



**Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 12, 2020**  
**10:30 am – 11:30 am**

- Welcome and Call to order
  - In attendance, board members: Theresa Bradtmiller, Dr. Ruby Cain, Amanda Leffler, Rick Roberts, Susan Stiffney
  - In attendance, AHEC staff: Danielle Bruno, Valerie Caldwell, Kim DeOrto, Dr. Tony Mahon, Justin Tobyas
  - Not able to attend: Gina Bailey, Brian Henriksen, Barbara Ihrke, Connie McIntosh, Ann Obergfell, Josh Rainey, Terri Roberts
- New board roster
  - Looking to fill three seats for the 2020-2022 cohort
  - From LaGrange County – possibility of Beau Bradtmiller
  - Other suggestions from the board: Huntington County – Jenny Doorman; Stuben County – possibly someone associated with Trine University
- Officers for 2020-2021
  - 1 year commitment
  - President: Terri Roberts
  - Vice-president: Connie McIntosh
  - Secretary: Rick Roberts
  - Voting by the board reached quorum, so positions are official
- Updates from Advisory Board members
  - Terri Roberts – (updates provided by Justin and included as part of NEI-AHEC activities) Seeking to reach the underserved/rural population in the Northeast counties via telehealth using the Parkview Epic System.
  - Rick Roberts – response to shutdown for COVID-19 has consumed most of time, both in setting up teaching online and in working with students displaced from shadowing opportunities. Currently working with students applying to health professions grad programs and preparing for the transition back to in person teaching at Grace College, in the midst of changes to teaching procedures.
  - Susan Stiffney – also spending most of her time working to prepare for the return to in person teaching. The projects planned in collaboration with Goshen Health for the spring are still on hold. Working out details and procedures for virtual observations and clinical placements.
  - Dr. Ruby Cain – has been participating in a number of webinars about race disparity in regards to COVID-19. In Indiana, there have been problems with testing sites not collecting information about race which hinders analysis (some counties using other means to ascertain this data). Some counties report problems with people being denied testing. Also participated in a webinar on the publication of the International Handbook of Black Mental Health (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMBU7a-8I8o> for a recording). Finally, the cancer survivor's celebration scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup> likely to be virtual. Important to host this to dispel misinformation among the black community that cancer isn't survivable.
  - Amanda Leffler – also dealing with shortage of spots for clinical placements, especially in long term care facilities (placements for CNAs, others). Working with the State Board of Health to

promote acceptance of simulation hours counting for licensing/etc. – possibility of partnering with NEI-AHEC for the VIRTU project (see below).

- Theresa Bradtmiller – Working with the county on what school will look like as students return to the classrooms. Have already brought back some graduate students for in-facility training, and working on opening up for some undergrad shadowing opportunities. The intubation education materials provided by NEI-AHEC have been very helpful. The “Too Good for Drugs” school program is currently on hold, may adapt it to be done virtually.

- Updates from NEI-AHEC

- Danielle Bruno (State Network office) – main focus is on recruiting scholars for the Goal C program. Also working on developing a website to connect the current scholars, and providing resources for them.
- Goal A programs (Kim)
  - For the past year, exceeded the goal, involving 260 students in health pipeline events
  - For this coming year, the goal is 245 students
  - Working on both offering Club Medic in person as well as preparing it for virtual engagement
    - Not doing Madison County, but involved in Blackford, DeKalb, Wabash, and Grant Counties primarily with face to face offerings
    - Looking to reach into Northeast counties
    - Have a lead for a program in Elkhart county
  - Have developed a relationship with Manchester School of Pharmacy, have some of their faculty do virtual guest lectures for programs
  - Looking to identify other professionals at other programs as well
  - Plans being made to promote these programs at Career Fairs, other events when they resume at schools
  - Aided Manchester Pharmacy program with their virtual summer camp this past summer
  - Also helped with registration fees for HOSA State Leadership Conference
  - Actively promoting the applicability of virtual health experiences
  - Finally, looking into a partnership with Questa Foundation – provides low cost loans for college for students in the health professions if they stay in Northeast Indiana
- Goal B programs (Valeri)
  - Providing funding for the pursuit of virtual training experiences for Indiana Wesleyan, University of St. Francis, Ivy Tech nursing programs
  - Plan to meet the required placement of 10% of IU clinical rotation students: regional centers will participate in debriefing sessions with clerkship students – have plans for 8 of these meetings
  - Working with practitioners at Heart City Medical (in the Goshen area) who are interested in hosting clerkship medical school students (from IU and possibly Marion). Have about 10 providers that could serve as preceptors. Also have mid-level providers (PA, NP, nursing) that could act as preceptors, looking at connecting these from other schools.
  - VIRTU project – this is a virtual reality simulation platform for training students. NEI-AHEC is working on an umbrella license allowing up to 25 users. Faculty can try this out and decide how to use with their students. Still working out details, looking at partnering with facilities who need to provide shadowing opportunities. IWU looking to use it for the CNA training, including possibly for high school students. Could also potentially be used for professional development (Goal D).
  - Also working with Ball State clinics by providing matching funding from a HRSA grant to support telehealth.
- Goal C – Scholars (Valeri)

- Cohort that started in 2019 began 2<sup>nd</sup> year on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Much of experiences in first year had to be virtual, hoping to provide hands on volunteer experiences in community outreach this year. Are divided into 4 groups focused on tobacco cessation, mental health and youth, nutrition, and a community garden; will present their results at the April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 state AHEC meeting.
    - Cohort starting in 2020 – currently have 11 out of the 15 desired; application deadline pushed to September 15<sup>th</sup> with an October 1<sup>st</sup> start date. Plan on a combination of virtual and hands on experiences for the coming year. Any suggestions of recruiting avenues can be passed on to Valeri.
  - Goal D programs (Kim)
    - Goal D funds for professional development have been used to allow participation of professionals in virtual conferences
    - Pursuing relationship with IU Dental Hygiene program by giving support for clinical experiences this spring through providing models for use since patient contact was limited. Some of these students could be eligible for the Goal C Scholars program
    - Also developing webinar list to disseminate resources to professionals
    - Partnership with IRHA Crossroads to provide training with telehealth equipment. Associated with seeking to reach the underserved/rural population in the Northeast counties via telehealth using the Parkview Epic System. Also working with Ball State clinics by providing matching funding from a HRSA grant to support telehealth.
  - Mini Grants
    - Planning for this again this year but with budget changes
    - Currently at \$20K but considering moving money to help health professions programs with virtual clinical experiences to help counter COVID-19 related restrictions
  - Need to extend into LaGrange, Steuben, Noble, DeKalb, Whitely, and Elkhart Counties
    - Ideas? Some suggestions for board members from this region (see above as well)
    - Committee? Theresa and Amanda expressed interest, some ideas as to how to engage this area
    - Suggestion was made to arrange a meeting (virtual) with hospital and community health representatives from the area – purpose to assess needs in the area, how NEI-AHEC can help; might open up possibility for board member recruiting
- NEI-AHEC Advisory Board in Action form [https://bsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ehW3V62ATKcxp7n](https://bsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ehW3V62ATKcxp7n)
- This form is to seek assistance for AHEC-relevant projects, goes to NEI-AHEC staff as well as to all board members
  - Hoping to engage a greater level of active participation
- Dr. Mahon
    - Commended the NEI office for admirable job addressing the challenges related to COVID while still pursuing goals
    - Dealt well with complexity of the challenges with partner institutions
    - Focus on identifying new partner institutions is a strong one
  - Adjournment

Separate document – include broad description of goals A-D, discuss nuances of interrelationships of the goals at the next meeting