



Congratulations on your Retirement

Congratulations Will Mahone! Mr. Mahone celebrates a career of more than 36 years in the healthcare industry, including nearly 15 years as president of Vidant North, the former Halifax Regional Medical Center (HRMC). We were honored to work with Mr. Mahone as an Area L AHEC Board Trustee during his time at HRMC/Vidant North.

Area L AHEC Welcomes Two New Board Members

Area L AHEC welcomes Kristen Dorsey MD, Medical Director/Director of Pediatrics at Rural Health Group in Roanoke Rapids and Pediatrician at Vidant North and Jack Wiggins III, CPCU, CIC, Vice President of Towe Insurance Service, an independent insurance agency in Wilson.



Welcome to the Area L AHEC Team

Lindsay Farmer has joined our team as the Program Assistant to Practice Support and Public Health. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from UNC Greensboro. She looks forward to working with you.



A Special Thank You to Nash UNC Health Care

Thanks, from Area L AHEC, to the nurse preceptors and the education and nursing administration departments at NASH UNC Health Care for their ongoing support of the NC AHEC RN Refresher Program. The RN Refresher Program provides nurses who have been away from practice with an online, self-paced pathway to refresh their skills and return to the workforce.



According to Patty Collins, left, our Director of Nursing CPD and Student Programs, facilitating a Refresher student's hospital-based clinical rotation takes a lot of planning and coordination and can be time consuming for the hospital, but the process at UNC Nash Health Care has always run smoothly. She added that, though COVID-19 has further complicated the process, the hospital worked with two students in 2020: Donald Kinstler - out of practice since 2007 and Sarah Matacale - also away from bedside practice for 13 years. Thanks to Kinstler's and Matacale's preceptors (Cassie Garcia and Mary Thompson), Donald is now working at Wilson Medical Center in the Behavioral Health Holding Unit and Sarah recently accepted a position with Cooper Health System. Thanks again, Nash UNC Health Care!



Nursing Education Department at Nash UNC Health Care

From left, Morgan Rierson, MSN, RN, PCCN Clinical Educator, CPSU; Lukisha Richardson, MSN, RN, CMSRN Clinical Educator, General Surgery/Oncology; Kim Riddick, BSN, RN, NPJ-BC Staff Development Coordinator; Mary Strickland, DNP, MSN, RNC, NE-BC Vice President, Nursing; Dana Wright BSN, RN, CCRN, Critical Care Clinical Educator; Boots Vandemark, BSN, RNC-OB | CNIV, Perinatal Educator, Nash Women's Center



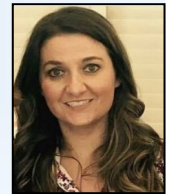
From left, Donald Kinstler, RN and his preceptor Cassie Garcia, RN



and



Sarah Matacale, RN and her preceptor Mary Thompson, RN



Upcoming Programs

- Stroke Update 2021: Seconds Can Make a Difference
Live Webinar [January 27](#)
- Pearls of Oral Medicine
Live Webinar [January 29](#)
- Implicit Bias in Mental Health
Live Webinar [February 9](#)
- Are You Ready for Your X-ray Inspection?
Live Webinar [March 5](#)
- Mental Health Disparities among African Americans
Live Webinar [March 16](#)
- Management of Asthma/COPD
Live Webinar [March 30](#)
- Avoiding Ethical Pitfalls When Using Technology in Therapy
(Co-provided with Eastern AHEC)
Live Webinar [April 7](#)
- OSHA Laws: Annual Bloodborne Pathogens and Hazcom Update
(Spring 2021) Live Webinar [April 16](#)
- Mental Health First-Aid
Live Webinar [April 27](#)
- The 33rd Annual Aging Symposium: Elder Mistreatment
Live Webinar [May 6](#)
- ACEs & Addictive Disease: The BIG Picture!
Live Webinar [May 20](#)
- Legal Issues in the Dental Office
Live Webinar [May 21](#)

Results-Based Accountability™: **Do the Right Things and Do Them Well** April 20 - April 22

Results-Based Accountability™ (RBA) is a disciplined way of thinking and acting to improve entrenched and complex social problems. Communities use RBA to improve the lives of children, youth, families, and adults. It is also used by organizations to improve the effectiveness of their programs and services. Those who participate in the event will gain knowledge in the RBA framework and skill in applying key concepts.

This RBA curriculum was developed by the NC AHECs, in collaboration with the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, and the Foundation for Health Leadership and Innovation, to build RBA capacity in North Carolina. The concepts in this training will contribute to improving the health and well-being of North Carolinians.

For more information on our events visit
<https://www.arealahec.org/courses-and-events>

North Carolina Peer Support Specialist Certification

Congratulations to this amazing group for successfully completing all course requirements of the 40-hour Peer Support Specialist Certification. Peer Support Specialists are people living in recovery with mental illness and/or substance use disorder who provide support to others that can benefit from their lived experiences. The Certified Peer Support Specialist Program provides acknowledgment that the peer has met a set of requirements needed to provide support to individuals with mental health or substance use disorder. Thanks to MAT RCORP North Carolina Healthcare Quality Alliance (NCHQA) and Wilson County DSS for helping fund this program.



Celebrating Special Anniversaries



Shante West, left, Program Assistant for CME and Allied Health Education, and Brenda Boykin, Program Assistant for Pharmacy and Dental Education, both celebrated 15 years with us this year. Thanks for all you do for our team!



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PRACTICE SUPPORT SERVICES

Let's get started in reaching your goals, contact us today.

Apply for Services Today: <https://my.ncahec.net/roles/ipip/qic/addPractice2.php>

Medicaid Managed Care

NC Medicaid Managed Care is scheduled to launch on **July 1, 2021**. The beneficiary portal, https://ncgov.servicenowservices.com/sp_beneficiary?id=bnf_index, posted new tools on January 25, 2021, including the Medicaid and NC Health Choice Provider Lookup Tool, Choice Guide to help review which Prepaid Health Plan (PHP) best suits the beneficiary and much more, <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/blog/2020/12/01/nc-medicaid-expands-website-include-new-resources-support-medicaid-beneficiaries>.

PROVIDER CONTRACT REMINDERS: In order to be included in the Medicaid and NC Health Choice Provider and Health Plan Look-up Tool and PHP provider directories used by beneficiaries during open enrollment (March 15, 2021), **providers must submit signed contracts to PHPs by Feb. 1, 2021**. In order for a provider's information to be used in auto-enrollment (May 15, 2021), contracts must be submitted to PHPs by April 12, 2021.

- Primary care providers need to contract with health plans in a timely fashion to avoid losing patients when health plans assign beneficiaries to in-network providers.
- NC Medicaid's Managed Care PHPs have finalized, and approved, all five PHP provider manuals to include the most current and comprehensive information for providers. Providers must use the manual for each contracted PHP as a means of remaining current on PHP policies which will reflect any changes in state and federal regulations. The Department-approved PHP provider manuals are available on the Medicaid Health Plan Contacts and Resources webpage: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/transformation/health-plans/health-plan-contacts-and-resources>.

PROVIDERS ACT NOW! Enrolled Medicaid providers should act now to thoroughly review their individual and organization provider enrollment records in NC Tracks. If changes need to be made, please submit them by using the manage change request process. This information will form the Provider Directory and Look Up Tool for beneficiaries to be able to select you and your practice as their primary care provider (PCP). <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/blog/2020/09/25/ensure-your-information-displays-correctly-nc%E2%80%99s-provider-directory-tool-%E2%80%93-provider>

Webinar series for Medicaid Providers and Practice Leaders:

<https://www.ncahec.net/medicaid-managed-care/>

Are you looking for the Advanced Medical Home (AMH) Tier Support Tool? Download our tool:

<https://www.ncahec.net/practice-support/advanced-medical-home/>.

Managed Care IMPORTANT DATES in 2021:

February 1: Providers must submit signed PHP contracts to be included in the provider and health plan look up tool.

March 15: Open enrollment begins.

April 12: PHP contracts must be submitted to be included in auto enrollment.

May 14: Open enrollment closes.

May 15: Auto enrollment begins (DHHS is tentatively planning to send transitions-of-care information to PHPs for beneficiaries assigned to that health plan on May 22, 2021.)

July 1: Medicaid Managed Care Launch.

Public Health

Thank you for all that you are doing to support North Carolina's response to COVID-19.

A tested, safe, and effective vaccine will be available to all who want it, but supplies are currently limited and will continue to be for the next few months. To save lives and slow the spread of COVID-19, independent state and federal public health advisory committees recommend first protecting healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19, people who are at the highest risk of being hospitalized or dying, and those at high risk of exposure to COVID-19.

UPDATED COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization Framework

Based on new federal recommendations issued by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the Department has updated and simplified the vaccine prioritization plan.

North Carolina's updated phases include:

1. Health Care Workers and Long-term Care Staff and Residents (Active Group)
2. Older Adults (Active Group) - anyone 65 years or older
3. Frontline Essential Workers
4. Adults at high risk for exposure and increased risk of severe illness
5. Everyone

To see all the groups for each phase please review this <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/vaccines/NCDHHS-Vaccine-Infographic.pdf>

All vaccine providers are expected to ensure that vaccine is equitably administered within each group. NCDHHS has a specific focus on building trust with historically marginalized populations. Longstanding and continuing racial and ethnic injustices in our healthcare system contribute to lack of trust in vaccines. The Department is partnering with trusted leaders and organizations to provide accurate information about the vaccine.

More detailed information is available at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>

COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS) - How is CVMS being used?

1. Providers will utilize CVMS to enroll themselves as administrators of the COVID-19 vaccine. They will also use CVMS to manage COVID-19 vaccine inventory and document the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to recipients.
2. Employers that are invited can upload their eligible staff into CVMS so they can register to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
3. State staff will help providers enroll in CVMS and manage COVID-19 Vaccination Program criteria.

COVID-19 Vaccine Management System https://immunize.nc.gov/providers/ncip/training/cvms_training_faqs_v0.1.pdf

NC AHEC and CCNC Navigating COVID-19 Webinar Series

<https://www.ncahec.net/covid-19/webinars/>



Dr. Jane H. McCaleb was named the **2020 Jim Bernstein Community Health Achievement Award** recipient at the virtual **15th Annual Jim Bernstein Health Leadership Event**. In 1979, Dr. McCaleb received a two-year assignment to the Rural Health Group (RHG), a small practice in Jackson, NC, from the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). Her commitment to rural medicine is evidenced by the fact that her original two-year commitment stretched to 35 years of service. In an area where the KKK was still active, she was a white, female family medicine practitioner working with a black, male internist in what was the first racially integrated practice outside of a university. Together, they were serving a county with the worst infant mortality rates in the entire state.

During her career, Dr. McCaleb made extraordinary progress in reversing that trend and received state and national recognition for her efforts, including the NHSC Exemplary Service Award for reduction of infant mortality and excellence in teaching. She served as a preceptor for various health professional students and as the director of the Family Medicine Clerkship, and the director of CME activities for Area LAHEC. Congratulations Dr. McCaleb and thank you for your service to our region and state!

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