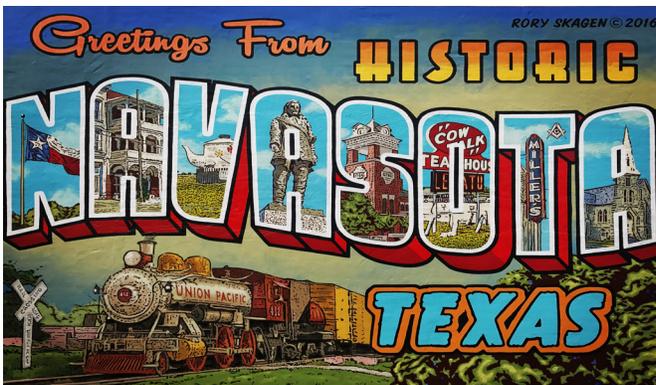


# ADDRESSING RURAL HEALTH CHALLENGES AND DISPARITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED TEXAS COUNTIES:

An Episcopal Health Foundation and Texas A&M Partnership



Episcopal Health Foundation



Southwest Rural Health Research Center  
School of Public Health  
Texas A&M University Health Science Center



Suggested citation: Bolin J, Cauley D, Helduser J. Final Report. Addressing Rural Health Challenges and Disparities to Meet the Needs of Underserved Texas Counties: An Episcopal Health Foundation and Texas A&M Partnership. College Station, TX; Southwest Rural Health Research Center; June 2018. Available at: <http://srhrc.tamhsc.edu>

## **Final Report**

# **Addressing Rural Health Challenges and Disparities to Meet the Needs of Underserved Texas Counties: An Episcopal Health Foundation and Texas A&M Partnership**

**June 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018**

**A Report to the  
Episcopal Health Foundation**

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# **Addressing Rural Health Challenges and Disparities to Meet the Needs of Underserved Texas Counties: An Episcopal Health Foundation and Texas A&M Partnership**

## **Final Report for the Period**

**June 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Founded in 2000, the Texas A&M Southwest Rural Health Research Center (SRHRC) has a long history of studying the challenges of rural, racial and ethnic health disparities, and developing initiatives that successfully address these challenges. The Center's emphasis on rural and underserved communities, and its team of academic, clinical and community partners, align well with Episcopal Health Foundation (EHF) vision to connect people, parishes, institutions, and organizations to support healthier communities. In June 2016, in an effort to learn more about the unique health needs and priorities of poor and underserved rural communities in the areas served by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, the EHF requested that the SRHRC at the Texas A&M School of Public Health conduct a series of community planning and participatory meetings in rural Grimes, Madison, and Robertson Counties. Our Year 1 report may be found at <https://srhrc.tamhsc.edu/projects.html>

This final report will document results of the SRHRC's Year 2 efforts in these three rural counties in Central Texas. In Year 2 of this project, the SRHRC: (1) worked with EHF to identify Community Champions in each county; (2) supported efforts to reconvene Health and Wellness Planning Committees organized in Year 1; and (3) supported expansion of the Planning Committees, establishing Coalitions to address previously identified health priority projects. With technical assistance from the SRHRC, the three County Coalitions have focused on community-based planning, capacity building, and action planning to work towards culmination of their county-specific project concepts. The SRHRC team also assisted Dr. Heather Clark in administering an online survey to stakeholders and organizations in each county for the purpose of gathering data for a social network analysis. (Dr. Clark, of the Texas A&M College of Education's Department of Health and Kinesiology, was engaged by EHF under a separate contract to complete the social network analysis; therefore, Dr. Clark will issue her own report to EHF.)

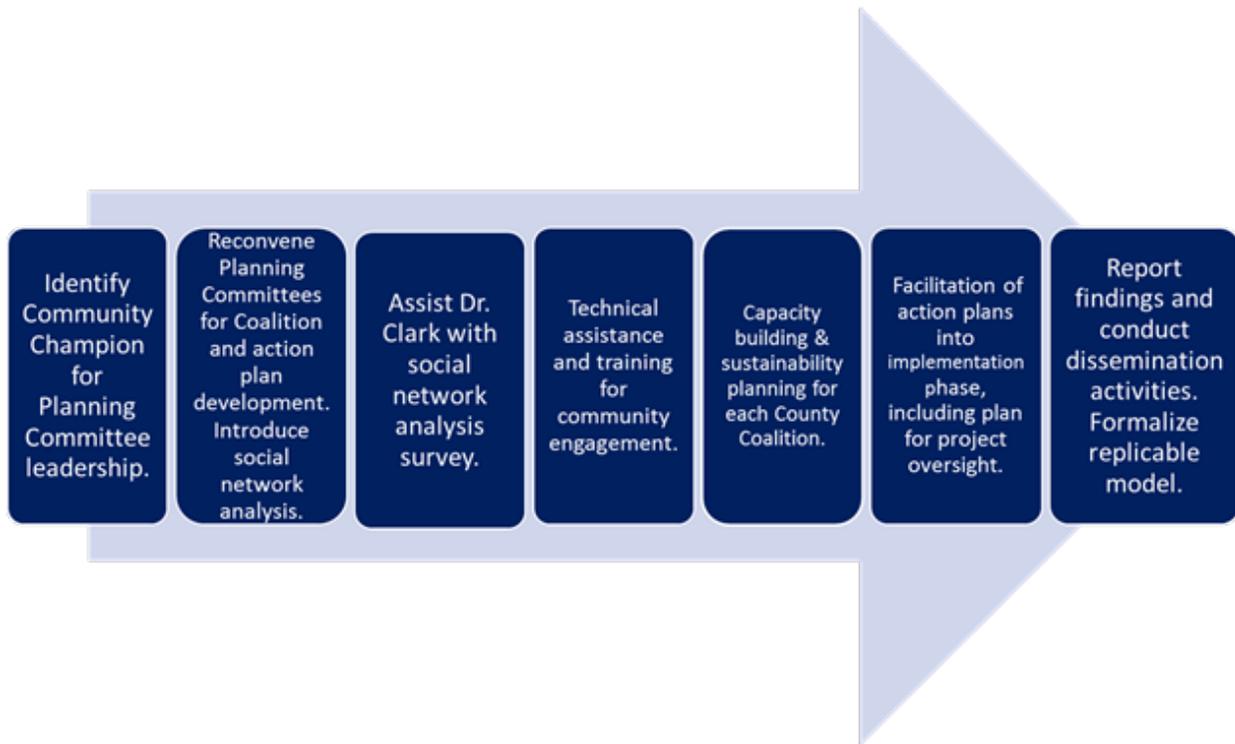
The primary goals for Year 2 of this SRHRC/EHF project were:

1. To recommend Community Champions in each county, and assist them in reconvening Health and Wellness Planning Committees and organizing and leading Coalitions.
2. To provide technical assistance (e.g., grant writing) to the three County Coalitions as they pursue their self-identified health-related projects.
3. To assist in administering an online survey to stakeholders and organizations for the purpose of gathering data for a social network analysis.

These goals are in direct alignment with the EHF's Transformation to Healthy Communities, particularly Strategy #5 - Support Capacity Building. Ultimately, as a result of this two-year project

in Grimes, Madison and Robertson Counties, we observed improved collaboration within each county and increased support for, and awareness of, the resources needed to enhance essential health services – especially for vulnerable populations.

Figure 1, shown below, provides a graphic overview of the activities for the Year 2 reporting period of June 1, 2017, through May 31, 2018.



## I. YEAR 1 SUMMARY REVIEW

During Year 1 of this project, Health and Wellness Planning Committees were established in three underserved counties in Central Texas, i.e., Grimes, Madison, and Robertson Counties. These three counties represent primarily rural areas with well-known health disparities, but some emerging resources. Planning Committee members included representatives from healthcare, education, ministerial alliances, social service agencies, support groups, municipalities and county governments, and community champions. Many of the individuals had partnered previously with the Southwest Rural Health Research Center (SRHRC) for community outreach and engagement on chronic disease projects.

After the Planning Committees were formed, members met with SRHRC leaders and staff to confer about suitable locations and additional key stakeholders to include in focus group discussions that would represent their respective counties. With technical and administrative expertise from the SRHRC, twelve community participatory groups (CPGs), geographically dispersed across the counties, were initiated. The goal of each CPG was to provide input on critical health-related issues in their counties. As a result, one or two county-specific health priorities, and potential solutions, were proposed. Complete results from the CPGs have been provided previously to the Episcopal Health Foundation (EHF) in a report dated June 23, 2017.<sup>1</sup> The Year 1 report may be found online at <https://srhrc.tamhsc.edu/projects.html>.

Outcomes of the Year 1 efforts resulted in the following decisions for Year 2 activities:

- The **Grimes County** Planning Committee, after considering CPG input, concluded that sub-optimal education existed about available community resources, and that this was a health disparities issue they found feasible to address. Lack of awareness about health resources is truly critical for low-income residents with chronic conditions or emergency situations. The CPGs had noted that a health-related education and awareness project should ensure that all communities in Grimes County are reached, not just the largest town of Navasota.
- In **Madison County**, the Planning Committee made a decision to focus on a solution to the lack of healthy life-building and recreational activities for the youth of Madison County, a priority identified by the CPGs. Members of the committee also wanted to develop an action plan to support a women's shelter for short-term, emergency housing for women and children seeking safety from domestic abuse.
- **Robertson County** participants decided to establish a health resource center (HRC). This model has been shown to improve both access to care and health status in other Brazos Valley Counties, including Grimes and Madison Counties. An HRC is particularly timely for Robertson County residents who have significant disparities and poor access to healthcare services. A model for the health resource center was developed previously by Texas A&M's Center for Community Health Development. Facilitated more than a decade ago, county health resource centers have been established in neighboring Burleson, Madison, Grimes, Leon, and Washington Counties.

## II. PROJECT LEADERSHIP

### Texas A&M SRHRC Project Leadership:

- 1. Jane Bolin, B.S.N., J.D., Ph.D.** is the principal investigator for this project. Dr. Bolin is the director of the SRHRC and a professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Texas A&M School of Public Health. Dr. Bolin has extensive grant leadership experience in rural health research and policy, healthcare delivery in special populations, racial/ethnic healthcare disparities, and community-based interventions related to diabetes, cancer screening and chronic disease. Other areas of research expertise include legal and regulatory aspects of healthcare, cost-effectiveness evaluations, and community-based participatory research.
- 2. Janet Helduser, M.A.** is a Project Manager in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Texas A&M School of Public Health who provides operational oversight to this project. Drawing on her experience working “boots-on-the-ground” in these three counties, Ms. Helduser oversees pragmatic processes and offers advisement about community engagement and key stakeholders.
- 3. Daunte’ Cauley, M.S.** serves as the key Program Coordinator on this project, responsible for implementing all of the project’s community-related activities relative to the contracted work plan and timeline. Daunte’ Cauley spoke with each Community Champion weekly, and met with the Coalitions at least once per month to discuss progress regarding each community health project and provide project-specific technical assistance.

1.



2.



3.



### Community Champions

As the first deliverable in Year 2, the SRHRC identified and engaged Community Champions to lead the second year of work in each county. These individuals were suggested by SRHRC personnel; all three Community Champions participated in Year 1 of the project. Each Community Champion is a trusted member of their county and community. They were selected based on willingness and availability to serve, access to the community at-large, motivation, work practices necessary to support such an initiative, and a dedication to improving the quality of life for a particular group or the community as a whole. The Community Champions for this project assumed a leadership role in establishing the Coalition membership necessary to ensure successful action plan development and project sustainability.

2. Southwest Rural Health Research Center

### III. GRIMES COUNTY

#### III.a. Grimes County Community Champion

Precinct 3 County Commissioner Barbara Walker accepted the role of Community Champion for the Grimes County Coalition. Commissioner Walker is a lifelong resident of Grimes County, and is passionate about connecting residents of Grimes County. She participated in the Navasota-based CPG discussion, and was also a member of the Grimes County Health and Wellness Planning Committee. Commissioner Walker’s role as a County Commissioner, and her active involvement in county issues, plays a part in her success as a leader with influence and vision for her county. Commissioner Walker has stated that “Working with the School of Public Health and Dr. [Richard] Street, has revitalized our efforts in reaching all residents of Grimes County.”

#### III.b. Grimes County Coalition Development

Commissioner Walker’s first step as Community Champion was to reconvene the Year 1 Planning Committee and expand its membership to form a Grimes County Coalition. Commissioner Walker organized the Coalition to meet once a month to focus on recruiting additional members. The Coalition had, on average, six members present at each meeting. The Coalition

held its meetings at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and the Grimes County Precinct 3 office (Table 1).

#### III.c. Grimes County Community Health Project

In Grimes County, members of the Year 1 Health and Wellness Planning Committee had agreed that lack of education regarding available community resources was an issue that was feasible to address. The Grimes County Coalition agreed that the first priority of their group would be to improve communication about community health resources that are available to residents of Grimes County. Initially, the Coalition focused on how the group could effectively distribute the recently updated Grimes Health Resource Center Health Services Directory. Through SRHRC-facilitated discussion, the Grimes County Coalition decided an expanded and more creative communication plan for Grimes County might best serve the community. The SRHRC contacted Richard Street, Ph.D., Professor, Texas A&M Department of Communication, to solicit his participation in designing communication strategies to better inform stakeholders and residents in Grimes County. Dr. Street included his colleague Anna Wolfe, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, who specializes in community activation (Figure 2). Bringing Dr. Street and Dr. Wolfe into the project will

**Table 1. Grimes County Technical Assistance Provided**

Grimes County Coalition Meetings		
Date	Location	Technical Assistance
9/5/2017	St. Paul’s Episcopal Church	Facilitated Discussion, Meeting Reminders, Agenda Review
10/31/2017	St. Paul’s Episcopal Church	Facilitated Discussion
11/30/2017	Navasota Center	Community Engagement Workshop
2/12/2018	Grimes County 3 Precinct	Communication Planning
3/22/2018	Conference Call	Communication Planning
4/14/2018	Las Fuentes Steak and Grill	Communication Planning

allow the Grimes County Coalition to assist in communication planning to reach all residents of Grimes County. With Dr. Street's suggestions, the Grimes County Coalition agreed to restructure the Grimes County Center Health Services Directory to make the information easier to understand and distribute to community residents. The Coalition is planning on having health ambassadors in each community of Grimes County (Bedias, Iola, Plantersville, Anderson, and Navasota) to help promote services and programs on a county-wide level. Dr. Street and Dr. Wolfe are developing a menu of options through which the Texas A&M Department of Communication can further support a Grimes County communication plan. Discussions are currently ongoing.

**Figure 2. Grimes County Communication Planning**



#### **III.d. Grimes County Sustainability Planning**

In Grimes County, Community Champion Barbara Walker envisions the Coalition continuing as an advisory board for Grimes County. Commissioner Walker has plans to bring more residents into the Coalition to address other issues within the county. Commissioner Walker views the communication planning as the first project of the Coalition. The communication planning will aid in improving communication about community health resources and also identifying community ambassadors in the rural areas of Grimes County.

#### **III.e. Grimes County Successes & Next Steps**

- » The Coalition identified that the design of the Grimes Health Resource Center Health Services Directory needed to be revamped for the residents that it was intended to help.
- » Dr. Richard Street and Dr. Anna Wolfe are interested in working with the Coalition to aid in communication planning for Grimes County.
- » The next step for the Grimes Coalition is to obtain funding for further communication planning with Dr. Rick Street and his colleague Dr. Anna Wolfe. Dr. Street has requested funding for a graduate student and undergraduate coders for a potential research project, beginning in the Fall of 2018.

## IV. MADISON COUNTY

### IV.a. Madison County Community Champion

**Etta Spivey** was identified as the Community Champion for Madison County. Ms. Spivey was a member of our Year 1 Health and Wellness Planning Committee; she currently operates a home day care in Madisonville, Texas. Ms. Spivey has recently moved back to Madison County, after working professionally as an office manager in Dallas, Texas. Ms. Spivey has a passion for working with youth in the community. She is a member of various organizations in Madisonville and participated in the CPGs for this SRHRC-EHF project. Ms. Spivey has a family history in Madison County that enabled her to quickly engage with community residents and bring them to the table for planning. She also has a long history with Madison County through the Juneteenth Committee.

### IV.b. Madison County Coalition Development

Ms. Spivey used her community contacts in Madison County, and also the Juneteenth Organization, to recruit additional members to be a part of the Madison County Coalition. Ms. Spivey hosted the Coalition meetings in the Juneteenth Organization’s building. The meetings

consisted of discussions about who should be a part of the Coalitions, as well as brainstorming sessions about the development of a summer enrichment program and engaging the youth of Madison County. The Coalition met monthly and had, on average, 15 members present (Table 2).

### IV.c. Madison Community Health Project

In Year 1, members of the Madison County Health and Wellness Planning Committee had made a decision to focus on a solution to the lack of recreational activities for youth. One goal of the Madison County Coalition quickly developed as an afterschool program for the youth of Madison County. The 2018 Summer Enrichment Camp will serve as a pilot test for future programming and will include activities such as math, science, health, outdoor activities, photography, and cooking classes. The Coalition also plans to implement financial literacy classes, as well as first time homebuyers’ classes for young adult residents.

The Madison County Coalition chose to pursue funding from local organizations such as the Walmart Foundation, Buc-ees, and Dollar General. The SRHRC Program Coordinator Daunte’ Cauley applied for the Walmart Foundation Community Grant Program (on behalf

**Table 2. Madison County Technical Assistance Provided**

Madison County Coalition Meetings		
Date	Location	Technical Assistance
9/8/2017	Madison County Annex	Facilitated Discussion, Meeting Reminders, Agenda Review
10/28/2017	Juneteenth Facility	Facilitated Discussion
11/15/2017	Truman Kimbro Center	Recruited participants for CE Workshop
12/11/2017	Juneteenth Facility	Community Engagement Coaching
2/26/2018	Juneteenth Facility	Grant Writing/Funding Opportunities
3/16/2018	Juneteenth Facility	Grant Writing
3/27/2018	Juneteenth Facility	Grant Writing

of the Coalition) which provides funding for afterschool enrichment, tutoring, or vocational training for low-income individuals and families in the United States. The Madison County Coalition received funding from the Walmart Foundation on May 10, 2018 for a total of \$1,000.00. After learning the news about the grant being awarded to the Coalition, Etta Spivey stated “I truly believe we’d still be stuck in neutral right now. Ya’ll put us in drive.” Community Champion Etta Spivey stated that the funding will be used for consumable office supplies to support both the administration and curriculum for the camp (e.g., copy paper/ink/name tags), technology equipment (one projector), learning aids, food items, and any remaining funds will be applied towards the campers’ t-shirts.

#### IV.d. Madison County Plans for Sustainability

In Madison County, the Madison Coalition determined that, initially, the best plan of action

would be to begin a 2018 Youth Summer Enrichment Program as a pilot program to identify issues and challenges (Figure 3). The Walmart grant proposal will serve as a template for future applications. The local foundations that the Madison Coalition sought funding support from are available on a yearly basis. The Madison County Coalition has support from county government, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, local churches, and the Madisonville Consolidated Independent School District to aid in transportation, programming, and promotion of the 2018 Summer Enrichment Camp. Community Champion Etta Spivey deems the Coalition has the capacity to apply for external funding, and sustain the Coalition’s project.

#### IV.e. Madison County Successes & Next Steps

» In the Spring of 2018, the Madison County Coalition was able to offer after school tutoring services to the youth of Madison County

Figure 3. 2018 Summer Enrichment Program Brochure



- at the Juneteenth Organization Building.
- » The Madison County Coalition reached out to the AgriLife Extension Office to discuss additional program opportunities for Madison County youth.
  - » The Madison County Coalition, with technical assistance from Texas A&M SRHRC, Dr. Bolin and Mr. Cauley, was awarded a community foundation grant of \$1,000.00 from the Wal Mart Foundation for their 2018 Summer Enrichment Camp.
  - » The next step for the Madison County Coalition will be to implement the 2018 Summer Enrichment Camp. When Week 2 of the Summer Enrichment Camp has concluded, the Coalition will evaluate and assess the strengths and weaknesses of their first pilot and initiate planning for a Fall 2018 after-school program for disadvantaged youth.
  - » Community Champion Eta Spivey is excited about the possibilities for the Coalition and the work that is ongoing in Madison County.

## V. ROBERTSON COUNTY

### V.a. Robertson County Community Champion

**Ramona Malone** was motivated to accept the role of Community Champion for Robertson County because she saw that the health needs of her community were not being met. Ms. Malone participated in the Year 1 of work by

helping coordinate the CPG based in Hearne, Texas. She is originally from Hearne, but spent most of her time working professionally in Houston, Texas. Ms. Malone is currently employed part-time by St. Phillip’s Episcopal Church to coordinate activities of the Texas Rural Leadership Program. She is retired from the Texas Workforce Commission. Ms. Malone understands governmental agencies, which helped fuel her passion and ability to receive buy-in from key influential leaders and local stakeholders. Ms. Malone recently stated that “The School of Public Health and Episcopal Health Foundation have really kick-started the development of a health resource center in Robertson County.”

### V.b. Robertson County Coalition Development

Community Champion Ramona Malone, met periodically with the members of the Robertson County Coalition (Table 3). She also met with key stakeholders in Robertson County to establish a location and local buy-in for the health resource center. Ms. Malone is working with the second cohort of the Texas Rural Leadership Program in Hearne. This group has made planning for the health resource center their project for the one year leadership program.

### V.c. Robertson Community Health Project

In Robertson County, the Health and Wellness Planning Committee had expressed its desire to

**Table 3. Robertson County Technical Assistance Provided**

Robertson County Coalition Meetings		
Date	Location	Technical Assistance
9/8/2017	Robertson County Courthouse	Facilitated Discussion, Meeting Reminders, Agenda Review
10/11/2017	St. Phillips Episcopal Church	Sustainability Planning
3/8/2018	St. Phillips Episcopal Church	Texas Rural Leadership Program
4/18/2018	St. Phillips Episcopal Church	Sustainability Planning
4/26/2018	St. Phillips Episcopal Church	HRC Presentation

establish a health resource center, which could improve both access to care and health status for Robertson County residents through collaboration and coordination of services. Ramona Malone has met with stakeholders in Hearne, Texas to solidify a building space for the health resource center. Ramona Malone has made site visits to the Texas Workforce building, a City of Hearne office building, and also a HealthPoint office. Ms. Malone has tentatively identified priority program areas (i.e., legal aid, mental health, financial literacy, and youth programs) to incorporate into the Robertson County health resource center services.

#### **V.d. Robertson County Sustainability Plan**

In Robertson County, Community Champion Ramona Malone plans on establishing sustainability through county, city, and local organizations' funding and support. Robertson County Judge, Charles Ellison, has pledged to incorporate financial support of the health resource center into Robertson County's annual budget. Ms. Malone plans on using the service providers of the Brazos Valley Council of Government to provide programming for the residents of Robertson County. Ms. Malone also has the support of the City of Hearne to provide office space and to subsidize utilities. Ms. Malone has reported that she now feels comfortable and assured that the Robertson County Coalition will obtain funding from external sources, and support from local organizations.

#### **V.e. Robertson County Successes & Next Steps**

- » The Robertson Coalition added eight new members from the Texas Rural Leadership Program. The new members consist of: retired teachers, retired federal employee, local newspaper personnel, workforce center manager, school board member, city librarian, and chamber of commerce member.
- » Community Champion, Ramona Malone,

stated that the group is energized and excited to work on their identified community health project.

- » County Judge Charles Ellison has agreed to support the incorporation of health resource center funding (up to \$25,000.00) into the county budget.
- » The health resource center has been offered office space and equipment by HealthPoint Clinic, Texas Workforce Commission, and the City of Hearne.
- » The next step for the Robertson County Coalition is to successfully plan and implement the Robertson County Health Resource Center. The Coalition will choose program areas that the health resource center will provide for the residents of Robertson County. The Coalition will also identify additional funding sources for the health resource center.

## VI. REVIEW OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance may consist of many forms of outreach, facilitation, and expertise. This may include sharing information and expertise, formal instruction, skills training, transmission of working knowledge, and consulting services.<sup>2</sup> Technical assistance is a broad term used to describe these communications and collaborations across systems.<sup>3</sup>

The ways in which the SRHRC has provided technical assistance to the County Coalitions during this report period are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4. Technical Assistance Provided**

Technical Assistance Provided	Grimes	Madison	Robertson
Suggest Coalition membership from SRHRC database	X	X	X
Follow-up with new Coalition members	X	X	X
Review meeting agendas	X	X	X
Distribute meeting reminders	X	X	X
Provide meeting materials	X	X	X
Co-lead brainstorming sessions	X	X	X
Facilitate discussions	X	X	X
Provide Grant writing checklist	X	X	X
Distribute funding opportunities spreadsheet	X	X	X
Develop grant proposal		X	
Apply for external funding		X	
Project Specific presentations to Coalitions	X		X

## VII. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Despite many successes for the Coalitions in Robertson, Madison, and Grimes counties, several challenges were encountered during Year 2 of this SRHRC-EHF collaboration. A major challenge was working with community volunteers (as opposed to paid or contracted personnel). The Community Champions in each of the three counties have regular day-time jobs and were able to dedicate only a limited amount of time to leadership of their respective Coalitions. This same constraint applies to anticipating a timeline for implementation of their respective community projects. Because the Community Champions are not compensated financially for their time working with the projects, nor responsible to report to an oversight board or employer, it does not seem reasonable to request a specific timeline for a deliverable nor expect a work product.

Another challenge that presented itself was funding for the community projects. Program Coordinator Daunte’ Cauley presented each Coalition with several funding opportunities to underwrite their community projects. For example, the original five health resource centers in the Brazos Val-

ley had obtained pilot funding that enabled the health resource centers to procure part-time paid staff, office equipment, and technical assistance for development of their centers. The Robertson County Coalition is approaching the project in a different manner, by establishing community relationships, finding donated building space, and then pursuing a funding source.

Multiple projects competing for scarce resources within the small rural counties was another significant challenge. Community leaders may have multiple responsibilities and are frequently pulled in many different directions. In each county, there were individuals that were open to participating, but wearing many different hats within their rural communities along with daily employment obligations.

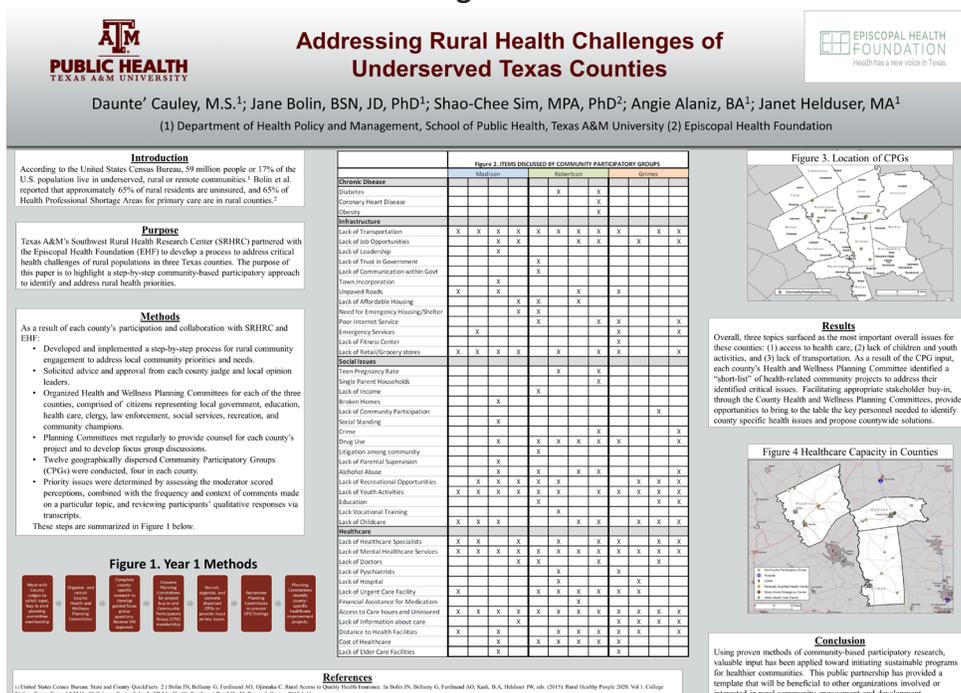
Some attrition within the Coalition membership was also noted. The Coalitions in each county had some issues with retention of members, and members not being able to make the meetings due to other schedule conflicts or career changes. For example, in Grimes County, Meredith Cryer was an employee with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office and also a key Coalition member. Meredith Cryer accepted a position in Walker County, and was no longer able to participate with the Grimes County Coalition.

## VIII. SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

### Presentation: National Rural Health Association

Program Coordinator Daunte' Cauley was selected to give a poster presentation at the National Rural Health Association Conference held May 8-11, 2018 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Daunte'

Figure 4.



Cauley's poster presented findings from the first year of work for this EHF-Texas A&M partnership. This included a step-by-step process for organizing and implementing CPGs (Figure 4).

Cauley D, Bolin J, Sim S, Alaniz A, Helduser J. Addressing Rural Health Challenges of Underserved Texas Counties. National Rural Health Association Annual Conference, May 8-11, 2018, New Orleans, Louisiana.

#### **Presentation: American Public Health Association**

Program Coordinator Daunte' Cauley will attend the American Public Health Association Conference Held November 10-14, 2018 in San Diego, California. Daunte' Cauley will present Year 1 and Year 2 work of the EHF-Texas A&M partnership.

Cauley D, Bolin J, Sim S, Alaniz A, Grier M, Bush-DiDonato T, Helduser J. Addressing Rural Health Challenges of Underserved Texas Counties. American Public Health Association, November 10-14, 2018 San Diego, California.

#### **Manuscript: Addressing Rural Health Challenges**

Program Coordinator Daunte' Cauley will be working on a manuscript to submit to a Journal of Community Health or other (in preparation). Cauley D, et al. Working Title: Addressing rural health challenges through community participation.

## **REFERENCES**

1. Bolin J, Alaniz, A, Cauley D, Helduser J, Nimmons K. Addressing Rural Health Challenges and Disparities to Meet the Needs of Underserved Texas Counties: An Episcopal Health Foundation and Texas &M Partnership. College Station, TX; Southwest Rural Health Research Center; June 2017. Available at: <https://srhrc.tamhsc.edu/projects.html>
2. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/cultural-diversity/cultural-expressions/programmes/technical-assistance/what-is-technical-assistance/> Accessed June 13, 2018.
3. EPISCenter Evidence-Based Prevention & Intervention Support Center <http://www.episcen-ter.psu.edu/technical-assistance> Accessed June 13, 2018.

# APPENDIX 1

## **Leveraging Other/Concurrent projects that include EHF target counties:**

Dr. Jane Bolin, RN, JD, PhD, continues to leverage her position as Principal Investigator and Director of the federally funded SRHRC, one of seven HRSA Federal Office of Rural Health Policy research centers. She is also Principal Investigator and Co-PI for multiple Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) grants for the benefit of the three counties participating in this SRHRC/EHF Project.

## **Related CPRIT products (6/1/16-5/31/2018):**

### **Presentations**

Bolin J, McClellan D, Pope R, Simmons J, Ojinnaka C, Helduser J, Fuller Pekarek K, Richardson A, Ory M. Improving access to colorectal cancer screening through innovative partnerships: a case for primary care endoscopy. Academy Health, Boston, MA, June 26-28, 2016. (Poster)

Bolin J. A CPRIT-funded prevention program to improve access to colorectal, breast and cervical cancer screenings for low-income and underserved persons in Texas. 2016 American Cancer Society (ACS) Cancer Action Network (CAN) Texas Cancer Policy Forum. Austin, TX, Aug 2, 2016. (Oral)

Helduser JW, McClellan DA. A CPRIT-funded Prevention Program to Improve Access to Cancer Screening for Low-Income and Underserved Texans. CPRIT Workshop: Cancer Research Collaboration in the Texas Medical Center. Houston Methodist Research Institute, Houston, Texas, Oct 31, 2016. (Oral, invited)

Bolin JN. A CPRIT-funded Prevention Program to Improve Access to Colorectal, Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings for Low-income and Underserved Persons in Texas. National Rural Health Association's 40th Annual Rural Health Conference, San Diego, CA, May 8-11, 2017. Presented May 9, 2017. (Oral)

Bolin JN. A Prevention Program to Improve Access to Colorectal, Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening for Low-income and Underserved Persons in Texas. In: Rural Cancer: Data Disparities and Determination – Insights from the Centers for Disease Control MMWR Rural Health Series, August 30, 2017. (Oral, Webinar)

McClellan D, Akinlotan MA, Pekarek K, Pope R, Nguyen V, Bolin JN. Prevalence and characteristics of colorectal polyps among Texas C-STEP colonoscopy recipients. CPRIT 2017: Innovations in Cancer Prevention and Research Conference, Austin, TX, Nov 13-14, 2017. (Abstract ID 234)

Bolin JN. Cancer Screening, Training, Education and Prevention Program (Texas C-STEP) Outcomes. Presentation to the CPRIT Oversight Committee, Austin, TX, Nov 29, 2017. (Oral)

McClellan D, Pekarek K, Akinlotan MA, Helduser J, Pope R, McKnight, J, Bolin JN. Prevalence and characteristics of colorectal polyps among rural low-income colonoscopy recipients. National Ru-

ral Health Association's Annual Rural Health Conference, New Orleans, LA. May 8-11, 2018. (Oral, presented by J. Helduser on 5/10/18)

### **Manuscripts**

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“The idea of a health resource center in Robertson County would not have happened without the involvement of EHF and A&M. We are excited for what is to come.”

*- Robertson County Community Champion Ramona Malone*

“Your commitment to our Coalition has been outstanding. Meetings have been informative as well as motivational. Thanks for helping us set realistic and achievable first steps.”

*- Madison County Community Champion Etta Spivey*



“I am very excited about the opportunities that the EHF and Texas A&M collaboration has afforded Grimes County.”

*- Grimes County Community Champion Barbara Walker*

