

# The Connection NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2024

**AREA L AHEC**

**PART OF NC AHEC**

**RECRUIT  
TRAIN  
RETAIN**



## Collaborative Strategies for Reducing Overdoses and Advancing Wellness

On September 27, 2023, 102 behavioral health professionals, healthcare professionals, first responders, and community and county leaders attended the Collaborative Strategies for Reducing Overdoses and Advancing Wellness conference at Area L AHEC to gain knowledge from experts leading positive changes in rural counties around substance use disorder (SUD) treatment options, judicial system recovery programs, faith-based harm reduction programs, and SUD treatment options provided by first responders. Conversations and discussions were held regarding engaging county leadership, utilizing community partnerships, and addressing professional burnout. We were thrilled to have five passionate and prominent speakers who are engaged in this work within their own rural communities:

Jan Rader, Director of the Mayor's Council of Public Health & Drug Control Policy in Huntington, West Virginia who is also among TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world in 2018; Judge Beth Heath, Chief District Court Judge for the 8th Judicial District; Reverend Michelle Mathis, Executive Director of Olive Branch Ministry; Captain Helen Tripp, Program Manager for the Mobile Integrated Healthcare program for the Office of Emergency Services, EMS Division; and Jeff Hill, Wilson County Substance Prevention Coalition Executive Director. Participants and speakers alike left feeling encouraged and empowered to incorporate ideas discussed in their own work. Following the conference, participants expressed that they would now "hold space for why an individual is using [substances]", "advocate for peer support specialists," "support their local coalition", "identify possible areas for grant funding", "implement harm reduction strategies," "partner with local faith-based groups and community paramedics", and "better recognize signs of burnout in [themselves] and co-workers."

**Conference Sponsors: Coalition for Addiction Recovery Education (C.A.R.E), Wilson County Substance Prevention Coalition (WCSPC), and the Duke Endowment**



## CELEBRATING Retirement!

**December 2023**



**Brenda Boykin**

Program Assistant - Allied and Oral Health, Pharmacy, and Nursing Education

**January 2024**



**Monique Mackey, MLS**

Vice President  
Director - Library Services, Information Services, and Continuing Education

## WELCOME

To The Team!



**Amanda Smith, BS**

Program Assistant - Allied and Oral Health, Pharmacy, and Nursing Education



**Tameka Joyner**

Program Assistant - Statewide Projects, Practice Support and Student Services

**35 YEARS**

of Service!

**Deborah Woodard**

Assistant for Administrative Activities



# UPCOMING PROGRAMS

## Live Webinars



When Silence is Loud: Depression in Adults .....	Jan. 24
Health Disparities Among Older Adults .....	Jan. 31
NC IDD Health ECHO for Primary Care Providers .....	Feb. 6 - May 31
Carolina Hepatitis Academic Mentorship Program Virtual Bootcamp .....	Feb. 23
Identifying and Addressing Anxiety and Trauma-Related Disorders in Children and Adults (co-provided with EAHEC) .....	March 28
Pharmacy Law Update .....	April 11

## In-Person

\* Live Webinar Available



Cardiac Bootcamp .....	Feb. 20
Scientific Stigma Reduction: Just say KNOW .....	Feb. 27*
ACEs, Trauma, and Burnout: From Surviving to Thriving .....	March 5 - 6
- Turtle on a Fencepost Featuring Dr. Stephen Loyd (Day 1 - March 5)	
The Many Facets of the Substance Use Disorder Recovery Ecosystem .....	March 5
OSHA Laws: Annual Spring Bloodborne Pathogens and Hazcom Update ....	March 22*

## Online, Self-Paced Educational Activities



A Whole-Person Approach to Recovery  
The Growing Threat of Xylazine: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know  
Healthy Opportunities Pilot (HOP) for the Care Manager: Understanding the Medical  
Respite Cross Domain Service  
Finding Your Zone: Mindfulness Practices for the Healthcare Workforce  
North Carolina's Guide to Diabetes Prevention and Management  
CGWEP: Falls Prevention Awareness: Advanced Training for Home Health Aides

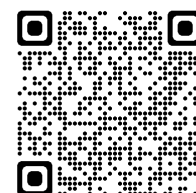
## Questions regarding your MyAHEC account?

Our team has put together an FAQ guide with step-by-step instructions on creating and updating your account.

Scan QR Code To Access  
FAQ Guide Or Visit  
[www.arealahec.org/faq/](http://www.arealahec.org/faq/)



Scan QR Code



Continuing Education  
Calendar

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# Practice Support Services

## Contact us for FREE assistance!

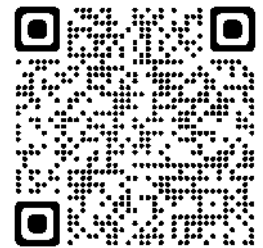
The Area L AHEC Practice Support team is committed to helping practices thrive with value-based care across their entire patient panel including Medicaid and ALL other payors.



## Practice Support Services Include:

- Quality and Health Equity Improvement (Medicaid, Medicare QPP/MIPS, MCP, and All Payors)
- Medicaid Managed Care education and issue resolution
- Advanced Medical Home (AMH) tier education and support
- Clinical workflow assistance, redesign, and process improvement
- Behavioral Health integration (including Collaborative Care Model) support
- Practice operational assessments
- EHR, Telehealth, and Health Information Exchange (HIE) optimization
- Revenue cycle management
- Billing and coding guidance
- Community Health Worker (CHW) integration and training
- Social Determinants of Health workflow & NCCARE 360 Optimization

Scan QR Code  
To Apply



Contact us (Director of Practice Support Activities  
Shannon.Cambra@arealahec.org) or apply for practice support  
services so we can begin providing you with technical assistance &  
support on what matters to you!





# HEALTH CAREERS & WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

Thank you to the Foundation YMCA of Wilson for allowing us to be a part of the Y-GIG (Where Youth Gather, Interact & Grow) after-school program this fall. For 10 weeks, 15 middle school students across Wilson County met with intern Chase Eaton at Barton College for Collegiate Health Careers Exploration! Students explored health careers and college life, while also participating in team-building and personal development activities. From playing ping-pong in the Student Center to touring an ambulance, the students had a blast!

- Jordan Blake, MSPH  
Director of Health Careers and Workforce Diversity

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