



NC AHEC
7TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE CELEBRATION OF
Rural Nursing

Bridging the Gaps to Improve Access to Care

Thursday, March 13, 2025 | 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Livestream Webinar

[Register Today](#)

As we continue to celebrate the unique role and essential service of nursing in rural healthcare, the NC AHEC Nurse Council welcomes you to join us for the 7th Annual NC AHEC Celebration of Rural Nursing Conference in honor of National Rural Health Day. This year we will address statewide healthcare network resources and pathways to improve access to care for your patients and families.

Our expert speaker faculty and panel members will be diverse in offering a variety of community health agencies and interprofessional service providers whose focus is prevention, primary care, improving public health and rural access. The learner will gain new knowledge of updated and new programs across North Carolina and how to gain utilization and agency partnership support in the communities you serve.

This conference is designed for all nurses who are serving vulnerable populations in under-resourced and rural areas and those interested in healthcare prevention, primary care, school health and community health for all ages across the continuum of holistic care of integrated behavioral and physical health.

This program is supported by NC AHEC Nurse Council and the NC AHEC system.

Direct Inquiries:

Ellie Hunt: ellhunt@wakeahec.org or 919.350.0737

WAKE AHEC

PART OF NC AHEC

7th Annual NC AHEC Statewide Celebration of Rural Nursing Conference

Agenda

- 7:45 a.m. Zoom log-in
- 8 a.m. **Welcome/Announcements - AHEC**
- 8:10 a.m. **From Crisis to Reinvention: Reinforcing Resources to Support of the Continuum of Mental Health Disaster Recovery**
Melissa Harrell, MEd, MPH, LCMHCS
- 8:55 a.m. Break
- 9 a.m. **NC AHEC Collaborative Care Model and Integrating Behavioral Health in a Primary Care Setting**
Liz Griffin, MSW, LCSW, NC AHEC
- 9:30 a.m. **Reducing Opioid Prescribing: Resources for Providers to Lessen Supply and Reduce Harm**
- **Current Data and Statewide Trends in Controlled Substance Dispensation**
Savannah Simpson, MSPH, NC DHHS
 - **Project Lazarus – Community Based Prevention Model including Provider Education and Toolkits**
Fred Wells Brason II, Project Lazarus
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:40 a.m. **Community Health Worker Initiatives & Panel Discussion**
Presenter & Moderator: Evan Richardson, CNM, MSN, Mountain AHEC
- CHW Panelists**
- **Care Ring:** *Blanca Labrada*
 - **Formerly Incarcerated Transition Program (NC FIT):** *Deborah Rose*
 - **Recovery Community Care:** *Karen Russell, CPSS, CHW*
- 11:55 a.m. Lunch
- 1 p.m. **Statewide Community Resources**
- Access to Care**
- Medicaid Expansion**
Hollis Smith, BA, NC Navigator Consortium
- NCCARE 360**
Elizabeth Murray, MPH, NCCARE360, NC DHHS
- Chronic Disease Management & Preventative Health**
- WISEWOMAN and Breast and Cervical Cancer Program**
Clara Rukse, DrPH, MPH, NC DHHS

7th Annual NC AHEC Statewide Celebration of Rural Nursing Conference

DiabetesFree Program

Meg Sargent, BS, NC DHHS

Behavioral Health

NC MATTERS Maternal Mental Health

Carolina Alford, LCSW, LCASA

NC Psychiatry Access Line (NC PAL)

- 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:40 p.m. **Diabetes Prevention and Medication Management: Bridging the Gap in Rural Populations**
Taren O. Hunt, MSN, FNP, BC-ADM, CPT, UNC Health Southeastern, Diabetes
- 3:25 p.m. **Wrap-up Summary**
- 3:30 p.m. Adjourn

Fee

\$35.00 if received before March 05, 2025

\$50.00 if received after March 05, 2025

Credit

Contact Hours: 5.75

Nursing Contact Hours: 5.75 Nursing Contact Hours will be awarded to participants who attend 90% of this educational activity.

Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the North Carolina Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Substitutes/Refunds/Transfers

- Cancellations must be in writing (fax, email, or mail)
- Registrants canceling between two weeks and five full business days prior to the first day of the event are refunded at 70% of the registration fee subject to a minimum \$25 cancellation fee.
- No refunds or credits will be given for cancellations received less than five full business days prior to the event.
- Cancellations greater than 2 weeks prior to the event will receive 100% refund.
- No vouchers will be issued in lieu of a refund.
- Transfers/substitute(s) welcome (notify in advance of the program)

Attendance at this activity grants permission to use any photographs, audio, video, or other images from this activity for promotional or educational purposes. Please notify an AHEC staff member if you have concerns.