



Area Health Education Center

# Capital Connection

S U M M E R 2 0 1 1

## Capital AHEC Faces Cuts in the Coming Fiscal Year

Like most state agencies, Capital AHEC took significant cuts in both state and federal funding for the 2012 fiscal year. We are confident with current staff we will be able to maintain core functions. The mission of Capital AHEC is to make our communities healthier. We will approach this goal in the following ways.

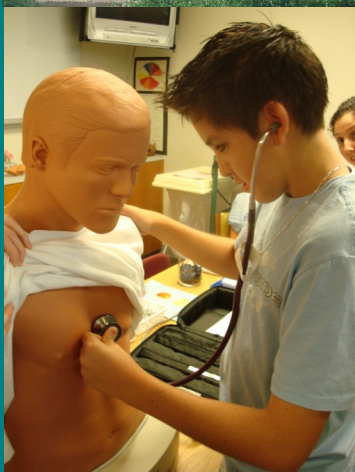
Community-based education continues to be a major function of Capital AHEC. The goal is to provide professional students with a community-based experience as part of their professional training. Through our Community-Based Education (CBE) Program, physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners donate their time to teach students and residents about different disciplines and real-life outpatient experiences. We would not be able to provide this service without community preceptors.

Through Health Career Promotions students learn about opportunities available in the healthcare field. Our activities target underserved populations in rural and inner-city areas. Many of our activities center around strengthening math and science skills, improving self-esteem and fostering enthusiasm for health professions. Capital AHEC is currently partnering with Austin Community College on a HRSA Nurse Success grant. This partnership has allowed us to serve several hundred teens in the greater Austin area during the grant cycle.

Capital AHEC also manages the Texas Rural Health Association. We have partnered with the Texas Department of Rural Affairs, Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals and the Texas Hospital Association for the last 4 years to put on the annual Rural Health Forum Conference. This partnership has allowed a melding of organization strengths to put on a powerful, more well-rounded program which we feel also offers more bang for the buck for our rural attendees.

Finally, the Ventanilla de Salud (VDS) is probably our poster child of partnering. VDS Director Annie Crawford has multiple partners all over the service region who offer services to the disenfranchised and underserved. Without all of these great partners we would be unable to provide services.

During these difficult times it is imperative we come together through collaboration and partnerships to ensure all member's of the community receive the services they need. Capital AHEC applaud and thank all of our partners and look forward to working with you in the coming year.



# Program Updates

## Texas State Medical Board: Supervision of Medical Students

Community-based education, or education that occurs outside the classroom, is an important component of medical curriculum. Community physicians who volunteer their time to teach medical students allow students the opportunity to apply knowledge gained in the classroom to real-world scenarios. By working alongside their precepting physician, students gain hands-on experience in a clinical setting that helps prepare and shape them as future physicians. The Texas State Medical Board Rules includes a section on the supervision of medical students, and these rules vary depending on where a student is enrolled in school. Capital AHEC helps coordinate rotations for many medical students, and will help ensure students and preceptors are in accordance of these rules. However, many medical students will contact physicians directly to inquire about clinical rotation opportunities. If you're a physician who teaches students, especially students from academic institutions outside Texas, you may want to familiarize yourself with the following:

### **TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD RULES Texas Administrative Code, Title 22, Part 9**

#### **§162.1. Supervision of Medical Students**

- (a) In order to supervise a medical student who is enrolled at a Texas medical school as a full-time student or visiting student the physician must have an active and unrestricted Texas license.
- (b) In order to supervise a medical student who does not meet the criteria in subsection (a) of this section the physician must:
  - (1) have an active and unrestricted Texas license;
  - (2) hold a faculty position in the graduate medical education program in the same specialty in which the student will receive undergraduate medical education;
  - (3) supervise the student during the educational period; and
  - (4) supervise the student's medical education in either a Texas hospital or teaching institution, which sponsors or participates in a program of graduate medical education accredited by the Accrediting Council for Graduate Medical Education, the American Osteopathic Association, or the Texas Medical Board in the same subject as the medical or osteopathic medical education in which the hospital or teaching institution has an agreement with the applicant's school.
- (c) If the physician is not licensed in Texas as required in subsection (a) or (b) of this section, the physician must be employed by the federal government and maintain an active and unrestricted license.
- (d) Physician applicants who receive medical education in the United States in settings that do not comply with statutory requirements set forth in Texas Occupations Code §155.003(b) - (c) may be ineligible for licensure.

A complete set of the Texas Medical Board Rules can be downloaded by visiting the TMB website.



## Binational Health Week 2011 Call for Participation!

Binational Health Week (BHW) is one of the largest mobilization efforts of federal and state government agencies, community-based organizations, and volunteers in the Americas to improve the health and well-being of the underserved Latino population living in the United States and Canada. It encompasses a two-week series of health promotion and health education activities that include workshops, insurance referrals, and medical screenings.

Binational Health Week fosters community solidarity through the extensive mobilization of existing resources and the organization of volunteers working together towards the common goals of improved health for Latinos.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Binational Health Week will take place **October 1-15, 2011** in 40 states in the U.S. and three provinces in Canada. Additionally, during BHW five national campaigns will be implemented to promote awareness among the underserved Latino community: Chronic Disease, Women's Health, Access to Care, Infectious Disease and Mental Health.

In Austin, Ventanilla de Salud will head local activities for the 6<sup>th</sup> year of participation in this movement. This year a multitude of activities are being planned by the many partner agencies, including: a kick-off media event on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, health fairs, diabetes workshops, a breastfeeding education workshop, educational health sessions (EHS), a flu shot clinic, a health literacy event for professionals on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and more. There is no fee to host or include an event, although sponsorship opportunities are available.

If your agency is hosting a health event during the first two weeks of October and would like it included in the BHW Calendar and media campaign, or if your agency would like to plan an event for BHW, contact Ventanilla de Salud Austin at (512) 478-2866 ext. 117 or email [acrawford@capitalahec.org](mailto:acrawford@capitalahec.org).

Our next BHW Planning Committee meeting is August 18, 2011 at 2:00pm at the Mexican Consulate 410 Baylor Street, Austin, Texas 78703. Please RSVP to attend.

To learn more about Binational Health Week Sponsorship opportunities contact Ventanilla de Salud.



Ventanilla de Salud health screen 2011



# Students Service

[www.studentsinservice.org](http://www.studentsinservice.org)



This year Capital AHEC was fortunate to receive a Students in Service grant from Texas Campus Compact. Students in Service is a nationwide AmeriCorps program where students serve 300 hours of direct service to the community.

Capital AHEC would like to congratulate Karen Boggs on completing her 300 hours of service and making a difference in the community. Karen participated in both of Capital AHEC's Nursing Career Summer Camps. Through her facilitation and leadership 50 high school students received valuable information and experience in the healthcare field.

Karen Boggs studies Communication Disorders at Texas State University and plans to become a Speech Language Pathologist. When asked about her experience Karen stated, "I had a great experience being involved with the Nursing Summer Camps at Capital AHEC. I think the camps are a great opportunity for high school students and it was enjoyable to be a part of something that I think students should learn more about and be exposed to. Going to all of the different activities with the students I also learned a lot and saw things that I have not seen before. I am thankful that I was able to experience a great opportunity and get involved with the community."

Karen was a great asset to the AHEC team this summer. She helped to plan, facilitate, and evaluate the camps and we wish her all the best in her future plans. She will be greatly missed! Karen was awarded an Educational Stipend for her work at AHEC and can use that to further her educational goals.

For more information about Texas Campus Compact and Students in Service please visit [www.texasampuscompact.org](http://www.texasampuscompact.org).



Karen Boggs and several camp participants are pictured above during the tour of the Star Flight Helicopters on June 9, 2011.

# Nursing Summer Camps

Health Careers Promotion



During June Capital AHEC held two successful summer camps designed to encourage high school students to consider a career in nursing. The first camp was held at Texas State University June 6-10 and the second camp was June 20-24 at the University of Texas. Both camps had 25 participants from 19 different local area high schools. During camp all students became CPR and First Aid Certified, shadowed a healthcare professional in a hospital setting, toured medical facilities, and participated in a hands-on simulation lab.



The Nursing Career Summer Camps are part of a HRSA Grant called Nurse Success which AHEC has partnered with Austin Community College to help fill the pipeline with future nurses. Our annual Nursing Academies are also part of this project and help reach students who are interested in a career in nursing. This is the second year with the grant and after two years Capital AHEC has been able to reach out to 371 high school students within our service region. The Nurse Success Grant will conclude in June of 2012 at which time we hope to expand our services to all health careers in addition to nursing.

For more information on our summer camps or academies please visit our website at [www.capitalahec.org](http://www.capitalahec.org).



**Top Photo:**

Austin Camp students participated in a hands-on simulation lab at Austin Community College at their Eastview Campus.

**Middle Photo:**

San Marcos Camp students took a group pictures after a day of shadowing at Central Texas Medical Center.

**Bottom Photo:**

Austin Camp students took a group photo during their tour of a Star Flight Helicopter.



## Health Literacy Trainings for Healthcare Providers Improve Patient-Provider Communication

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The Literacy Coalition of Central Texas recently launched Health Literacy Forward, a comprehensive approach to address communication and environmental barriers faced by patients that lead to noncompliance and increased medical costs. Health Literacy Forward is an arm of the Central Texas Health Literacy Initiative, a unique and highly innovative collaboration between key healthcare and literacy organizations. Customized health literacy trainings for healthcare professionals are one element of Health Literacy Forward.

Goals of health literacy trainings include:

- Provide background information on the importance of health literacy
- Discuss the role health literacy plays in patient care
- Improve ability to identify low health literate patients and patient misunderstanding
- Provide and practice strategies and tools to improve patient-provider communication

“Health literacy” refers to an individual’s ability to obtain and understand health information in order to be an advocate for their own health and that of their families. Certain groups are more likely to have low or impaired health literacy, including those of lower socioeconomic status, the elderly, ethnic and racial minorities and those with limited English ability. Because of AHEC’s access to these populations, the Coalition is able to offer you tailored workshops and health literacy services to improve patient compliance and reduce patient re-admittance.

Focus groups revealed that adults with limited health literacy found the language and behaviors of healthcare professionals to be a profound barrier in their efforts to understand and act on health-related information. In addition to improving health outcomes of thousands of families, addressing low health literacy will save Central Texas approximately \$685 million annually.

The Literacy Coalition has trained nearly 400 healthcare providers from over 30 clinics and hospitals, including Seton Family of Hospitals, El Buen Samaritano, and CommUnityCare Clinics. Over 96% of healthcare providers who participated in a Health Literacy Training reported an increase in awareness and knowledge of health literacy, and that they planned to utilize at least three of the AMA’s “Six Steps to Improve Interpersonal Communication with Patients.”

Thanks to a state health equity contract, the Literacy Coalition is able to provide trainings at a reduced rate through December, 2011. The current price is \$300 for a half-day training of up to 30 individuals. For more information or to schedule a workshop, please contact Peter Morrison at [pmorrison@willread.org](mailto:pmorrison@willread.org) or by calling 512-320-4505.



**TEXAS  
RURAL  
HEALTH  
FORUM**

**Sept. 13-14, 2011**

**Omni San Antonio Hotel  
at the Colonnade**

For anyone involved in rural health care in Texas, the **2011 Texas Rural Health Forum** is the must-attend event of the year. This year's two-day program features an agenda packed with nationally recognized experts on topics like:

- Rural Hospital Employment of Physicians;
- HIT Workforce in the Rural Setting;
- 340B Program: Eligibility, Benefits and Compliance;
- Violence in the Workplace;
- The Changing Face of Texas Medicaid;

And much more, including an evening on the River Walk with complimentary shuttle. **Save \$50 per person if you register by Aug. 15.** Early registrants also receive a chance to **win a FREE hotel stay!**

**Register Now**

Visit [www.tha.org/forum2011](http://www.tha.org/forum2011) to register and find conference details. Join us Tuesday night for a River Walk Excursion and Wednesday for the Annual Awards Luncheon.

#### **The Value of Four Workshops for the Price of One!**

With four organizations partnering on this event, attendees receive the value of four distinct conferences for the price of one!

Texas Department of Rural Affairs  
Texas Hospital Association and its Rural Hospital Constituency Section  
Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals  
Texas Rural Health Association

#### **Even More Value for your Dollar!**

\$99 Room Rate

\$225 Registration Fee by Aug 15\*

\*State agencies needing assistance with early registration because of the start of a new fiscal year can contact us for payment options: [registrar@tha.org](mailto:registrar@tha.org) or fax 512/692-2653.

## Upcoming Events

Texas Rural Health Forum

September 13-14  
San Antonio, TX

Northern Nursing Academy

Fall 2011

Austin Community College, Round Rock

Western Nursing Academy

Fall 2011

Austin Community College, Fredericksburg

For all upcoming events please visit the Capital AHEC website.

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