

Memorandum

To: House and Senate Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services
House and Senate Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Education
From: Hugh H Tilson, Jr., JD, MPH, Executive Director, NC AHEC Program
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Subj: Annual Report – Rural Interprofessional Teaching Hubs

This Memorandum serves as the initial Annual Report on activities authorized pursuant to SECTION 8.4.(a) of SL 2023-134 which provides funding for development and operation of up to five rural interprofessional teaching hubs hereafter referred to as “rural hubs”.

The provision requires NC AHEC to report on:

- (1) The identity of the community-based medical teaching practices receiving Funds.
- (2) An analysis of the financial impact of providing these services on a community-based medical teaching practice.
- (3) The impact of the teaching sites on
 - (i) the learning and success of students and
 - (ii) the health and well-being of the respective service areas for each site.

We are grateful for the General Assembly’s commitment to the education of our future healthcare workforce and to entrusting NC AHEC with deploying these funds to develop and support the rural interprofessional teaching of medical students, physician assistant students, and nurse practitioner students.

(1) The identity of the community-based medical teaching practices receiving Funds.

In consultation with the NC Academy of Family Physicians, the NC Pediatric Society, the NC Nurses Association, the NC Association of Physician Assistants, and the NC Office of Rural Health, we developed a request for proposals and received 15 competitive applications. Members of the aforementioned organizations reviewed the applications utilizing a standardized review rubric in partnership with NC AHEC to identify the five best applications, ensuring at least one in the eastern, central, and western areas of the state. We also considered the type of practice (private, community health center, free clinic, pediatrics only, family medicine), and the strengths of the interprofessional practice and learning environments. All

applicants had to be rural and demonstrate a commitment for partnership with at least one school of medicine and at least one nurse practitioner or physician assistant program. The selected grantee sites are:

Western:

- Atrium Health Foundation (Clinics in Stanly, Cleveland, and Randolph Counties, possibly Rutherford and Anson Counties)

Central:

- Campbell University Community Care Clinic (Harnett County)
- Sandhills Pediatrics (Moore County)

Eastern:

- Englehard Medical Center (Hyde County, Dare County)
- Roanoke Chowan Community Health Center (Hertford County)

Selected grantee sites were notified on March 8, 2023 and we have a webinar meeting scheduled with them on April 9, 2023 to review the specifics of budget, contract, programmatic development, and deliverables. We plan to have contracts executed no later than June 30, 2023 so the hubs can begin training students next academic year.

(2) An analysis of the financial impact of providing these services on a community-based medical teaching practice.

At this time we have no analysis of the financial impact of providing these services. Selected grantee sites committed in their proposal to provide this information on an annual basis. We will have information to report in our next Annual Report.

(3) The impact of the teaching sites on

(i) the learning and success of students and

(ii) the health and well-being of the respective service areas for each site.

At this time we have no analysis of these impacts available. Selected grantee sites committed in their proposal to provide this information on an annual basis. We will have information to report in our next Annual Report.

Again, thank you for your support of the education of our future healthcare workforce and for entrusting NC AHEC with deploying these funds to develop and support the rural interprofessional teaching of medical students, physician assistant students, and nurse practitioner students. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.