

Program Description:

This program will help participants better understand health disparities that exist in rural communities and implement strategies for improving access to health care, promoting education, and building trust between patients and the health care community.

Learning Outcome: At least 80% of participants will implement strategies to decrease health disparity rates and increase knowledge of COVID-19 in rural South Carolina communities.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to –

- 1. Discuss the lack of access to healthcare and its correlation to rising health disparities in rural communities.
- 2. Explain the difference between rural communities and larger metropolitan communities as it relates to chronic diseases and illnesses.
- 3. Discuss the educational gap associated with COVID-19 in rural areas and identify practice changes that can be made to bridge the informational gap.
- 4. Assess tools to foster and strengthen trust between rural patients and the health care community.
- 5. Discuss the worsening of chronic-mental health conditions as a result of COVID-19.





Register at: bit.ly/RuralHE

Credit

Counselors and Therapists: This program is approved for 3.0 hours of continuing education by SC AHEC under its accreditation by the SC Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Psycho-Educational Specialists.

Nurses: Upstate AHEC is an accredited provider of Nursing Professional Development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (ANCC). Upon successful completion of this program, attendees will receive 3.0 contact hours.

Social Workers: Upstate AHEC, as part of the SC AHEC System, is an approved provider of continuing education for social workers. This social work program is approved for 3.0 hours of non-social work credit.

AHEC: This program is approved for 0.3 CEUs (3.0 clock hours) by Upstate AHEC and meets SC AHEC Continuing Education Best Practice Standards.

Successful completion of the program requires attendance for 90 percent of the program and a completed online evaluation by the participant within 10 calendar days of the program date. A certificate of completion will not be made available to you if the evaluation is not completed within this timeframe. No partial credit available.

Stacey M. Flaherty, MSN, APRN, FNP BC

Mrs. Flaherty, an Advance Practice Registered Nurse, is from the Erlanger, Kentucky a suburb of Cincinnati. She obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees from her local institution, Northern Kentucky University. Stacey spent ten years delivering patient care to residents of Northern Kentucky specializing in Telemetry and Emergency Medicine. Stacey further pursued her education by obtaining a Master's of Nursing Degree from Northern Kentucky University as a Family Nurse Practitioner. In 2016, Stacey moved to South Carolina where she was hired to work in the field of Urogynecology. Although she enjoyed the challenges of the Urogynecology field, she felt compelled to return back to the hospital setting and began working as a Nocturnist for Prisma Health Cardiology as well as a Hospitalist and Emergency Room provider in two of South Carolina's underserved rural hospitals. Stacey continues her nearly 18 years of dedicated patient care. Along with her extensive clinical background, she is equally passionate about the education and training of our front line health care workers. She shares this passion as she provides continuing education to various levels of healthcare professionals via classroom and multi media web based learning.

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