

| Question | Answer(s) | | |
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| You can adjust the proportion of the slides and the speakers by clicking on the gray line just to the right of the slide and between the slide and the presenters. | Thanks, Nevin | | |
| You can hide presenters who aren't presenting by clicking on the up arrow to the right side of the video icon on the bar on the bottom of the screen, then clicking on Video Settings and then clicking the "Hide non-video participants" box. This will make only the speaker visible. | | | |
| How is Rural Health Group using telehealth to take care of patients during COVID-19? | It is very challenging. Because of the lack of broadband in some areas, it is difficult. Because many of our patients are seniors who are not "tech savvy" they are underutilizing it. We have had success using smartphones (face-to-face, Google Duo) and the Healow app which is attached to our EHR to have telehealth visits. Since we have minimized the number of patients that physically enter the clinic, some patients will sit in the parking lot and a iPad is brought out to them to complete their visit. | | |
| For Dr. Gailliard - The 100 county scope of the faith-based community and number of churches in North Carolina is impressive. Are there any statewide associations from the faith community that can provide a central point of contact for those of us who might want to work more closely with faith-based organizations in rural communities? If not, do you have any suggestions on how we can initiate these partnerships? | live answered | | |
| Why are we still spending so much time talking about how to best engage our rural communities instead of talking about how to ensure limited vaccine supplies are equitably distributed? We have nearly 1700 residents on a waiting list and are getting 200 doses a week... engaging our community is the least of our problems at the moment. | There are now over 500 Community Health Workers in 53 counties. The CHWs will be expanded to all counties and we recognize the need to increase the number of bilingual and would urge this group as we build out this opportunity to partner in employing and deploying the new CHW. Also with an additional focus on migrant farmworkers. | | |
| Do you know if there are organizations that are allowing their places to be utilized as "hot spots" for the communities | live answered | | |
| wow; I just finished typing and he answered it; it would be nice to see that more | I would also urge the group to engage in the work for broadband infrastructure. The office is trying to be more precise in the collection and dashboards across rural NC. The link is https://ncsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cBEBegH1gCABRKl?inst=bio&source=web CHWs also have technology to support telehealth, ORH is interested in working with others to support their learning and use of technology. Churches and the library system are interested in supporting this as well. | | |
| How can we contact either of you after this zoom? | We will provide contact information following this meeting. | | |
| There's a lot of news that nursing home staff are reluctant to getting the COVID19 vaccine. Any thoughts on how to improve vaccination rates via the faith based community, community health centers and advocacy groups? Can imagine this is also a pain point for nursing homes and families in rural North Carolina. | As we roll out the next phase of Community Health Workers we would love suggestions about the approach and include faith leaders. | | |
| I totally agree with the faith leaders today about getting the information out to the black community. | | | |
| Rural success and shout out to our Local Emergency Management Director in Yancey County - Jeff Howell. He has been diligent about collecting information from our health department, FQHC, local agencies and stakeholders, and the state, and sharing a daily email and social media digest on our rural county updates, needs, resources, testing site changes, vaccine updates, etc. This daily digest is shared by Jeff to almost all local agencies, plus many churches. Agencies and churches are then sharing that information within their networks and communities. Knowledge is power, and transparency is key. | This is a great best practice. Would love to follow up with you after webinar to see if Hometown Strong can pass on your success to other rural communities. | | |
| The county Emergency Management IS a repository of what churches are able and willing to provide. | Thank you, Glenn. | | |
| what are the plans of the state to help reach farmworker and agriculture workers. This population does so much for our state but unfortunately hugely overseen. | The Governor's Office of Public Engagement and Hometown Strong are hosting regional latinx engagement meetings beginning in March. These meetings will cover a variety of topics and will be simultaneously translated. In addition, the Office of Rural Health at DHHS has staff who work with farmworkers and may have an answer to this as well. | | |
| Here are several convenors: FaithHealthNC at WFU Medical Center; Campbell University Center for Church & Community; Several Duke Endowment Affiliates at NC Rural Center and NCSU IEI | Thank you, Brian. | | |
| My name is Queen Degraphenreid, and I am President of the NC Coalition of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. One of our priorities is addressing health disparities in minority communities. How do we become a representative with the NC Rural Coalition Fighting Covid19 and the Rural Center? | Hi Queen, thank you for your interest. Kelley will address this when she speaks in a few minutes. You may also follow up with myself or Ray Riordan (contact info listed on slides). | | |
| How are rural communities assured of their fair share of vaccines? Large drive-through events have been centered in urban areas. How do we keep rural communities from being left behind? | Thank you Rep. Gaillard your points are right on! | | |
| For faith-health orgs, I would add FaithHealth out of Wake Forest Baptist Health and Faithful Families Thriving Communities - supported by a partnership between NC Div of Public Health and NC State | Thank you, Jill. | Link to the resource mention by Dawn - Partners in Health and Wholeness and initiative of the North Carolina Council of Churches. www.ncchurches.org | |
| According to the NCDHHS COVID dashbaord 81% of the vaccination have been given to the white community. | Thank you, Schumata. | | |
| what can be done to bring historically competitive health groups together (hospitals, FQHCs, public health departments, private providers) around COVID and long term to transform rural health? | | | |

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| Do our Health Care & Retirement facilities have clean rooms for health care providers to reduce the spread COVID-19 | | | |
| I apologize if I missed this - what plans do we have to dispell some of the fear of the vaccine among the BIPOC communities? Especially if there is a lack of planning for BIPOC communities? | kwormuth@depc.org | There are a number of sessions that are scheduled across the state. You can find these listed on the YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov. In addition there are trainings and materials available for anyone to use. | |
| Kudos to you in keeping a waiting list. A number of health systems and practices aren't even keeping waiting lists. They say it's too problematic to manage. | CHWs are being trained to work in the community to help people register for a vaccine, they have the technology to do this and are going to undergo training to assist. The Community Health Workers are expected to be trusted members of their communities. of the over 500 CHWs over 400 identify as African American or Hispanic/LatinX and 25% are bilingual, we need more. | | |
| I understand the DHHS North Carolina Farmworker Project has Focused efforts on bringing sustainable broadband access solutions (Internet Connectivity Project) to farms and migrant camps in order to provide access to telehealth for workers. The assumption being that much of the latino community in these rural areas are tied to agriculture and thus this offers an opportunity to alleviate some of the gaps in broadband access and telehealth. Is there any indication about the level of interest or adoption? | One other resource is engaging your Council of Govt to include these plans in their broadband plans. Totally agree with Juvenicio. We would like to encourage people to fill out the broadband survey: https://ncsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cBEBegH1gCABRKI?inst=bio&source=web | | |
| Health inequities have been an issue in the US and NC for a very long time - COVID has made these more visible. How do we ensure that the lessons we are learning now in responding to COVID are sustained, and used to reduce rates of other chronic health/mental health issues - and help our rural communities thrive? | Lloyd completely agree, I think we have to look at this not as just a pandemic but as an opportunity to build rural infrastructure to meet not just pandemic needs, these issues were present before COVID. Rural economic development is critical. | | |
| I welcome any follow up: schell@pathwnc.org | Will email you after this webinar. Here's my contact info: Mary.Kelley@osbm.nc.gov (919) 814-2079 | | |
| Mr. Rocha-Peralta, The Hispanic population that you interact with do they seem open to getting the vaccine? Have we considered using nursing students from local community colleges to help vaccinate folks? | NC AHEC has reached out to health profession schools including nursing schools to find out where students (and faculty) are available to help with vaccination, including administering the vaccine. We are coordinating with NC DHHS to provide that information to the state which will then make it available to communities. | | |
| Equitable distribution is great...but for the two vaccine clinics we've had in our county...we were inundated with patients from other counties that we had to service. When we open our services up to other counties it makes it more difficult for our citizens to compete for a vaccination. Your thoughts? | | | |
| What role would you like to see local municiple elections and politicians play in the way that COVID-19 is handled in the rural areas? How can local and statewide organizations assist in the advocacy? | | | |
| This opens the opportunities for more collaborations within the rural and urban communities. | A very good point. And those type of collaborations will be essential post-COVID too as our state recovers, especially. If past history of economic downturns hold true, rural NC will face a longer and more protracted recovery, and those partnerships—and a better understanding of the economic co-dependency of rural and urban NC—will be necessary moving forward. | | |
| Can the state reach out to the colleges around the state and maybe senior level nursing students can help to administer the vaccine? | NC AHEC has reached out to health profession schools including nursing schools to find out where students (and faculty) are available to help with vaccination, including administering the vaccine. We are coordinating with NC DHHS to provide that information to the state which will then make it available to communities. | Healthcare Systems also have access to a 3-5 man team from the NC National Guard to assist with vaccine administration. | |
| Here, here, Dr. Gailliard. There are models at the Federal level we could follow for Office of Faith-Health Partnerships! | Thanks, Jill! | | |
| Systemic public disinvestments have devastated local news media markets and created coverage gaps, particularly in rural areas, thereby reducing the availability of hyperlocal relevant and credible health information to residents and their capacity to engage and act on such information. Has there been any discussion about investing in rural communication infrastructure to deal with this issue? | | | |
| Hi everyone, if anyone has specific questions about the North Carolina Farmworker Health Program Internet Connectivity project, please put your email in the chat, I can connect you with my colleague who is leading this project. | Thank you, Kate. If interested in connecting with Kate's colleague, please add your email address to the chat. | | |
| Excellent resource cited by Dr. Rushing! | | | |
| What is being done about the people in rural communities that don't have transportation to get to the vaccination site? | Julie, NCDHHS and NCDOT recently announced a solution to help fund transit rides to and from vaccine sites. Additional information can be found here: https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdot-and-ncdhhs-announce-solution-help-fund-transit-rides-and-covid-19-vaccine | Here is a list of the local transit agencies by county: https://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/public-transit/Documents/NC_public_transit.pdf | Could this be an opportunity for local faith communities too? Some have buses and vans that may be sitting idle due to limitations on in-person worship. |
| Down in Robeson County we have people crossing from South Carolina lines . Some Senior Citizens have set up a site with CVS to come to the Senior Complex , building to buildings | | | |

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| The Raleigh bus system is also free during the pandemic | Thank you Leslie. Additional information on county public transit can be found here: https://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/public-transit/Documents/NC_public_transit.pdf | NCDHHS and NCDOT recently announced a solution to help fund transit rides to and from vaccine sites. Additional information can be found here: https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdot-and-ncdhhs-announce-solution-help-fund-transit-rides-and-covid-19-vaccine | |
| CPTA=Chowanoke Public Transport Authority | live answered | DHHS gave DOT funds to distribute to counties to provide transportation. We are interested in how this works there may be more opportunity. | |
| CPTA - Choanoke Public Transportation Authority | Thank you! | | |
| Chowan Public Transportation Authority | Thanks! | | |
| Clean rooms/areas are specific location where employees clean/ change clothing prior to transiting to & from work. | I work in a FQHC clinic. We do not utilize clean rooms. I am sure that larger systems/hospitals have those rooms for personnel that are treating known COVID patients. | | |
| Link for evaluation: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FFHSMP5 | Thanks, Nevin. | | |
| Wonderful information and great conversations. Thanks to each of you. May God Bless your efforts! | | | |
| Black Voters Matter would love to be apart of this conversation | We would love to have you Danielle. Please send myself or Ray an email. | | |
| Thanks, I will follow up. Queen | | | |
| Thank you all! Valuable information. | | | |