

GEC PIPELINE



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Copy edit & page layout: Julie Murphy, MAPS.

ARKANSAS GEC

Soledad H-D Jasin, PhD, Senior Education Specialist

Geriatric Mental Health on the Move

Between March 4th – June 24th, 2004, we implemented “Geriatric Mental Health on the Move.” This was a program funded through a 2003-2004 HRSA Supplemental Grant for GECs. The overriding consideration in the ideation stages of the program was the rural nature of our state and the limitations this imposes on health professionals’ access to quality continuing education. For that reason, rather than having health professionals travel to Little Rock, we would travel throughout the state. We decided that the logical places to hold the program would be at each of the seven Centers on Aging (COA) associated with our COA in Little Rock and also at one federally qualified health center (FQHC) facility associated with our grant partner, Community Health Centers of Arkansas. This decision proved extremely important; the local education directors at the COAs and the FQHC facility undertook the task of securing space to hold the program and to mount a publicity campaign. From the outset we realized that it would be next to impossible to find speakers who would be able to commit to eight presentations during the three months involved, especially since speaking at six out of the eight sites required an overnight stay. We invited eight speakers – two from each of these disciplines: neurology, psychology, social work and nursing – to commit to four lectures each and to develop jointly the presentation for their discipline. The topics identified for presentation were “Dementia and Delirium” (neurology), “Neuropsychological Assessment of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders” (psychology), and “Anxiety, Depression and Grief” (social work & nursing). After each of the presentations, presenters would discuss representative case studies with attendees in order to engage them in a dialogue. Having the two health professionals from each discipline working together on the presentation ensured that regardless of which one was presenting the content covered would be the same.

Much work went on between idea and reality. Compiling, reviewing and editing materials for the 203 pages syllabus that would be given to each attendee involved all of our staff. Trying to find dates convenient for all eight host sites and our eight speakers within our time frame generated much e-mail and phone traffic. Finding adequate space once we started getting replies to our mailing advertising the program was also challenging. Each site presented new challenges in determining local availability of audiovisual equipment or locating some to transport and hook up, and making transportation and lodging arrangements for the four speakers, our GEC director and two staff members. But the work and effort were well worth it. We had anticipated a total of 200 participants and the total number of attendees was 696. The site with the lowest attendance had fifty-one attendees and the highest had 131. We were pleased by the attendance figures as well as by the evaluations. They reflect overall a high degree of satisfaction with the content of the program and the speakers. Among the many complimentary comments written in the evaluations, the most appreciated ones expressed a desire and urgent need for more programs like “Geriatric Mental Health on the Move”.

CALIFORNIA GEC

CSU Gerontology Programs Implement Statewide On-Line Courses

The CGEC supported a full-day meeting in November 2003 between forty gerontology faculty representing thirteen of the California State University campuses. The CSU system is one of the largest and most diverse in the nation with 23 campuses, 44,000 faculty and 409,000 students. The purpose of the meeting was to identify strategies for implementing an unfunded legislative mandate to infuse gerontology and geriatrics into other human services disciplines. A group of gerontology faculty indicated their commitment to collaborate to develop online gerontology courses that could be made available statewide to CSU students. In June 2004, the CGEC participated in a planning meeting with CSU faculty and administration to discuss administrative challenges and identify possible solutions.

As result of the two meetings, the CSU Gerontology Consortium is pilot testing two gerontology courses in Fall 2004 which will be open to CSU students across the state. The initial courses include a Sociology of Aging course at CSU Fullerton and a Health and Aging course at CSU Northridge. Additional courses are being developed for Spring 2005. The system-wide network resulting from

CGEC support is increasing the capacity of CSU gerontology programs to offer gerontology courses statewide, particularly in rural areas.

DELAWARE VALLEY GEC

Sangeeta Bhojwani,

Updates from the DVGEC

The Delaware Valley Geriatric Education Center in collaboration with the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, has successfully completed another year of training of over 900 trainees at 35 local agencies through the Direct Care Service Worker Initiative. Penn Nursing Consult Services conducted the training using the Falls & Medications Modules, and the Dementia & Behavior Management Module, which are available through the DVGEC Teaching and Learning to Care: Training for Caregivers in Long-Term Care (TLC for LTC) instructional series.

The TLC for LTC instructional series was designed so that staff development educators have everything they need to train direct care staff. The topics include three on risk assessment and prevention, two on cognitive losses and associated behaviors, and one on palliative care. The ultimate goal of this series is to enable long-term-care staff to improve care of the frail elderly by improving staff skills as observers, reporters, and providers of individualized care. The DVGEC is in the process of completing two new modules, "Continence Care: A Matter of Dignity" for January 2005, and a Pain Assessment and Management Module for release in the spring.

The DVGEC in collaboration with Thomas Jefferson University and other local medical institutions will host a Home Care Faculty Development Conference (AAHCP) currently scheduled for March 2005. The Home Care Faculty Development Conference is a one-day training program designed to provide faculty role models and assist in faculty development for family practice and internal medicine residency training programs.

Finally, the GEC is collaborating with the Geriatric Nurse Training Project, funded through HRSA's nursing education grant program, to train RNs and other supervisory nurses in their staff management and education roles. Together we presented a full-day intensive workshop at the July 2004 ASA Summer Series, and we will be presenting this again at the March, 2005 Joint ASA/NCOA conference in Philadelphia. If you have any staff development educators who might be coming to the conference, please encourage them to look at this intensive as an opportunity to share their experience and further their skills.

HARVARD GEC

Joann Kovacich, Ph.D, Director of Distance Education

Harvard GEC Develops Evaluation Model for Self-Study On-line Learning Modules

Recognizing the complexity of web-based learning objects for instructional use, the Harvard Upper New England GEC developed a three-tiered evaluation model: (a) content review by area experts (b) instructional design review by learning and technology specialists and (c) multi-disciplinary, culturally diverse, urban and rural end user satisfaction evaluation.

The content and instructional design evaluations were formed through area expert brainstorming sessions and thereafter pilot tested. The content review emphasizes up-to-date evidence-based educational material suitable for multi-disciplinary clinical practice in the area of geriatric mental and behavioral health. The instructional design review focused on user-friendly navigation, ADA compliance, and pedagogical intention. End-user evaluations by practitioners and health profession students were coordinated by HUNEGEC partners in New England. Drawing upon constructivist learning theory as applied to professional knowledge building which maintains that meaning of information is dependent upon learning styles and the translation of information into practice, the end user evaluation allows for personal satisfaction reporting on both content and instructional design.

Results of our beta tests indicate that the evaluation process is best served and provides the most reliable data when each level of review is conducted by reviewers who have the specific expertise and are matched with appropriate evaluation tools. For example, content area specialists do not necessarily possess expertise in instructional design, even if they have developed on-line learning materials. Likewise instructional designers and learning specialists do not have the professional backgrounds to assess content quality. And end users should not be expected to pass judgment on whether or not the material covered is up-to-date, evidence based, of proven clinical relevance or if the references are adequate. Nor should end users be expected to comment on the pedagogical value of the on-line design. Three different evaluation tools were developed, tailored to each level of evaluation and focused on the expertise of the reviewer.

A summary of beta testing results, as well as copies of our evaluation forms, will be made available for the greater GEC community on the Harvard GEC website: <http://gecprojects.org/harvard/reviewers.htm>.

MEHARRY CONSORTIUM GEC

Ruth Garrett, PhD, MPH, Director

Medical Gerontology Certificate Program

The Meharry Geriatric Education Consortium has developed an additional Medical Gerontology Certificate Program for twenty hours. We now provide a 40 hour certificate for those completing the basic, GEC 120 and the intermediate, GEC 140. Both of these separate

programs are now being submitted by distance learning to rural sites. Our first distance learning site served Trousdale and Sumner Counties; the second will serve Rutherford County (Murfreesboro area). The third and fourth sites are being developed and will be ready in this grant year. We are developing a third course for the Spring 2005 semester with a focus on Memory. Our Geriatric Student Forum, a student forum endorsed by the American Geriatrics Society, is continuing with monthly programs. Our last presentation was "Legal Issues of Aging." The last week of September we presented "Why Geriatrics?" with two Vanderbilt Geriatricians. The Center is thriving, with an attendance of 405 in the first quarter of the grant year.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GEC

Joan B. Wood, PhD, Director

Geriatrics Faculty Scholars Program

The Northern California GEC completed the second session of its Geriatrics Faculty Scholars program October 8-9, 2004. The yearlong faculty development program is made up of a total of 160 hours and includes ten four-hour sessions and three weekend retreats. The twenty-one 2004-05 Faculty Scholars represent eight health science disciplines, including dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, psychology, public health, and social work, and represent six institutions of higher education in Northern California. These include University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Davis; University of California, San Francisco; California State University, Chico; California State University, Sacramento; and Cabrillo College. In addition to increasing geriatrics knowledge and clinical care skills, each of the Geriatrics Faculty Scholars will work with a mentor to develop and implement a geriatrics curriculum project for students, residents, and/or other faculty and to evaluate the impact of the project on those they teach. Scholars may also develop age-related research or training proposals to be submitted for internal or external funding. For more information, please contact Joan B. Wood, PhD, Director, (415) 514-0720, jwood@medicine.ucsf.edu.

OREGON GEC

Patricia Ebert, MSW, Program Director

Summer Institute 2004

Summer Institute 2004, the annual event sponsored by the Oregon Geriatric Education Center (OGEC), was held this year on June 28th, 29th & 30th, at the Oregon Health & Science University's School of Nursing. This three day intensive seminar covered topics which focused on the following topics: *Organs & Systems*, which provided information on hormone therapy for the geriatric woman, the link between age & prostate cancer and the breast cancer experience for older women; *Brain & Psyche*, which covered topics such as omega-three fatty acids for mood & memory, insomnia & sleep disorders and the prevention of age-related memory loss; and, *Mobility & Senses*, which included an introduction to Oregon's new "At-Risk Driver Program" with an emphasis on older adults, managing hearing loss, and practical advice for promoting physical activity in older adults

PACIFIC ISLANDS GEC

Katherine Kim, MPH, Program Coordinator

Legal Handbook for Caregivers

We have recently sent all currently funded and formerly funded GECs a copy of the latest edition of "Deciding What If, A Legal Handbook for Hawaii's Caregivers, Families and Older Persons". This handbook was created to serve as a guide to caregivers of the elderly and covers areas of primary concern to them: planning for the future, health care decisions, protective services, guardianship, financing health care, practical tips on hiring a caregiver, finding a lawyer, and samples of forms. Although legal issues vary from state to state, we hope all GECs will find it a useful and practical resource they can refer to.

VIRGINIA GEC

Iris Parham, PhD, Executive Director

Demonstration Grants Awarded

This has been one of those really good news times for the VGEC. We began a new initiative on May 28th with the announcement by HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson that five demonstration grants "aimed at helping recruit, train and retain direct service workers who provide personal assistance to people with disabilities who need help with eating, bathing, dressing and other activities of daily living" had been awarded. Virginia joined Washington, Indiana, Arkansas, and Kentucky as funded sites. The \$1.4 million demonstration grant to the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services will involve determination of the utility of health insurance and other work incentives in the attraction and retention of direct care providers. The VGEC will provide the training for the direct care workers using an enhanced curriculum developed by our own Dr. Rita Jablonski at the School of Nursing. An earlier version of this curriculum has been utilized in the highly successful and still on-going ECAT (Enhanced Care Assistant Training) project targeted primarily to home care aides and currently funded through DMAS. We are particularly pleased with the leadership of Jason Rachel on both projects and with the opportunity to work with our DMAS colleagues, Ms. Diana Thorpe and Ms. Karen Lawson – it should be an exciting three years. Just last week, we also heard that our competitive supplemental grant for the VGEC core grant was funded. Special thanks to all who worked so diligently on this effort (Nancy Bynum, Connie Coogle, Colleen Duffy, Colleen Head, Lucy Lewis, Tracy O'Brien, Tomaree Porter, Jason Rachel, Kandi Watson, Katie Young) and kudos to our leaders and

Associate Directors, Drs. Jim Cotter and Ayn Welleford. Dr. Welleford also received word that she was funded for an exciting project through Philip Morris. Dr. Welleford and Ms. Pat Moody have been diligent in pursuing funding for this Lifelong Health Careers objective.

Also, our June meeting with our partner GECs – Western Reserve, Mountain State, and Pennsylvania, was quite successful. We are completing plans to work with the Employee Education System of the Veterans Affairs health system to present our videoconference on Substance Abuse and the elderly in March, 2005. This videoconference will be free of charge and sites will be available across Virginia and the continental US!

2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
November 18th – 19th	National Geriatric Education Centers Meeting	Marriott Wardman Park Hotel Washington, DC	Jennifer Hannah 301-443-0908
November 19 th	Development of Community-Based Partnerships in Minority Aging Research	Marriott Wardman Park Hotel Washington, DC	Pamela Jackson-McCall (310) 312-0531 prjackso@mednet.ucla.edu
November 19 th – 23 rd	57 th Annual Scientific Meeting of The Gerontological Society of America	Marriott Wardman Park and Omni Shoreham Hotels Washington, DC	202-842-1275 www.geron.org
December 3 rd	Life Satisfaction and Happiness	CCSN Charleston Campus Las Vegas, Nevada	Phyllis Militello 702-671-2381 militell@med.unr.edu
December 10 th	Televised Grand Rounds: Exercise and the Elderly Sexuality and the Elderly	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Oklahoma City, OK	Sheryl Mapes 405 271-8599 sheryl-mapes@ouhsc.edu
December 10 th & 11 th	Improving the Health of Older Women of Color: Identify Issues and Developing Strategies	Fairchild Auditorium Stanford University Palo Alto, CA	650-494-3986
January 8 th , 2005	Latino Ethnomedicine (Part 2): Providing Culturally Appropriate Health Care to Mexican-American Elders and Their Families	San Jose State University San Jose, CA	650-494-3986
February 25 th , 2005	End of Life Care Institute	Oklahoma City, OK	Sheryl Mapes 405-271-8599
March 10 th – 13 th , 2005	ASA – NCOA Joint Conference: The Changing Face of Aging	Philadelphia, PA	800-537-9728 www.agingconference.org