



Corry Area Free Clinic

On March 19, the grand opening of the Corry Area Free Clinic was held. NW PA AHEC provided technical assistance as well as grant-writing services to procure startup funding of \$103,151 from the Highmark Foundation.

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The Northwest Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center 2012 Annual Report



*Connecting Students to Careers,
 Professionals to Communities,
 and Communities to Better Health*

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Dr. Brian Los Named 2012 “Preceptor of the Year”



Brian Los, MD, was chosen from over 100 physicians to be recognized as the NW PA AHEC’s 2012 Preceptor of the Year. He and his colleagues at Oil Valley Internal Medicine Associates have provided medical students with high quality primary care experience for several years. Located in Oil City, these providers began using electronic health records this year. Dr. Los leads this project along with their efforts to become recognized as a Patient Centered Medical Home.

During the past year, Penn State College of Medicine students gave Dr. Los high grades (10+ out of 10!) with corresponding comments such as “I learned more from Dr. Los in four weeks and have been able to do more procedures than in other Internal Medicine rotations. This was quite possibly the most high-yield experience I had in all of 3rd year. Dr. Los is an exceptional educator and has genuine respect for students.” Another said “I got more out of this AHEC rotation than any other. Absolutely wonderful experience. Most enjoyable rotation I have had so far. Dr. Los made every patient a teaching point. Incorporated teaching of both the patient and me during each visit. Dr Los spent time educating me on the most current guidelines for treatment of common primary care issues. He quizzed me constantly which was very helpful. Many thanks for a highly enjoyable and educationally enriching rural/underserved internal medicine experience. Very comprehensive. Seeing a preceptor know every patient on a personal basis was eye opening”.

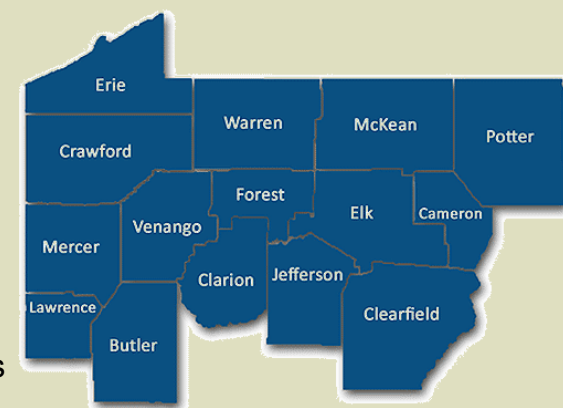
A graduate of the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Medicine, Dr. Los is board certified in Internal Medicine as well as Hospice and Palliative Care. He and his family reside in Titusville where he has medical privileges at Titusville Hospital.

Health Professions Student Placements

This past year the NW PA AHEC received feedback from over 100 medical, dental, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, and other health professions students in AHEC affiliated training sites.

Most were placed in either federally designated underserved sites, or in centers where at least 40% of the patients are uninsured or underinsured.

Three newly appointed physician faculty members were recruited as preceptors and 46 were reappointed to faculty positions at the Penn State College of Medicine.



Funding for the Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center Program is provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The commonwealth’s medical community and communities at large provide additional support..

A Message from the Desk of Patricia J. Stubber, Executive Director



Patient Centered Medical Homes, meaningful use, and health self management are three phrases that have highlighted this year's activities in the North West region. Many of our primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and their respective team members are involved in the installation of electronic health records and attaining meaningful use of those systems to acquire the financial incentives offered by the federal government. Those activities are coupled with the next challenge—becoming recognized as a patient centered medical home. While those actions are anticipated to provide a basis from which insurers will increase reimbursement to primary care providers, they are also the basis for improving the quality of the medical encounter for consumers. Regardless of the final regulatory components of the Affordable Care Act, it is likely that improved access and patient outcomes will be the focus points. With improved access comes the need for more primary care health professionals, the keystone of the AHEC system.

This year also brought opportunity for our dental safety net centers to host the University of Pittsburgh dental students for one week rotations. Not only will this enhance the experiential education of the students, it will allow the centers a chance to recruit dentists. The shortage of dentists to care for the uninsured and underinsured remains a challenge throughout the Commonwealth.

In the upcoming year, we plan to enhance our focus on community to continue building the bridge between community, health professionals, and academic resources.

Our Board of Directors and staff thank everyone who has provided us with funding and expertise to continue our mission to improve access to primary care for our rural and underserved residents.

Patricia J. Stubber

Student Spotlight

Amaris Yandel, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Class of 2014

The NW PA AHEC is privileged to work with Amaris Yandel who is originally from Pittsburgh and currently a 3rd year medical student at LECOM. She is a National Health Service Corps scholar whose primary interest is OB-GYN. Mark Stockard, NW PA AHEC, arranged a four week rotation for Amaris with Hope Pediatrics.

About her experience, Amaris says *"As part of my experience with the Corps this year, I was given the opportunity to meet with the NW PA AHEC team to discuss clinical clerkships and medical education training. Not only are all the members of the team extremely encouraging and kind, but they also helped me greatly in finding rotations and mentors in the NW PA area. Being part of the NHSC program, I find this helpful because it gives me exposure to some of the places I may be working when I complete my program. I was able to do a Pediatrics rotation in Seneca, a rural area of Pennsylvania and gained firsthand knowledge of how providers work to create comprehensive and accessible health care in underserved areas. After this experience I am very happy to be a member of the NHSC and look forward to the time I will spend as a physician in underserved areas. I appreciate the opportunities that were made accessible to me by the NW PA AHEC team and I look forward to working with them more in the future"*.



Special thanks to our board member Bill Jeffress for arranging an introduction to Dr. Andrea Jeffress, an Erie OB-GYN who has graciously agreed to provide Amaris with a rotation this academic year.

Continuing Professional Education

In November, "The Making of a Dentist" was presented in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and our AHEC partners in the Southcentral and Southwest regions. Attendees included dentists and other oral health professionals who provide care to the uninsured and underinsured in those regions.

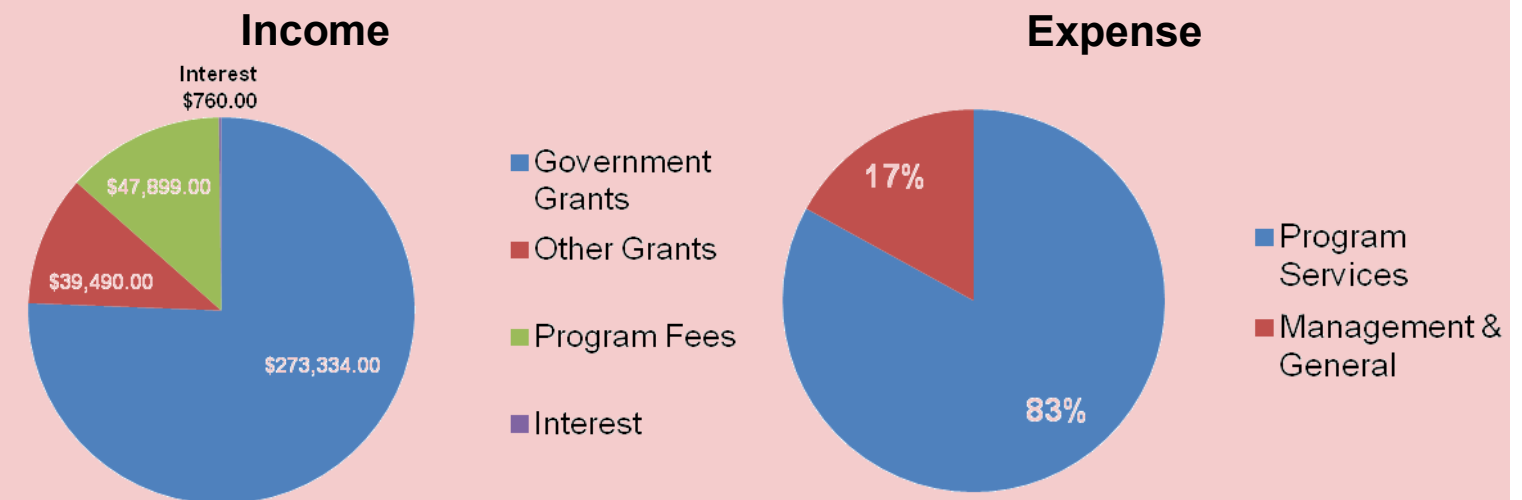
Medical Interpretation in the United States

Through a grant provided by Highmark Corporation, NW PA AHEC developed and delivered a 40 hour course to 19 local medical interpreters. Four hour classes were held weekly for ten weeks from April through June. Participants are currently interpreters in Erie at the Multicultural Health Evaluation Delivery Systems (MHEDS) and the Multicultural Community Resource Center (MCRC). Classes were held at Stairways Behavioral Health in Erie. Class topics included the health care workforce, working with health professionals in medical and behavioral health visits, Emergency Medical Services and navigating the 911 system, pharmacology, medical terminology, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, commonly occurring cancers, and mental health first aid.



The participants provide medical interpretation in 10 languages including Arabic, Bosnian, Burmese, French, Nepali, Russian, Somalian, Spanish, Swahili, and Ukrainian. They have been in the profession from four months to 24 years. All are working towards certification in their respective languages. Title VI requires organizations receiving federal funds to offer interpretation services to patients with limited English proficiency. As of yet, there are no regulations regarding certification, but they are in the making.

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ending 2012



In Kind Contributions = \$3,652,275.00