



RRPD Grantee Newsletter
January 2022

Pre-Conference at RTT-Collaborative

Our partners, the RTT Collaborative, in conjunction with our TAC will be hosting an optional Rural Residency Planning and Development Pre-Conference at the RTT Collaborative Annual Meeting on Wednesday April 27th 2-5 pm PST prior to the RTT-Collaborative Annual Meeting at the [Skamania Lodge](#) in Stevenson, Washington, April 27-29. Attendance at the RTT Collaborative Annual Meeting and/or Pre-Conference is not mandatory per HRSA's RRPD grant program, but we encourage you to attend to network with other RRPD grantees. For more information about your HRSA RRPD program requirements, please contact your HRSA Project Officer.

- If you'd like to attend this optional pre-conference, please register [here](#) by April 1, 2022.
 - If you are planning to attend the RTT Collaborative Annual Meeting, you will need to register by April 1, 2022 too separately at this [link](#).
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Recent Webinars



On November 16, Chris Salyers, DHSc of the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health presented on "Engaging State Offices of Rural Health in Support of Graduate Medical Education" for RRPD grantees. On December 14, Wari Allison, MD, PhD presented about the Rural Telementoring Training Center. On January 11, Ryan Spencer, MD, MS facilitated a session on "Recruiting and Training Health Professionals for Tribal Communities: A Crossroads of Rural Health Care."

The recordings for these webinars are available in the [RuralGME toolbox](#).



Important Dates

Upcoming Webinars

2/8/22 - Impact of CMS Rule Changes on Rural GME - 12-1pm Eastern, 9-10am Pacific
Please register for the webinar [here](#).

Grantee Program Profile



Program: University of Texas Health Science Center At Tyler

Institution: University of Texas Health Science Center At Tyler

Rural Location (City, State): Pittsburg, TX

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

Although we just had our first resident class year start in July 2021, we filled our class through the match with four of our top candidates, and they have been meeting or surpassing their expected milestones for a PGY1!

One big strength of the program is the camaraderie our residents have with not only each other but also with the urban residents and faculty. Another strength is the diverse underserved locations our residents work which provide excellent educational experiences while also meeting a serious need within the community.

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

A couple of months before the rural program's first class was scheduled to start, there were leadership shifts that led to me becoming the rural program director. Luckily, the faculty member who was serving in this role, Dr. Xantus, became the director of the Tyler program, so we have been able to work as a team to overcome the challenges that face any new program. We are lucky to have experienced faculty like Dr. Xantus as well as outstanding support staff such as our new rural coordinator, Yvonne, and our experienced program manager, Cindy. One specific barrier we have faced as a new program is finding psychiatry faculty in a rural environment. The field of psychiatry is lacking in rural environments, which is why our program is so important. To help rectify this issue, we have shifted the rotations that need an on-site provider to second and third year to take advantage of the established rotations the Tyler program learns from during their first year. Fortunately, some of our graduating Tyler residents have expressed interest in joining the rural program as faculty, which will greatly reduce our issue of finding on-site providers for all rotations.

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

Pittsburg, Texas lies in the piney woods of Northeast Texas approximately 120 miles east of Dallas and 60 miles north of the urban program in Tyler. With a population of around 4500, the community of Pittsburg provides both a cultural and socioeconomic diversity with a large proportion living below the poverty line. The appeal of this location for residents is the "small town" experience. People truly seem to care about each other and have a very strong sense of community. The appeal is even greater for me because I grew up in the neighboring town of Mt. Pleasant. I have enjoyed returning to the area to begin developing many potential co-sites for our third-year clinics, neurology, and consult services. To my knowledge, when I lived

there, there was only one private practice psychiatrist within a 50-mile radius of Pittsburg/Mt. Pleasant. To be able to start this program and provide my hometown and the surrounding community with the help it needs and to help stop the stigma associated with mental health is a very rewarding experience.

Grantee Program Profile



Program: Beebe Medical Center

Institution: Beebe Healthcare

Rural Location (City, State): Lewes, DE

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

Beebe's focus is on creating a culture of medical education. We currently have a strong, dedicated and passionate Graduate Medical Education team who are striving and working hard to build a comprehensive and high-quality family medicine residency program. There is a high level of interest and excitement from the medical staff and exceptional support from within the community. We have a robust faculty development program to help prepare our faculty to learn best practices of medical education. The faculty moderator has extensive expertise and knowledge in this area, and the sessions have been well received.

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

Recruitment in a rural area has always been a challenge, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, it certainly can be a barrier. While we were able to onboard three fantastic team members, recruitment has continued to be a challenge. We are looking for bright physicians who have passion for teaching future family physicians. We are willing to wait for the right fit.

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

Beebe Healthcare serves the Sussex County community with a medical center located in beautiful, historic Lewes, Delaware with many outpatient primary care and specialty locations throughout the county. Founded in 1916 by two physician brothers, Drs. James Beebe and Richard C. Beebe, the Margaret H. Rollins Lewes Campus is a 210-licensed-bed, not-for-profit seaside community hospital. As one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, the goal is to develop primary care residencies in the area will assist us in taking care of the growing community.

Sussex County, Delaware, is home to resort towns such as Rehoboth Beach, Dewey Beach, and Bethany Beach, but is also home to a thriving agricultural industry. It's a small town feel with access to big city amenities. In our corner of the world, you spend your morning at the beach, explore Cape Henlopen State Park, stop by the creamery for some farm fresh ice cream, and cap it all off with a five-star dinner at one of our local restaurants. Hop in your car and take a quick drive to Philadelphia, New York, D.C. or Baltimore. Work life balance is in abundance here in Lewes, the first town in the first state, where our residents will be able to learn where others vacation!

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](#)

CENTRAL U.S. HUB

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

WESTERN U.S. HUB

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



Technical Assistance Center
Rural Residency Planning and Development Program



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