Here’s the latest news about the VHWDA Grant

**National Rural Health**

**NRHA Rural Quality and Clinical Conference** - Register now! Early rates before June 23rd are $269 for members and $369 for non-members. >> Read More

**The Value Transformation of Rural Health Care** - Clint Mackinney, MD and Jennifer Lundblad, PhD, MBA discuss their project for the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy called Rural Health Systems Analysis and Technical Assistance (RHSATA). At the following link you can view their analysis of the organization, finance, and health care delivery of rural areas. Discover how we can transition to a high performance rural health system >> Read More

**Surgical Robot Costs Bind Small Hospitals** - Memorial Hospital, a critical access hospital in Douglas, Wyo., offers da Vinci robotic surgery as an option for a routine hysterectomy. Dr. Brian Retherford recently operated on a patient who traveled six hours for that service. Executives at Memorial expect to have about 100 robotic surgeries a year, which is far below the volume needed for viable financial return. However, the pricey equipment is already attracting new patients. >> Read More

**Miserable Doctors Prescribe a Different Career** - NPR - A growing number of physicians say that becoming a doctor is not really all it’s cracked up to be. The Daily Beast recently reported that many doctors are discouraging others from joining the profession. Dr. Stephen Happy Spring!

Every May, the citizens of Winchester VA celebrate the start of Spring with our annual Apple Blossom Festival. This year we celebrated for the 87th year. Below - Shenandoah University School of Nursing Staff and Faculty showed our spirit by wearing the signature Apple Blossom colors - pink and green!

*SON Staff and Faculty Top photo* L to R: SON Dean- Kathy Ganske, Jana Mangubat, Joseli Hagemann, Kamie MacRae, Kathleen Quarles, Rosalie Lewis, Adriana Myers, Marty Mullins, & Lyn Bacha.

*Midwifery Staff and Program Director Bottom left* L to R: Program Director Juliana Fehr & Joseli Hagemann. *Bottom right* L to R: Joseli Hagemann, baby Jaxon Myers, Adriana Myers, & Juliana Fehr
Schimpff, author and former CEO of University of Maryland Medical Center, and Dr. Marilyn McPherson-Codor, pediatrician and professor of pediatrics at Howard University and University of Maryland, discuss the frustrations of providing care.

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Advances in Health IT Adoption and Use in the Safety Net - Federally funded centers have been adopting Electronic Health Records (EHRs) to treat at-risk, impoverished communities since the enactment of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. Health IT can be used to improve care quality. HRSA and ONC are working to ensure that all providers adopt and use EHRs. The digital divide, or disparity between groups of people regarding IT, is particularly concerning.

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Our First Objective: Develop Curriculum
Our curriculum is finalized, and we will begin the admissions process for entry in Fall 2014!

We continue to place emphasis on the Health Informatics Certificate. This certificate allows any baccalaureate prepared health professional (OT, PT, PA, Psych, RN, etc.) to develop the ability to create distance education courses, e-portfolios, geographic information systems (GIS), Electronic Health Records (EHRs), health geared educational gaming programs, etc. Nurses that have a desire to teach, but do not want to leave their clinical careers, can take this 12 credit certificate and then teach one or two distance courses a week. The Health Informatics Certificate will empower health professionals to contribute to the workforce clinically AND academically. Please contact amyers@su.edu if you are interested in enrolling in the Nursing Faculty Residency Program or the Health Informatics Certificate.

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Medicare May Raise Pay to Health Clinics - The U.S. Medicare program will increase payments to nonprofit community health clinics by as much as $1.3 billion under a new reimbursement system through Obamacare. Over 3800 clinics will benefit from this change, which will raise Medicare payments by about a third. These clinics serve mostly low-income patients in communities with limited health care options. A high amount of support comes from federal grants. These clinics are “essential to countless patients in local communities who depend on them.”

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Rural HIV patients linked to Medical Care - Mike Murphree, exec. Director of Medical AIDS Outreach met with the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership in Washington D.C. on April 30th to discuss policy issues facing patients. He has discussed the telemedicine program through MAO that links rural HIV-specific primary care clinics to providers at permanent clinics, offering access to patients in rural and distant locations. Read the original story.

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Rural Hospitals Face Tough Choices about Computerized Records - Montana - Adopting Electronic Medical Record
Systems is one of the biggest challenges faced by American hospitals. It is highly expensive, and requires a significant amount of staff time - making it especially tough for the “country’s 2,000 rural and small town hospitals”. Rural hospitals are usually tightly budgeted and personnel with IT skills can be difficult to find outside urban areas. Many small hospitals are turning to bigger institutions for help. See how rural health workers are dealing with this issue.

Accessing Mental Health Care in Rural Areas - There are still major issues surrounding those living with mental illness, despite the ongoing changes from the Affordable Care Act. This is particularly true in rural areas, where there is a significant lack of mental health care access. The rural rates of depression, and rates of suicide are significantly higher than those in urban areas. A major obstacle is that of travel and wait times, as well as lack of psychiatrists, and medication management resources. In many cases, there are no alternative resources for patients. Could walk-in centers or telehealth be the answer? >> Read More

10 Alabama Hospitals have closed in 3 Years - Part of this “can be blamed on long-term and ongoing national trends where outpatient treatments, better technology and other factors reduce expensive inpatient stays.” However, budgets are under pressure due to health care reforms, Medicare cuts, lack of Medicaid expansion, etc. This is also forcing hospitals to close, especially those in rural areas. Glenn Sisk, CEO of Coosa Valley Medical Center, said the 3 biggest factors stressing hospitals are - no Medicaid expansion, Medicare cuts to hospitals, and low wages which determine Medicare reimbursement rates. >> Read More

Study: Rural Doctors Earn More - Dr. Porcia Love, from Montgomery Dermatology in Alabama says she has a lot of patients, and always expects to be busy. Montgomery has a shortage of dermatologists, whereas a lot of urban areas are saturated. Therefore, a rather interesting trend has surfaced: rural

Our Second Objective: Develop Placement Plans
Thank you to the following collaborators:
- University of Virginia School of Nursing
- James Madison University Division of Nursing
- Radford University School of Nursing
- Valley Health Winchester Medical Center
- Our Health Inc.
- GeoHealth Innovations, Inc.
- Shenandoah Valley Workforce Investment Board
- Winchester Frederick County Virginia EDC
- Shenandoah Valley Partnership
- Birth Matters VA

The Schools of Nursing at UVA, JMU, Radford, Valley Health and Our Health plan to accept residents from our Nursing Faculty Residency Program in experiences that will resemble “student-teaching”. This will allow our students to gain hands on experience. Our other collaborators - GeoHealth Innovations, SVWIB, Winchester Frederick EDC, SVP, and Birth Matters will act as resources for our students. They will assist in their research projects and provide funding for our
Physicians tend to make more money on average than those in major cities. The Southeast, specifically, has one of the highest average doctor salaries in the nation. ➤ Read More

**Virginia Rural Health**

**Medicaid Rallies Draw Fiery Crowds** - In Ashburn, three Republican delegates stood in their opposition to the expansion of Medicaid in VA, despite a hostile, relentless audience who lobbied in favor of extending the health care program to cover more than 400,000 Virginians. The event was organized by a conservative political action group and invited only Republican lawmakers to attend and lead the forum. If this dispute between lawmakers continues, the “state government would likely shut down in July” - Read More

**Lion’s Den on Medicaid Expansion** - Medicaid expansion is holding up the Virginia budget, and “should be talked about on its own merits”, according to Del. Dickie Bell. The state budget has not yet been approved and the Medicaid expansion issue is not one that will be easily resolved. Dr. Joe Ranzini, a surgeon at Augusta Health and chairman on quality and patient safety, is pro-expansion. In addition to “closing the gap for 400,000 Virginians”, he believes it would also provide more revenue for the hospital. A recent poll showed that 53 percent of Virginians oppose expansion. ➤ Read More

**Mental Health Law** - Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe signed a bill that targets gaps in Virginia’s patchwork mental health network. He has renewed his commitment to funding and improving public mental health services. “We have a long, long way to go” the governor said. Senator Deeds’ son Gus Deeds had been released from emergency custody 13 hours before he stabbed his father and killed himself. He had been released because his clinician was not able to find a hospital where he could undergo further psychiatric evaluation. The absence of protocols and communication leads to these missteps with tragic outcomes. ➤ Read More

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**Our Third Objective: Conduct Research**

Our Community Based Participatory Research Interviews have been completed and the Manuscript will be submitted to the VA Engage Journal by June 30th, 2014!

Community-based participatory research is a "collaborative approach to research that equitably involves all partners in the research process and recognizes the unique strengths that each brings. CBPR begins with a research topic of importance to the community, has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change to improve health outcomes and eliminate health disparities."

Our topic is “stakeholders’ perceptions” of community-campus partnerships. We want to know if collaborative partnerships prove to meet our goals!

Thank you to all of our participants! Your feedback has been so beneficial.

**Our Fourth Objective: To submit a proposal to funding agencies for permanent implementation.**

If you have any funding suggestions please contact amyers@su.edu.

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**Health Professions Building**

Home to the Nursing Faculty Residency Program - More photos from the Health Professions Building construction ➤ Blog
International News!

The White Ribbon Alliance

WRA Uganda Petitions Government on Childbirth Related Deaths - Risks include unreliable power supply, poor referral system, shortage of water sources, understaffing and low funding. In a petition, the body urged officials to provide adequate funds to the health sector, which would improve status outcomes and help to provide emergency obstetric and newborn care. >> Read More

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- May 2013

Click the following link to visit our Webpage about the Nursing Faculty Residency Program!

If you have any questions or concerns about the VHWDA Grant or if you would like to unsubscribe from these newsletters please contact >> amyers@su.edu.