



## RRPD Grantee Newsletter July 2022

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### Thank You, Cohort 1!

RRPD is saying goodbye to several programs in Cohort 1 at the end of July. A big congratulations to Bayhealth Medical Center, Cahaba Medical Care Foundation, The Cherokee Nation, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Mercy Foundation, Otero County Hospital, Sutter Valley Hospitals, and Watauga Medical Center. Since 2019 the first cohort has created sustainable and thriving residency programs across 21 states. They have matched 145 residents. We are so proud of all that Cohort 1 has accomplished!

If you are one of the departing programs from Cohort 1 you will receive an exit survey soon.

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### Coming Soon: Cohort 4!

We're looking forward to welcoming a new cohort of RRPD grantees in August!

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### Recent Webinars



Program Implementation | Specialty: Family Medicine Only | Type: Webinar Or Presentation



### **Rural Program Development through a Community Health Center and Academic Medical Partnership: Outcomes 4 years Post-Implementation**

Rural Program Development through a Community Health Center and Academic Medical Partnership: Outcomes 4 years Post-Implementation (slides). Presented by Gaby Castro and Caroline Roberts. May 2022

On May 10, 2022 Dr. Caroline Roberts and Dr. Gaby Castro facilitated a webinar regarding "Rural Program Development through a Community Health Center and Academic Medical Partnership: Outcomes 4 years Post-Implementation." On June 14, 2022 HRSA facilitated a webinar on performance reporting. On July 12, 2022 there were 68 attendees for the "Creating and Sustaining Rural Residency Tracks in General Surgery and OB/GYN" webinar facilitated by Dr. Ryan Spencer and Dr. Ann O'Rourke.

The slides, and recording of the webinars are available in the [RuralGME toolbox](#).

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## **2022 Annual Meeting**

The Grantee Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 31-September 1, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois. Registration is available now, so please visit the [2022 Grantee Annual Meeting](#) website and click the "Register Here" button under RRPD Annual Meeting. Note that the registration deadline is Monday, August 15, 2022. We will not accept late registrations or onsite registrations, but we encourage substitutions if a registrant is unable to attend. Although only the project director (i.e., principal investigator) from your grant program must attend the Annual Meeting, we are happy to accommodate more individuals from your program. In addition to project directors, we encourage attendance by residency coordinators, reimbursement and finance officers, CFOs, program faculty, support staff, and DIOs. There is no fee to attend the conference.

The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile located at 633 North Saint Clair Street, Chicago, Illinois. The RRPD Annual Meeting will begin at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, and will end on Thursday, September 1, 2022, at 1 p.m. The full agenda will be shared with you soon.

If you have not already done so, please make your hotel reservation now using this [link](#). Please make your reservation now, and do not book outside of the room block. It is essential that we meet our room block for our contract. Booking early means we may be able to expand the room block if needed. The closer we get to the conference date, the less availability the hotel may have, and we may not be able to expand the room block to accommodate late registrants. Don't delay, book today!



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## **Important Dates**

### **Upcoming Webinars**

8/9/22 - The Untapped Potential of Mental Health GME Training through the Collaborative Care Model and ECHO Programs - 12-1pm Eastern, 9-10am Pacific  
Please register for the webinar [here](#).

### **Annual Meeting**

8/31/22-9/1/22 - 2022 RRPD Annual Meeting - Chicago, IL.  
Please register for the meeting [here](#).

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## Grantee Program Profile



**Program:** Washington State University  
**Institution:** Washington State University  
**Rural Location:** Pullman, WA

### **What are some of the strengths and/or accomplishments of your program?**

As the Family Medicine residency program in Pullman begins recruitment of its first residency class, WSU is proud of the steps taken to develop exceptional family medicine physicians who are ideally suited for rural practice. WSU Pullman Family Medicine physicians will provide comprehensive care for patients throughout their continuum of life, lead multidisciplinary teams within a patient-centered care model, serve diverse populations in rural communities, and embrace lifelong learning with a continual growth mindset.

### **What barriers have you had to overcome in developing your program and how did you overcome them?**

Launching a stand-alone residency program in a rural critical access hospital is challenging as resources for training, both clinical and financial, are limited. As the program is developed, careful consideration and planning were done to overcome these challenges. The community has overwhelmingly supported the program by helping ensure that the residents are fully integrated in the care experience at Pullman Regional Hospital. Additionally, relationships were developed to secure additional pediatric training at a nearby children's hospital. While the program has secured startup funds through grants, the community has been very gracious with philanthropic contributions to provide long term financial sustainability.

### **Describe the area you serve and what appeals to you most about the location.**

With all the charms of a small town but the advantages of a major university and state-of-the-art medical services, Pullman is the ideal place to practice medicine. Residents will learn to excel as rural physicians who manage their patients' full spectrum of healthcare needs. Additional highlights include training at an unopposed critical access hospital where residents will have ample opportunities to experience the full range of family medicine practice, a high faculty-to-resident ratio means trainees get abundant one-on-one mentoring, extensive emergency department training, exposure to collegiate athletes in sports medicine rotations, and opportunity to help shape a new residency program.

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## Grantee Program Profile



**Program:** Family Medicine Rural Training Track  
**Institution:** Conway Regional Health System  
**Rural Location:** Dardanelle, AR

### **What are some of the strengths and/or accomplishments of your program?**

The Conway Regional Family Medicine Rural Training Track is a three-year training program focused on preparing residents to practice family medicine in rural or underserved areas through the development of their skills as physicians and healthcare leaders. The first year of training is spent in an urban setting in Conway, Arkansas, with the remaining years being spent in a rural setting in Dardanelle, Arkansas.

To date, most of our efforts focused on program development and ACGME accreditation. The program received accreditation on October 25, 2021, and our subsequent efforts have shifted to recruiting the first class of residents who will begin their training in July 2023.

**What barriers have you had to overcome in developing your program and how did you overcome them?**

Throughout the country we are experiencing a healthcare provider shortage. This is certainly true with regard to physicians. As we work to develop our Rural Training Track, ensuring that adequate rotations exist on a long-term basis can at times present challenges and requires creativity.

The COVID-19 pandemic also underscored the need for expanded telemedicine services. Significant efforts are underway to enhance technology at both the urban training site, Conway Regional Medical Center, and the rural training site, Dardanelle Regional Medical Center, to accommodate expanded telemedicine services to reach a greater number of urban and rural patients. The efforts will enhance the ability of the residents to collaborate with other members of the medical staff and prepare residents to provide care to patients through telemedicine services in accordance with current health care delivery techniques.

**Describe the area you serve and what appeals to you most about the location.**

Dardanelle, Arkansas is a small town with a population of 4,561 and is an under-served rural population in need of primary care.

Future residents participating in the rural training track program will receive one-year of initial training at Conway Regional Medical Center, a 180-bed, not-for-profit health care system that has provided high-quality, compassionate care to residents in central and north central Arkansas for more than 100 years.

Residents will then be immersed in rural health care at Dardanelle Regional Medical Center in Dardanelle, Arkansas, for the remaining two years of their residency training. Dardanelle Regional Medical Center is a 35-bed, critical access hospital that has been providing much-needed health care services to Arkansas River Valley communities since 1965.

Dardanelle Regional has received community recognition from statewide press, highlighting our family medicine residency program and our ability to bring, and retain, physicians to the area.

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## Interested in Sharing About Your Program?

We'd love for you to share your tips and tricks that have worked for your program with other grantees. If you are interested in facilitating one of the monthly webinars, please email [info@ruralgme.org](mailto:info@ruralgme.org). Hearing from other grantees is beneficial to all of our programs.

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### EASTERN U.S. HUB

[Dr. Cristen Page, MD MPH welcomes the HRSA RRPD Grant Recipients](#)

### WESTERN U.S. HUB

[Dr. Frederick Chen, MD MPH of the University of Washington School of Medicine introduces the Western Hub team](#)

### CENTRAL U.S. HUB

[Dr. Randall Longenecker, MD introduces the Central Hub](#)



Technical Assistance Center  
Rural Residency Planning and Development Program



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