



RRPD Grantee Newsletter
July 2021

Annual Meeting Registration

The Annual Meeting is going to be held virtually August 12-13, 2021 from 12:45 pm-5 pm Eastern, 9:45 am-2 pm Pacific. The Zoom link will be provided upon registration. Please register [here](#).

Recent Webinar



Program Design and Development | Specialty: Psychiatry Only | Type: Webinar Or Presentation

Integration of Rural Psychiatry and Family Medicine Residency Training

RRPD-TAC webinar (recording) presented by Arunditi Xantus, MD from University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Tyler

On May 11, 2021 Arunditi Xantus, MD led a webinar called "Integration of Rural Psychiatry and Family Medicine Residency Training." There were 48 participants in the webinar, who learned about Dr. Xantus's work at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Tyler, and the collaborations between of rural residency programs in Northeast Texas. A recording of the webinar can be found in the [RuralGME toolbox](#).

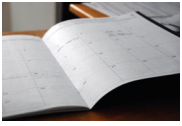
Recent Presentations

Members of the Technical Assistance Center have presented at numerous conferences this year about the RRPD program. The virtual NRHA presentations can be found at the following links.

- [Community Characteristics of HRSA's Rural Residency Program Grantees](#). Presentation at NRHA Annual Rural Health Conference.
- [Rural Residency Development: Evaluation of Program Readiness](#). Presentation at NRHA Annual Rural Health Conference.

The presentation slides for presentations at the STFM and SGIM conferences can be found at the following links:

- [Barriers and Solutions for Developing and Sustaining Rural Residency Programs](#). Presentation at STFM Annual Spring Conference.
- [Rural Residency Program Development](#). Presentation at SGIM Annual Meeting



Important Dates

Upcoming Webinars

Second Tuesday of every month, 12-1pm Eastern, 9-10 am Pacific

8/10/21 - No webinar

9/14/21 - Update from ACGME: Rural Track Program Designation - 12-1pm Eastern, 9-10am Pacific
Please register for the webinar [here](#).

Virtual Annual Meeting

August 12-13, 2021

Please register for the meeting [here](#).

Grantee Program Profile



Program: Baystate Franklin Medical Center

Institution: Baystate Franklin Medical Center

Rural Location: Greenfield, MA

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

We are moving forward with developing our Family Medicine Residency and are excited about building a new program from the 'ground up'! We will be focusing on providing skills to serve our rural population from primary medical and behavioral health care to performing common women's health, dermatologic and musculoskeletal procedures. A strength has been the enthusiasm expressed for this program by the community and our local hospital medical staff, who will be involved with our educational program.

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

Building a 'teaching health center' has been a struggle. Our original plans for new construction were too ambitious in the face of COVID budget restrictions. To address these financial concerns, we were able to locate adequate space adjacent to the family medicine office that will be renovated to meet the RRC requirements. The renovation costs are still significant but have been acknowledged by our hospital and we are working with our Foundation for local community fund-raising efforts.

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

Franklin County is in the northwestern corner of Massachusetts, bordering on southern Vermont. Our population is an interesting mix of farmers, laborers and some professional people who commute an hour to work at the University of Massachusetts or the City of Springfield. We have an aging population and unfortunately have the distinction of being highlighted in an Anthony Bourdain 'Parts Unknown' episode about the local substance abuse epidemic that is gripping rural areas like ours. The area is beautiful with hiking and biking trails, lakes and mountains. We hope to attract and train the next generation of providers to care for our community.

Grantee Program Profile



Program: Sierra Nevada Family Medicine Residency Program

Institution: Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital/ Dignity Health Methodist Hospital of Sacramento

Rural Location: Grass Valley, CA

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

We are an integrated rural training track, 1:2 program based out of the Dignity Health Methodist Hospital of Sacramento Family Medicine Residency Program. Residents will complete their intern year at Methodist Hospital and Mercy Family Medical Clinic in Sacramento, CA. In their second and third years, residents will train in the beautiful, historic town of Grass Valley, CA. We are a close knit community with a unique partnership between our community owned hospital, Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital and our continuity clinic site, a tribal-health clinic, Chapa-De Indian Health. The diversity of the patient population being treated by our urban site and our rural site is a large strength of our program. At the urban site we treat first generation families that immigrated or arrived as refugees from the foothills of the Himalayas. At our rural site we treat seventh generation immigrant families and local Native Americans from the foothills of the Sierra Nevada who have a deep relationship with our local rural community. Our community is strongly supportive, very few rural communities have this array of assets, and it represents fertile soil for growing our own high quality rural family medicine physicians.

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

Both the hospital and continuity clinic are naïve to graduate medical education. Thankfully, the leadership of both sites has understood the impact a high quality family residency program can have on our community and is helping us to overcome the fears of a novel program. Regular ongoing communication between the administrations with physician champions working at both facilities have helped us to keep making positive progress. The access to our leadership and their personal investment in our community is very strong. We had our ACGME virtual site visit in June of this year, so plan to register with NRMP for the match as soon as the RC gives us the good news in October of this year allowing for 2 amazing residents to start in July of 2022.

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

Our program is located in the Sierra Foothills of Northern California in a rural community that embraces its history as the “jewel of the gold country.” The community is moving into the future with a growing agricultural and eco-tourist culture given its natural beauty and multiple outdoor recreational opportunities, including the nearby Tahoe National Forest and the scenic 5 mile trail loop abutting our continuity clinic, one of hundreds of miles of beautiful trails in our scenic Nevada County. While we live among lush oak, cedar and pine forests, we are an easy 60 minute drive to the state capitol, allowing for participation in healthcare advocacy as well as quick access to an international airport and vibrant food scene.

Grantee Program Profile



Program: Adventist Health Sonora Family Medicine Residency Program
Institution: Adventist Health Hanford
Rural Location: Sonora, CA

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

- Engaged medical staff at both base institution and rural site
- Supportive administration at both base institution and rural site
- Pre-existing ACGME accredited Sponsoring Institution and base Family Medicine program with no citations
- Scholarly activity involvement of residents in the base program to develop curriculum for the RTT.

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

The COVID-19 pandemic stretched the attention of senior leadership. To address this we implemented bi-weekly one page project updates so they can quickly see accomplishments, where we may be behind, and what is next in the timeline.

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

Adventist Health Sonora is the only hospital in Tuolumne County and serves approximately 100,000 residents who live in Calaveras and Tuolumne County, both of which are located in California’s Foothills and designated as rural. Sonora is the county seat of Tuolumne County and is in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Foothills. It is a short distance to Yosemite National Park. The region is surrounded by lush trees, agriculture, and Native American reservations. What is most appealing about this location is the nature readily available to anyone with a love of the outdoors.

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. Hearing from other grantees is beneficial to all of our

programs.

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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