



Alabama AHEC Network Updates

Alabama AHEC Network Partners with UAB for the CDC Grant Combatting Syphilis Epidemic

The [Alabama AHEC Network](#) is proud to partner in a [UAB-led initiative](#) funded by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) to address the growing syphilis epidemic. Supported by over **\$13 million** over five years, this multi-state project focuses on underserved communities and aims to reduce syphilis rates, particularly congenital cases.

Led by UAB researchers [Barbara Van Der Pol, Ph.D.](#), and [William Geisler, M.D.](#), the initiative will implement rapid testing and enhance healthcare delivery through training and outreach. The Alabama AHEC Network has received **\$250,000** to help facilitate the project, with community health workers (CHWs) at [NAAHEC](#) and [ECAAHEC](#) actively tackling the syphilis epidemic during its first year. CHWs and AHEC centers will play a vital role in distributing resources and supporting healthcare providers in Alabama, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

Syphilis cases have surged by **80 percent** since 2018, with congenital cases rising **183 percent**, highlighting the urgent need for action. This partnership underscores Alabama AHEC's commitment to improving access to care and fostering health equity in underserved communities. By equipping healthcare providers with tools and training, this collaboration aims to deliver impactful, sustainable solutions to one of the nation's most pressing health challenges.

[Contact Alabama AHEC Network](#)

**Alabama AHEC Network Director, Dr. Becky Reamey Named
2025 NRHA Rural Health Fellow**

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We are thrilled to announce that our Director, Rebecca A. Reamey, PhD., has been selected as a [2025 Rural Health Fellow](#) by the [National Rural Health Association \(NRHA\)](#). This prestigious, year-long program is designed to cultivate visionary leaders who are committed to advancing health equity and improving the well-being of rural communities across America.

Each year, NRHA selects 10 to 15 exceptional individuals from a highly competitive pool of applicants. Fellows are chosen based on their demonstrated dedication to addressing the unique challenges faced by rural Americans through their professional and educational achievements.

As part of this intensive program, Dr. Reamey and other fellows will:

- Gain deeper insights into the pressing health disparities and systemic issues affecting rural America.
- Explore innovative solutions to enhance health outcomes in underserved areas.
- Connect with rural health leaders nationwide, building a robust network of professionals dedicated to making a difference.

Rural Health Fellows often go on to serve in influential roles within NRHA and other organizations focused on rural health advocacy and reform. Dr. Reamey's selection is a testament to her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those in rural communities, and we are confident that her participation in the program will bring valuable insights and opportunities to our organization and the broader rural health landscape.

Congratulations, Dr. Reamey, on this well-deserved recognition! We can't wait to see the impact you will make as an [NRHA Rural Health Fellow](#).

Alabama AHEC Network Statewide Advisory Board Nominations

The [Alabama AHEC Network](#) is seeking nominations for individuals to serve on its Statewide Advisory Board. We invite our valued stakeholders and partners to recommend individuals who can contribute their expertise and insights to address the critical workforce challenges facing Alabama's healthcare system.

The Alabama AHEC Network Advisory Board plays a vital role in guiding the Alabama AHEC Network by fostering a community-focused, multidisciplinary approach to health care training and service delivery. Board members will

help identify barriers and opportunities for expanding clinical training into underserved rural and urban areas, develop strategic partnerships, and enhance the overall impact of the Network. We encourage you to nominate individuals who are committed to improving health care access across Alabama, and who can represent the diverse populations and geography of our state. Your nominations will help us build a strong and effective Advisory Board dedicated to advancing health care for all Alabamians.

Nominate

Alabama AHEC Network is Hiring!

The [Alabama AHEC Network](#) is seeking a **Clerical Temp** to support our mission of improving access to healthcare through education and community collaboration. This position offers the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to programs like [AHEC Scholars](#) while gaining valuable experience in administrative coordination and program planning.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide administrative, personnel, and logistical support, including scheduling meetings with multiple stakeholders.
- Assist in achieving program objectives for the education component of AHEC, particularly within the AHEC Scholars program.
- Collaborate with the Director to determine effective approaches to assignments.
- Engage with external resources such as advisory boards, volunteers, alumni, and healthcare professionals.
- Support grant preparation, reporting, and research as needed.

This role is perfect for individuals who are self-starters, enjoy working in a collaborative environment, and are passionate about advancing healthcare education and accessibility in underserved communities.

Apply

Alabama AHEC
Scholars



First AHEC Scholars Webinar with Dr. Tulsi Patel

Our inaugural AHEC Scholars webinar was a resounding success, featuring an inspiring session led by Dr. Tulsi Patel with **57 attendees**. The webinar highlighted the transformative role of volunteerism in healthcare, with Dr. Patel emphasizing how it fosters empathy and a deeper understanding of the communities professionals serve. Scholars also explored the significance of community health impact projects, discussing potential ideas, practical solutions, and measurable outcomes. Dr. Patel provided valuable guidance on how to navigate challenges, bring projects to life, and ensure a lasting impact on the communities they aim to help. Thank you to all who participated and contributed to this engaging and insightful session. We look forward to seeing how these lessons inspire future initiatives!

Dr. Tulsi K. Patel, DO, MSMEd is a PGY-1 resident in Internal Medicine with a strong commitment to patient care and medical education. She completed her undergraduate studies in [Biomedical Sciences at UAB](#) and earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from [Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine](#) in Bradenton, Florida. As an alumnus of the [Florida AHEC Scholars Program \(2021- 2023\)](#), Dr. Patel brings valuable insights into underserved care and community health.

[Learn More about AHEC Scholars](#)



Alabama AHEC
Center
Updates

ARHA Rural Health Roadshows - Huntsville and Northport

The [Alabama AHEC Network](#) was pleased to attend the Alabama Rural Health Roadshows in Northport and Huntsville, hosted by the [Alabama Rural Health Association \(ARHA\)](#). Representatives from [North Alabama AHEC](#) and [Black Belt Alabama AHEC](#) were present at the events in their respective regions to engage in important discussions about the challenges facing Alabama's rural hospitals.

At the Huntsville event, David Bramm, Board Chair of [North Alabama AHEC](#), had the opportunity to present and contribute to the conversation about the vital need to preserve rural healthcare resources. These events provided an opportunity to explore efforts aimed at supporting towns struggling with hospital closures, as well as strategies to save rural hospitals and maintain healthcare access in underserved areas.

Community turnout was strong, with residents sharing their concerns and

ideas, while experts showcased ongoing initiatives to tackle these challenges. AHEC is proud to have participated in these discussions alongside ARHA and local leaders, working together to support and strengthen rural healthcare across Alabama.

Resources & Education

PRECEPTOR REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Register NOW for the Alabama Preceptor Tax Incentive Program (APTIP)

In 2023, Alabama legislature approved the **Alabama Preceptor Tax Incentive Program (APTIP)** to offer a tax deduction to uncompensated healthcare professions preceptors in our State. The goal of the APTIP is to increase medical student training in rural and underserved counties in Alabama.

Administered by the **Alabama AHEC Network**, APTIP provides a \$500 income tax credit incentive for each 160-hour clinical preceptorship rotation per calendar year for what would otherwise be unpaid work by community-based preceptors who meet eligibility requirements.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

Student Rotations Housing Form

The **Alabama AHEC Network** frequently receives requests from students seeking housing in rural areas while they complete training rotations. If you know of potential housing availability for learners, please fill out the form below so that we may share this information with interested students.

[Learn More](#)

Learning Opportunities

Breaking the Cycle: Community Solutions to Gun Violence in Alabama

When: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CST

Where: Virtual

About This Event

Hosted by [Moms Demand Action](#), [Faith in Action](#), and [Live Free](#), Part 1 of this powerful webinar series, attendees will explore Hospital-Linked Violence Intervention Programs and their critical role in reducing gun violence in Alabama.

Key Discussion Points:

- Understanding the role of hospitals in breaking the cycle of violence
- Effective intervention strategies for community impact
- Insights from experts on building safer, healthier communities

This free, interactive session is open to all who are passionate about creating change. Register today to be part of the solution.

Together, we can advance community-driven solutions to prevent gun violence and build a brighter future for Alabama.

[Registration](#)

Behavioral Health Integration CEUs

When: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM CST

Where: Virtual

About This Event

Delta Alabama AHEC is hosting a Continuing Education workshop on Behavioral Health Integration!

Focused on the integration of behavioral health into primary care and other settings, this presentation underscores the importance of holistic approaches to health. Topics include the benefits of combining mental health services with medical care, strategies for reducing barriers to access, and how integrated care models improve patient outcomes. Special emphasis is placed on the clinician's role in fostering collaborative care to address both physical and mental health needs.

Participants will be able to do the following:

- Define Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) and its importance.
- Understand BHI models and their application in healthcare.
- Recognize the roles of providers in integrated care, including the use of team huddles and screening tools.
- Identify the benefits of BHI for patients, providers, and healthcare systems.

Participants will earn 1 hour of CEU.

Registration



Cultural Competency Unlocked: Focus on LGBTQIA+ Population

When: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

Where: Virtual

About This Event

This comprehensive webinar hosted by Vital is designed to enhance cultural competency when working with individuals within the LGBTQIA+ community. Whether you're a healthcare professional, counselor, social worker, or part of any service-oriented profession, this session will equip you with the knowledge and skills to create an affirming, inclusive, and supportive environment for LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Participants will earn 1 hour of CEU.

Registration

2025 NAO Biennial Conference

When: June 17-20, 2025

Where: Lexington, Kentucky

About This Event

The 2025 NAO Biennial Conference just got announced. It will be hosted in Lexington Kentucky on June 17-20th.

Submit your conference proposals and award nominations today!

NAO invites you to share your work and expertise with colleagues by participating in the 2025 NAO Biennial Conference. Submit an abstract to present as a speaker in an oral session or to display a poster during a scheduled viewing session.

This is a fantastic opportunity to shine a light on the great work that your AHEC is doing.

To submit an abstract, click [HERE](#).

Also, consider nominating your peers for our prestigious awards, recognizing innovative achievements in AHEC initiatives. To learn more about awards, click [HERE](#).

*The deadline for abstract and award submissions is **Dec. 19th**.*

Registration

Narcan Training

When: Open Enrollment

Where: Online

About This Program

Sign up for the free online Naloxone training program, provided by the [Jefferson County Department of Health](#). By gaining the necessary knowledge and abilities to administer Naloxone, you'll be equipped to reverse opioid overdoses and potentially make a life-saving difference.



Registration



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Visit Our Website

About Alabama AHEC Network



The Alabama AHEC Network is dedicated to recruiting, training, and retaining the Alabama healthcare workforce while expanding variety among health professionals, broadening the distribution of the health workforce, enhancing the quality of care, and improving health care delivery to rural and underserved populations in Alabama.

The following centers are members of the Alabama AHEC Network and are federally funded HRSA AHEC Programs and nationally recognized Area Health Education Centers: Alabama Statewide Network Program Office, North Alabama AHEC (NAAHEC), East Central Alabama AHEC (ECAAHEC), Black Belt Alabama AHEC (BBAHEC), Wiregrass Alabama AHEC (WAAHEC), and Delta Alabama AHEC (DAAHEC).