

# **University of Kentucky**

## **Center of Excellence in Rural Health**

Medicaid Oversight and Advisory Committee  
September 15, 2022

Dr. Frances J. Feltner

Director, UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health

Ernie L. Scott, Director, Kentucky Office of Rural Health

William Mace Baker, Director, Kentucky Homeplace

# Today's Presentation

- Efforts the center has undertaken to improve the health of Kentuckians in rural communities particularly those who are enrolled in Medicaid
- The center's role in training community health workers and the role of the community health worker in rural communities
- HB525 from the 2022 Regular Session which established the process for the certification of community health workers and reimbursement for services provided by community health workers ([RS22 HB525](#))
- An overview of the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program grant awarded to the Office of Rural Health Policy in 2021

# UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health



Established in 1990 to address health disparities in rural Kentucky and serves as the Federally Designated Kentucky Office of Rural Health

# About the Center

## MISSION

**Improve the Health and Wellbeing of Rural Kentuckians**

## VISION

**A Healthier Kentucky**

170 Employees Living Across Eastern KY  
Combined total from UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health  
and UK North Fork Valley Community Health Center



# Center Programs

- Academic programs
- Kentucky Office of Rural Health (KORH)
- Kentucky Homeplace
- Research
- Host site for the UK North Fork Valley Community Health Center

# Academic Programs

## Providing Access to Health Care

- **East Kentucky Family Medicine Residency**
  - The residency program currently hosts 12 family medicine residents who will go on to practice in rural areas. (104)
- **Medical Laboratory Sciences**
  - Formerly Bachelor of Clinical Lab Science 1991-2004 (73)
  - Bachelor of Health Sciences with a Major in Medical Laboratory Science(74), total (147)
- **Social Work (moved to on line 2022)**
  - Bachelor's of Arts in Social Work (54)
  - Master of Social Work (263)
- **Physical Therapy**

Formerly Masters in Physical Therapy 1992-2008, (151).

  - Doctor of Physical Therapy (246)



Total Providers 1,071

Past Academic Programs

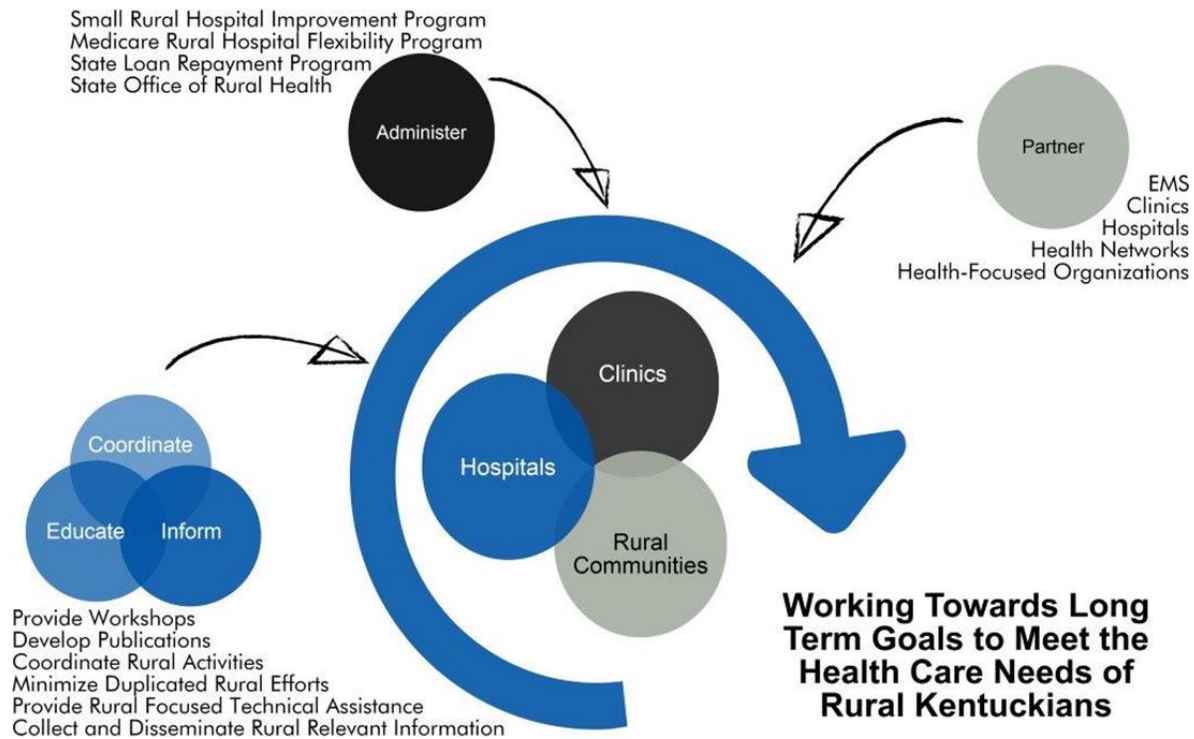
Master of Science in Nursing from 1991-2002, (105)

Bachelors of Science in Clinical Leadership and Management (1)



# Kentucky Office of Rural Health (KORH)

The mission of KORH is to support the health and well-being of Kentuckians by promoting access to rural health services.



<https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/ruralhealth/kentucky-office-rural-health>

# Community Health Workers

**Mission:** Provide access to medical, social, and environmental services for the citizens of the Commonwealth

**Vision:** Educate Kentuckians to identify risk factors and use preventative measures to become a healthier people with knowledge and skills to access the healthcare and social systems



<https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/ruralhealth/kentucky-homeplace>



## 32 County Service Area



**Central Office**  
**Mace Baker, Director**  
**750 Morton Blvd., Hazard, KY 41701**  
**855-859-2374**



Kentucky Department of Public Health, University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health, and Kentucky Homeplace, a well-established national recognized as a successful Community Health Worker (CHW) program.

# Kentucky Homeplace: A Successful Model

## Fiscal Year July 2021 – June 2022

- Served 5,006 clients
- Provided 95,849 services
- Services and Medications valued at \$13,472,087
- ROI \$12.77

## Combined Totals July 2001 – June 2022

- Served 182,783 clients
- Provided 5,240,381 services
- Services and Medications valued at \$377,181,734
- ROI \$11.37



# The Role of the CHWs

- Implement programs to promote, maintain, and improve individual and community health
- Assist communities and individuals to adopt healthy behaviors
- Community Health Workers (CHWs) are trained to help find solutions for access to social, medical, and environmental related needs for rural Kentuckians (reducing the social determinates of health)
- Facilitate communication and care coordination between patients and providers
- Advocate on behalf on client
- Collect data to help identify individual and community needs

# Improving the health of Kentuckians in rural communities enrolled in Medicaid-Fiscal Year 2022

- Of the 5,006 clients served by Kentucky Homeplace 2,642 were insured through Kentucky Medicaid.
- Kentucky Homeplace provided a total of 49,059 services with 25,023 of those being provided to Kentucky Medicaid members.
- Kentucky Homeplace provided a service value of over 3.5 Million dollars to clients with over 1.7 million dollars of that service value was provided to Kentucky Medicaid members.
- Time spent on care coordination activities total 16,937 hours, 8,468 were on behalf of Kentucky Medicaid members.
- Kentucky Homeplace provided over 9.9 million dollars in medication value to clients with over 5.6 million of the medication value provided to Kentucky Medicaid members.



# Kentucky Homeplace CHW Training

- The protocol manual builds upon over 25 years of developing, implementing, and training community health workers.
- It was developed in consultation with health providers, experience of CHWs and from researching current health conditions.





# The Center's Role in Training Community Health Workers

- Kentucky Homeplace operates as one of two Tier-1 Community Health Worker training centers recognized by the State Office of Community Health Workers in Kentucky
- Hundreds of individuals from various professions across the State have completed Community Health Worker training with Kentucky Homeplace
- Upon completion of Kentucky Homeplace Community Health Worker, learners have the opportunity to complete their State certification required 40-hour mentorship with Kentucky Homeplace's experienced Community Health Workers through the University of Kentucky's Observation and Learning Experience program.

# Community Health Worker Addition Trainings

- Chronic Disease Self-Management Program
- Diabetes Self-Management Program
- Mental Health First Aid
- Suicide Prevention
- CPR
- Wellness Recovery Action Plan
- Tobacco Free Kentucky Cancer Program “UK BREATHE”
- State Training in Kentucky Prescription Assistance
- State Training to server as Kynectors

# **The center's role in training community health workers**

- Kentucky Homeplace CHW training curriculum was approved through the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS) to provide six college credits.
- Kentucky Homeplace managers also serve as KCTCS faculty who teach and manage the CHW training for the first pilot program of high school students receiving high school and college dual credit.

# Partnership: High School Students CHW Training

“Students Striving for Better Health in Self and Community” initiative, available to high school students enrolled at Perry County Central and Hazard High School.

- Students receive tuition-free dual high school and college credit.
- Completion of CHW training students may apply for:
  - State Community Health Worker certification
  - Paid internship at the Center of Excellence in Rural Health
  - Mentorship opportunities with United Healthcare

Partners include the UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health, Kentucky Homeplace, Hazard Community and Technical College, United Healthcare, and Kentucky Advance Technology College High (K-TECH).



# **HB525 - the process for the certification of community health workers and reimbursement for services provided by community health workers (RS22 HB525)**

- The UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health's Kentucky Homeplace CHW Training is one of the Tier-1 Community Health Worker training centers recognized by the Kentucky State Office of Community Health Workers.
- Kentucky Homeplace CHW training curriculum was approved through the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS) to provide six college credits.



# Small Rural Hospital Improvement Grant Program (SHIP)

- (SHIP) is supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP).
  - Awards issued: 05/19/2021--Project Period: 06/01/2021-05/31/2022
  - 43 Eligible Kentucky Small Rural Hospitals (28 CAHs) received \$10,071 each for a total investment of \$433,053.
- (See handout one for more information)

# **Small Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) One Time Funding**

COVID19- one-time funding to support hospitals to respond to prevent, prepare for and response to coronavirus (Funded through CARES Act)

\$3,878,582.00 Awarded 04/01/2020

(See handout two for more information)

# **American Rescue Plan (ARP) COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation SHIP**

- Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) received one-time funding through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) for COVID-19 testing and mitigation initiatives.
- HRSA awarded approximately \$398 million to existing grantees of the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)
- To increase COVID-19 testing efforts, expand access to testing in rural communities, and expand the range of mitigation activities to meet community needs within the CDC Community Mitigation Framework.

(See Handout three for more information)





# Questions



[kyruralhealth.org](http://kyruralhealth.org)



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