Dinner

June 19, 2012 ~ Cumberland Country Club



Frederic L. Hirsch, LCSW-C, Director of Patient Advocacy at Meritus Health, received the Outstanding Social Worker of the Year Award from the Washington County Social Work Caucus.



The Nursing Caucus found the Outstanding Nurse of the Year award too close to call, so they chose two deserving recipients: **Amy Kiddy, RN, BSN,** above, and **Marlene Ross, RN, MSN,** below.



Jennifer Hoover, RD, LDN, Dietitian at Western Maryland Health System, says a few words after receiving the Outstanding Dietitian of the Year award from the Dietetic Caucus.



More Awards on Page 8!

More Annual Awards



Anne Sheetz, RN, MS, MA, LCPC, shown above after accepting the Outstanding Professional Counselor of the Year award from the Psychology and Professional Counseling Caucus, shares her thoughts upon being honored by her peers.



Mary Lou Perkins, LCSW-C, who works in Behavioral Health at Western Maryland Health System, was named "Outstanding Social Worker of the Year" by the Allegany-Garrett Social Work Caucus.

Maryland Telehome Care Network

Mary Spalding, pictured on page 14, coordinated WMAHEC's role in the Maryland Telehome Care Network.

The Maryland Telehome Care Network (TCN), a research study conducted by the University of Maryland School of Medicine, provided home monitoring equipment and educational material to patients with chronic illnesses (diabetes, COPD, hypertension, and congestive heart failure) recently discharged from the hospital and into a rural home health program.

WMAHEC's role has been to develop and facilitate educational programs for health professionals relating to the specific project as well as on telemonitoring as a strategy for reducing mortality and morbidity in chronically ill patients.

In FY 2012, WMAHEC developed an educational module on the evidence to date involving this technology and its impact on clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction. Research shows that the jury remains out on the value of telemonitoring in chronic disease, though many reports do suggest the intervention has promise for both reducing costs, particularly in rural areas, and improving patient outcomes.





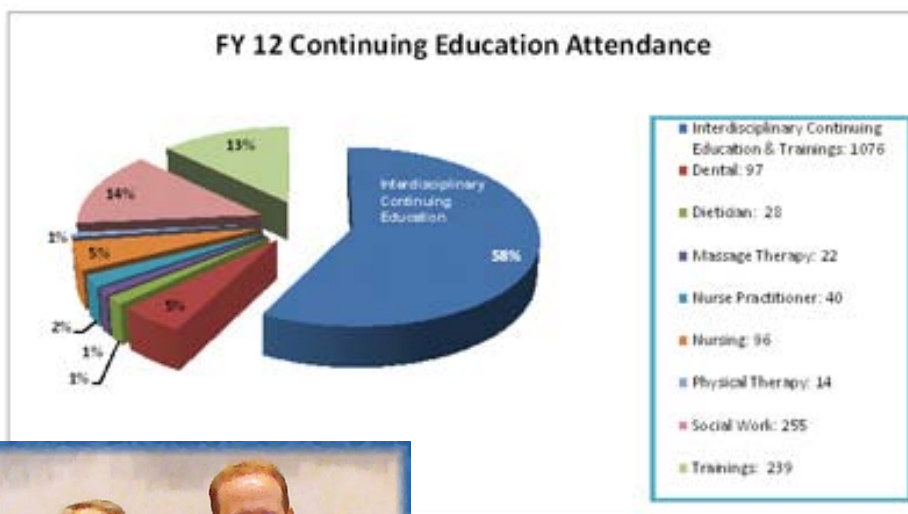
Joy Taylor facilitates 10 of WMAHEC's 12 caucuses and most of WMAHEC's continuing education events.

Caucuses and Continuing Education

The dedication and commitment provided to WMAHEC from the members of the twelve health professional caucuses continue to be the core of the continuing education program's success. The disciplines represented by these caucuses include dentistry, dietetic, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy, medicine, psychology and professional counseling, nurse practitioner, massage therapy, and social work. Because of the collaborative relationship established among these caucuses, health care organizations, and educational institutions, the continuing education programming continues to grow. In cooperation with these partners, training needs are assessed and programs are developed and conducted using national, regional and local experts as lecturers and consultants.

During Fiscal Year 2012, 50 continuing education courses were sponsored or co-sponsored for a total of 1759 health professionals. Presentation formats included seminars, workshops, lectures, video conferences, and telecasts.

By providing high-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. During any given fiscal year, the number of programs conducted and professionals served is commensurate with the amount of available funding.



Volunteer Hours: 1,810

The Nursing Caucus established an annual scholarship for a nursing student at Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) in the name of D. Michele Beaulieu, RN, BSN, a longtime WMAHEC employee who passed away of ovarian cancer in 2011. Pictured at the announcement of the scholarship are, left, Craig Beaulieu, Michele's husband of more than thirty years, and David Jones, ACM Director of Grants and Development.

*Terri Socha
coordinates
GGEAR, including
GAIT projects, in
Western Maryland
under direction of
the University of
Maryland. Her
photo appears
on page 3 as
coordinator of
clinical education.*

Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR)

The Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program at the University of Maryland Baltimore directs a University System of Maryland Redeployment Grant that, in partnership with WMAHEC, supports:

GAIT (Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team) projects bring University of Maryland System health professions students to geriatric care sites in rural/underserved areas of Western Maryland for experiential, interdisciplinary health care team trainings that:

- Enhance their interdisciplinary team skills;
- Expose them to opportunities in Geriatrics and rewards of rural practice;
- Provide rural experience to health professions students who do not have access to rural rotations.

Thirty-eight students, representing Medicine, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Social Work, and Therapeutic Recreation, from programs at Frostburg State University, Towson University, and The University of Maryland Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Social Work worked with residents/patients and staff at geriatric care sites in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties.



Pictured at Commemorating Elder Abuse Awareness Day: A Discussion on Policy and Clinical Issues on June 15, 2012, at the Western Maryland Hospital Center in Hagerstown are, from left, William Benson, National Policy Advisor, National Adult Protective Services Association; Lynn Faurerbach, RN, MSN, Johns Hopkins Bayview Center; John Kenney, MSW, Washington County Social Work Caucus, and Reba Cornman, MSW, GGEAR Director.

Each project focuses on a different geriatric care issue at a different host site, with student interdisciplinary teams assessing different older adult clients. In FY2012, 99 percent of students rated their satisfaction with the Overall Quality of the GAIT project as “excellent” or “good.”

Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Resource Outreach included:

- Three continuing education programs, planned in collaboration with Western Maryland partners, for 160 participants. Collaboration with Johns Hopkins University Geriatrics Education Center Consortium, facilitated by GGEAR, continued for a second year.
- A Caregivers Conference held in Garrett County. Community outreach to 1,060 older adults and care providers at senior health and wellness events.
- Mini-grants for resources to support ongoing education for care providers of older adults.
- Aging awareness activities for community professionals (Leadership Allegany) and health career pipeline (ECHO) students.





Garrett-Allegany Health Workforce Development Program (GAHWDN)



*Kristin Morton
coordinated
GAHWDN during
FY 2012.*

The Garrett Allegany Health Workforce Development Network (GAHWDN) began its third year of programming September 2012. Supported through funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Office of Rural Health Policy, the Network has continued to expand programming.

Building on last year's successes, the Network has now provided Community Medicine rotations for 9 medical residents from the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Department of Family and Community Medicine, including Dr. Georgia Bromfield, who is pictured on this report's cover as she explores Swallow Falls State Park in Garrett County. Feedback on the rotations continues to be quite positive. The breadth and depth of primary care practice is much larger than the medical residents anticipated.

Medical residents from the University of Maryland School of Medicine Department of Family and Community Medicine participated in the Garrett County Health Fair at the Wisp during GAHWDN's Community Engagement Workshop. Pictured, from left to right, are Maria Akhtar, MD, Georgia Bromfield, MD, and Ryane Edmonds, MD, providing senior health information to health fair attendees.

In fall 2012, GAHWDN hosted a day-long event at Garrett County Health Department (GCHD), where Frostburg State University (FSU) students in the Counseling Psychology program and their graduate program director visited with GCHD staff and mental health professionals to learn about internship opportunities at GCHD. Increasing mental health internships in the county is another of GAHWDN's objectives.

All of the students stated in evaluations that they would encourage others to consider GCHD for an internship site as a result of this event.

GAHWDN partners continue to strengthen collaboration in creating innovative, local solutions to the health professional shortages that Garrett and Allegany counties face.



Mountain Health Alliance (MHA)



MHA's initial director, Jen Thomas (left) relocated to the Maryland Eastern Shore during FY 2012. Laura Witt, (right) capably stepped into the role until deciding to join her husband in a new business venture. As luck would have it, Jen's family decided to return to the mountains, and Jen has assisted in the transition to the new MHA director, Rhonda Rosley, who takes the helm in FY 2013.



Mountain Health Alliance (MHA) is a regional network of existing rural health organizations whose goal and mission is to integrate the collective experience and expertise of its members into a sustainable regional health-oriented network charged with increasing access to affordable, comprehensive and quality healthcare for all. This unique network is crossing county and state lines in order to improve health outcomes for a multi-county, multi-state, rural Appalachian region.

MHA's highlights in FY 2012 include:

- Added partnerships including Hyndman Area Health Center, Garrett County Health Department, Western Maryland Health System, and Mountain Laurel Medical Center. MHA membership now includes four Health Departments, three Federally Qualified Health Centers, a hospital, and other rural health stakeholders.
- Purchased sterilization equipment for the Allegany County Health Department's Adult Extraction Clinic, to permit the clinic to remain operational.
- Purchased equipment totaling \$72,000 for the Mineral County (West Virginia) Health Department's defunct dental clinic, now being renovated for reopening. Two existing chairs were refurbished and a new chair purchased with federal funds.
- Facilitated an agreement between Tri-State Community Health Center and Walnut Street Community Health Center in Hagerstown to provide services to all Hancock-area schools. Walnut Street's dental van is visiting Tri-State two days per month, seeing 8-10 patients per visit.
- Continued planning for a Mountain Community Dental Center in Cumberland with partners Hyndman Area Health Center, Tri-State Community Health Center, and Allegany Health Right.
- Conducted 7 community focus groups in Allegany and Mineral counties and in Hancock to assess the barriers residents are experiencing with accessing dental care, with a formal report written on the findings.
- Collaborated with MHA partner Allegany Health Right on a second funded Outreach grant to provide dental services to low-income residents.
- Participated in another successful Mission of Mercy free two-day dental clinic held at Allegany County Fairgrounds in October 2012 during which over 800 uninsured persons received dental work by volunteers including dentists, dental hygienists, nurses, and many others who made the clinic run smoothly.





Learning Resource Center (LRC)

This was a busy year for the Learning Resource Center. In addition to overseeing the WMAHEC Learning Resource Center, a primary access library of the National Library of Medicine, the WMAHEC medical librarian traveled to Hagerstown once a week to manage the Wroth Memorial Library at Meritus Health, formerly Washington County Hospital; she was also available daily in Cumberland for Meritus physicians' and staff members' library requests.

In addition, both Western Maryland Health System and Somerset Hospital in Pennsylvania continued their contracts with the LRC for medical librarian services.

The following projects were also completed or remained in process as of the end of FY 2012.



Mary Spalding coordinates WMAHEC's Learning Resource Center (LRC) and medical library services. She is pictured in the LRC with Frostburg State University student Michelle Wilson, who served an internship at WMAHEC in FY 2012.

- Published "Reliable Internet Sources on Hepatitis C" in the MLA (Medical Library Association) Newsletter.

Presented "Locating Reliable Nursing Resources" for Meritus Health nurses.

- Presented "Finding Reliable Internet Health Resources" at the Head Trauma support group at Hagerstown's Total Rehab.

- Created Web site for Meritus Health Wroth Memorial Health Sciences Library.

- Reviewed, trialed and purchased online public access catalog to convert the Meritus Health library from the card catalog; currently populating catalog with Meritus resources.

- Purchased and processed resources for the Wroth Memorial Library and for the WMAHEC LRC.

- Stayed abreast of copyright, technology, and other library issues through participation in the National Library of Medicine's medical librarian listserv.

- Tallied evaluations from continuing medical education courses at Western Maryland Health System.

- Developed and submitted proposal to National Library of Medicine for a Disaster Health Information contract with partners in three Western Maryland counties.

Staff

Booth, Jackie	<i>Administrative Specialist</i>	Samples, Scottie	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Clites, Mary	<i>Custodian (Contractual)</i>	Socha, Terri	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Folk, Nancy	<i>Volunteer</i>	Spalding, Mary	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Morton, Kristin	<i>Program Coordinator</i>	Stewart, Susan	<i>Executive Director</i>
Powell, Renae	<i>Administrative Specialist</i>	Taylor, Jim	<i>IT Support (contractual)</i>
Roberson, Tina	<i>Finance Coordinator</i>	Taylor, Joy	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Rosley, Rhonda	<i>Program Coordinator</i>	Thomas, Jennifer	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
		Witt, Laura	<i>Program Coordinator</i>



FY 2012 Funding Sources

Maryland Statewide Medical Education & Training System	\$324,000.00
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)	\$93,010.00
Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team (GAIT) Project	\$42,500.00
Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR)	\$25,000.00
Learning Resource Center contracts/pending contracts	\$29,382.00
Maryland Asthma Control Program	\$10,000.00
Maryland Telehome Care Network	\$6,800.00
Mountain Health Alliance	\$180,000.00
Garrett-Allegany Health Workforce Development Network	\$200,000.00
Total:	\$861,881.00





WMAHEC works with
community members in our
region to build a healthier
future together.



WMAHEC
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Please note our new address as of December 17, 2012:
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