

The Connection NEWSLETTER

Summer/Fall 2024

AREA L AHEC
PART OF NC AHEC

RECRUIT
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ACEs, Trauma, and Burnout: From Surviving to Thriving

On March 5th and 6th, Area L AHEC hosted the conference *ACEs, Trauma, and Burnout: From Surviving to Thriving* at Word Tabernacle in Rocky Mount, NC. During this two-day conference, participants were able to hear from experts about the impacts of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), trauma, and burnout. They also heard personal experiences of ACEs and trauma and gained knowledge and competence on utilizing tools and resources geared toward building resilience. This conference featured Derek Clark, Dr. Ramani Durvasula, Dr. Kelly Graves, Dr. Stephen Loyd, Dr. Susan Bane, Dr. Dawn O'Malley, and Dr. Brandynicole Brooks. The 95 participants were able to hear from and ask questions of our speakers, meet with our exhibitors, and learn and grow from each other.



We are thankful for the funding provided by NC DHHS Division of Mental Health and Kate B. Reynolds for supporting this conference. Conference Sponsors: Coalition for Addiction Recovery Education (C.A.R.E), Wilson County Substance Prevention Coalition (WCSPC), and the Duke Endowment



Congratulations to **Jason Harrell** and **Judy Bullock** on your retirements and thank you for your years of service!



DR. MIKE JOHNSON
UNC HEALTH NASH

AHEC DIGITAL LIBRARY



Need help with finding medical information, planning a research project, or simply getting oriented with AHEC library services and resources? Contact **Monique Mackey**, Director of Library/Information Services at Area L AHEC.

YEARS OF SERVICE

To The Team!



5
YEARS

Michaela Hamm, MHS, CHES
Director – Statewide Projects & Student Services

PRACTICE SUPPORT SERVICES



- **Do you need assistance with Fee & Revenue analysis** to compare your current fee schedule and private payer reimbursement to current Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) rates?

If you answered “yes” then we have a tool for you! This tool can be used to collect & analyze data on private insurance reimbursement rates to assist you with contract negotiations! Contact us today for more information.

- **Merit Incentive Payment System (MIPS)** eligibility for the 2024 performance year will be updated based on the June 30th **Alternative Payment Model (APM) snapshot** (snapshot 2). Note: Qualifying APM Participant (QP) determinations and MIPS APM participation information will be available on the **QPP Participation Status Tool**.

- **Calendar Year 2025 Medicare PFS Proposed Rule:** Average payment rates under the PFS are **proposed to be reduced by 2.93% in CY 2025** compared to the average amount these services are being paid for most of CY 2024. The change to the PFS conversion factor incorporates the 0.00 percent overall update required by statute, the expiration of the 2.93% increase in payment for CY 2024 required by statute, and a relatively small estimated 0.05% adjustment necessary to account for changes in work relative value units (RVUs) for some services. **This amounts to a proposed estimated CY 2025 PFS conversion factor of \$32.36, a decrease of \$0.93 (or 2.80%) from the current CY 2024 conversion factor of \$33.29.**

- **Making Care Primary (MCP) Toolkit:** Are you participating in MCP? We have a toolkit to assist you/your practice in track 1, 2, or 3! Contact us today for more information and use of the tool. Becky.dixon@arealahec.org or Shannon.cambra@arealahec.org.

- **Office of National Coordinator (ONC) Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Patient Engagement, Information Sharing, and Public Health Interoperability (HTI-2) Proposed Rule:** Implements provisions of the **21st Century Cures Act** and reflects ONC's focused efforts **to advance interoperability and improve information sharing among patients, providers, payers, and public health authorities. Key proposals include:**
 - Two sets of new certification criteria, designed to enable health IT for public health as well as health IT for payers to be certified under the ONC Health IT Certification Program. Both sets of certification criteria focus heavily on standards-based application programming interfaces to improve end-to-end interoperability between data exchange partners.
 - Technology and standards updates that build on the **HTI-1 final rule**, ranging from the capability to exchange clinical images to the addition of multi-factor authentication support.

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.

Scan QR Code To Apply



Contact us for FREE assistance!

WELCOME ABOARD

BECKY DIXON

PRACTICE SUPPORT CONSULTANT



Contact us (Vice President & Director Practice Support Activities & CPD 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!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

ONLINE, SELF-PACED EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Bridging the Gap: Health Literacy and Equity Across the Lifespan - Sept. 1

CGWEP: Falls Prevention Awareness: Advanced Training for Home Health Aides

Embracing Compassion: Understanding Substance Use Disorders

Adoptando la Compasión: Entendiendo los Trastornos por Consumo de Sustancias

Finding Your Zone: Mindfulness Practices for the Healthcare Workforce

The Growing Threat of Xylazine: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know

Healthy Opportunities Pilot: Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences for Care Managers

Healthy Opportunities Pilot for the Care Manager: Understanding the Medical Respite Cross Domain Service

North Carolina's Guide to Diabetes Prevention and Management

A Whole-Person Approach to Recovery

LIVE WEBINARS

Viral Hepatitis Deeper Dive for Non-Prescribers
Aug. 16

Substance Abuse Trends in School-Age Students: What Nurses Need to Know for Assessment and Intervention
Sep. 25

Trauma-Informed Care for Addressing Intimate Partner Violence
Oct. 29

QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR MYAHEC ACCOUNT?



Scan QR Code To Access FAQ Guide
Or Visit www.arealahec.org/faq/

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

IN-PERSON

Trauma-Informed Schools: Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences & Improving Student Well-Being Through Resilience-Building Practices
Aug. 13

Prevención, Intervención Breve y Referencia al Tratamiento (SBIRT)
**Debe vivir/trabajar en el condado de Wilson para registrarse*
Aug. 28-29

Falls Reduction Strategies for Older Adults
Sep. 11

***OSHA Laws: Annual Fall Bloodborne Pathogens and Hazcom Update**
Sep. 20

***Substance Use Disorders and the Neurobiology of Addiction**
Oct. 1

ACEs and Substance Abuse Conference
Oct. 10

***33rd Annual Wilson Medical Center Pharmacy CE Symposium**
Nov. 13 & 14

Scan QR Code



Continuing Education
Calendar

*Live Webinar Available

HEALTH CAREERS | AHEC SCHOLARS

This past January, our AHEC Scholars participated in an inaugural weekend retreat designed for them to earn 20 hours of didactic material. During this weekend, Scholars gathered to learn from local experts about the eight core topics that are a part of the AHEC Scholars curriculum - behavioral health integration, cultural competency, social determinants of health, telehealth and virtual learning, interprofessional education, practice transformation, current and emerging health issues, and connecting communities and supporting health professionals - and how they are demonstrated from a regional perspective. Students participated in interprofessional learning, hands-on activities, and engaged with local healthcare professionals from within our region.

Cohort 5 Graduates!

Congratulations to our Cohort 5 AHEC Scholars graduates! Over the past two years, Cohort 5 Scholars have completed 80 hours of didactic training on health-related topics and 80 hours of clinical/experiential learning in an interprofessional, rural setting. The experience as an AHEC Scholar has given students a chance to interact with healthcare professionals, build their networks, enhance their competencies, and see an inside look at multiple health careers.



Congrats to our 12 graduating Scholars:

Addison Schneider
Asia Reddick-Baker
Aziah Grier
Chrystal Wilcox
Gracie Bean
Kloe Martin

Madelaina Underwood
Megan Henthorn
Miranda Holmes
Nathan Metcalf
Ronnie Robinson
Sherica Cox



HEALTH CAREERS | PATHWAY HIGHLIGHTS

Pathway programs are designed to introduce students from rural and/or underserved communities to a variety of health professions. Our aim is to inspire and provide students with insights into these professions, encouraging students to consider them as potential future careers. Take a look at just a few of our summer Pathway highlights!

- **Classrooms2Careers** - Area L AHEC partnered with UNC Health Nash Hospital to offer a day-long experience for high school students in Nash County to explore health careers within a hospital setting. Thirteen students toured multiple departments, such as surgical services and radiology, engaged with healthcare professionals, and participated in hands-on activities – even learning skills needed in robotic surgery!
- **Emergency Med Day** - Over 40 students visited Area L AHEC in June to learn about careers in emergency medicine! Students were trained in Stop the Bleed, toured an ambulance with a community paramedic from Wilson County EMS, and heard from our very own former trauma nurse and Director of Nursing and Interdisciplinary CPD, Patty Collins.
- **Health Careers Academy** - Through a partnership with Edgecombe Community College (ECC), 20 students in Edgecombe County participated in a weeklong health sciences enrichment camp hosted at ECC June 10th-14th. Throughout the week, students learned about health-related degree programs available at ECC, participated in anatomy and physiology lectures, earned multiple certifications, and visited ECU Health Edgecombe hospital!
- **Summer Health Careers Boot Camp** - Area L AHEC partnered with ECU Health North Hospital to offer a day-long experience for 31 high school students in Halifax and Northampton Counties. Students participated in Stop the Bleed and CPR training, visited the hospital lab, watched a helicopter landing, and listened in on a panel discussion with various health professionals.

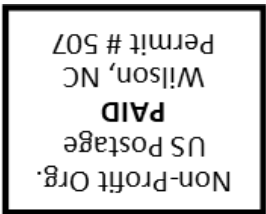


**Health Careers 101:
A Zoom Series
(September -
December 2024)**

Beginning in September, a monthly webinar will be held to showcase the various career paths within health care and local opportunities. Each month, one career path will be highlighted by a local healthcare professional! To learn more, visit our website to see upcoming events and details.



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Events



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