Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services

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Mission
It is the mission of the institute to:

- foster a culture that values cross-disciplinary interaction, communication, and collaboration to enrich teaching, learning, research, and service delivery in the area of health and human services.
- build university-community partnerships that are responsive to the communities we represent.
- enhance educational relevance of health and human services initiatives.

Goals
The Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services (IIHHS) will:

- have the internal and external organizational structures to achieve its vision.
- secure and maintain the human, financial, and physical resources to achieve its vision.
- engage local, state, regional, national, and international constituencies in collaborative outreach activities.
- be a recognized leader in the provision of health and human services education.
- impact health and human service practice and policy by effectively communicating its achievements.
- be a recognized leader in health and human services research and scholarship.

The following centers, programs, and activities connect our campus with communities while advancing scholarship and achieving exceptional learning experiences.

Adult Health and Development Program (AHDP)
Nancy Owens, Director
The Adult Health and Development Program is an intergenerational program designed to promote health in older adults (those 55+). College students work one-on-one with older adults from the local community. An individualized program is designed to meet each program participant’s unique needs. The program develops a sense of positive health and well-being in the older adult and promotes a sense of community on a broader scale.

Alvin V. Baird Attention and Learning Disabilities Center
Dr. Trevor Stokes, Director
The mission of the Alvin V. Baird Attention and Learning Disabilities Center is to develop and promote evidence-based interventions for children and adolescents with attention and learning challenges, while educating families, teachers, students and professionals about best practices for their assessment and treatment. Attention and learning factors are present across a range of developmental and psychological disorders, which are the focus of activities at the Baird Center. These include: attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, autism and pervasive developmental disorders, disruptive behavior disorders, mood disorders and psychological factors related to medical conditions.

Blue Ridge Area Health Education Center
Susannah Lepley, Director
The Blue Ridge Area Health Education Center (AHEC) at JMU strives to improve the health of communities through education, collaboration, and cooperation. It focuses on the health care needs of vulnerable populations. The AHEC fosters partnerships that utilize academic and community resources and directs these resources to health and human service gaps that exist within communities. The AHEC program has been a traditional link between academic health and human services programs and communities, utilizing student, faculty and other academic resources to the benefit of the communities.

Campus Suicide Prevention Center of Virginia
Dr. Jane Wiggins, Director
The goal of the Campus Suicide Prevention Center of Virginia is to reduce risk for suicide on Virginia’s college and university campuses. Specifically, this program supports the individuals and teams on each campus as they work to build the infrastructure necessary to promote mental health for all students, identify and support those with mental health concerns, and effectively respond to individuals who are at risk for suicide.

Caregivers Community Network
Stacy Hansen, Director
Caregivers Community Network (CCN) provides services, companionship and support for those who care for frail older family members. CCN also provides services for those with memory loss or Alzheimer’s disease. CCN can help to give caregivers a break and provide valuable time for attention to family concerns. Services are evidence-based and customized for each individual.

Claude Moore Precious Time Pediatric Respite Care Program
Melissa Leisen, Faculty Director
Darcy Bacon, Program Director
The Claude Moore foundation awarded this program grant funds to provide respite care to families who have special needs children. This respite program relies on students from nursing, social work, psychology, and other health and human service majors to provide caregivers with supportive assistance in meeting the demands of their family responsibilities.

Community Health Interpreter Service (CHIS)
Susannah Lepley, CHIS Coordinator
Linguistic and cultural barriers seriously compromise the quality of health care received by hundreds of Shenandoah Valley residents. To address this challenge, the Community Health Interpreter Service provides training to bilingual persons to serve as interpreters for persons with limited English proficiency during health care encounters. The program schedules interpreters upon request from area health care providers.

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Counseling and Psychological Services

Dr. Tim Schulte, Director

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is a teaching, research and service mental health clinic. CAPS offers affordable outpatient mental health services to the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County community while providing students in the Department of Graduate Psychology experience in assessment and treatment of psychological problems. CAPS is equipped to provide individual, couple, and family therapy as well as to conduct intellectual and psychological assessments across the lifespan.

Crossroads to Brain Injury Recovery

Michelle Witt, Director

Crossroads to Brain Injury Recovery, a partnership program, implements a multi-year region-wide grant to provide case management and supportive services to families and individuals recovering from brain injuries. It assists with access to services for re-learning daily living skills and with strategies for returning to school or work.

Healthcare for the Homeless Suitcase Clinic

Jane Hubbell, Program Coordinator

The Healthcare for the Homeless Suitcase Clinic provides health care at the point of contact in local shelters and human service agencies. Specifically, it provides on-site primary care services to homeless clients enrolled in local shelters while simultaneously providing case management services as needed. Staffed by a nurse practitioner and nurse case manager, this new model of healthcare delivery to homeless populations exemplifies a model of service that aims to break the cycle of homelessness by providing healthcare delivery with positive long term results.

Health Policy Office

Dr. David Cockley, Director

Dr. Bill Grant, Director

The JMU Health Policy Office is a research and education arm of the Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services. It provides research expertise on the tracking, development and analysis of relevant local, regional and federal public health policies. Particular emphasis is placed on addressing policies that impact rural communities, disadvantaged populations, and the geriatric and immigrant populations that are prominent in the western Virginia region. The center also supports the education arm of the university by providing interdisciplinary resources for the instruction and application of health policy in organizational and community settings.

Healthy Families Page County (HFPC)

Emily Akerson, Director

Healthy Families Shenandoah County (HFSC)

Yvonne Frazer, Program Manager

Healthy Families programs are based on a national program model and the two that operate in IHHHS provide education, resources and support for the most vulnerable first-time parents in Page and Shenandoah Counties through voluntary home visiting services.

Home Visiting Consortium

Heather Taylor, Coordinator

The Home Visiting Consortium is a statewide network of the early childhood home visiting programs which receive state funds and serve families of children through age five. Seeking to increase the quality and effectiveness of home visiting services, the consortium has identified a core set of knowledge areas and developed training modules for Virginia's home health workforce.

Interprofessional Autism Services Clinic

Dr. Trevor Stokes, Director

The Interprofessional Autism Clinic provides in-depth assessment and multi-disciplinary intervention for children ages 3-5 years old with Autism or suspected Autism. The clinic is staffed with a licensed occupational therapist, a licensed speech and language pathologist, and a licensed clinical psychologist, in addition to graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in each of these academic programs. The clinic merges intervention methods from these disciplines and approaches can be individualized to meet each child's unique needs.

Interprofessional Services for Learning Assessment

Dr. Tim Schulte, Director

The ISLA program offers diagnostic evaluation, consultation and support services for adults enrolled in a college or university. Evaluation teams consisting of professionals from clinical psychology, communication sciences, clinical neuropsychology, special education and nursing identify areas of need and design positive ways to promote meaningful learning and educational experiences.

Lifelong Learning Institute

Nancy Owens, Director

The Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) operates as a partnership between JMU and adults over the age of 50 from the region. Participant members enjoy a wide and evolving range of college-level learning opportunities on a non-credit basis. Undergraduate students can assist in the classroom by enrolling in a one-credit workshop course.

Occupational Therapy Clinical Education Services

Elizabeth Richardson, Director

A pediatric occupational therapy practice established to address a significant gap in locally available occupational therapy services, this clinic offers teaching, research, practice and service opportunities and expands the interprofessional education and practice capacities of the university.

Office on Children and Youth

Kim Hartzier-Weakley, Director

The Office on Children and Youth (OCY), a partnership program, promotes positive youth development through collaborations with youth-serving organizations. It serves as a central point of contact for services for children and youth in the Shenandoah Valley to support, coordinate and examine the needs of our children and youth. OCY analyzes trends in risk behaviors and produces data which enables the community to develop priority areas for youth programs.

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Promotores de Salud Program  
Joanna Jensen, Coordinator
Promotores de Salud, a Hispanic lay health promoter program, trains Hispanic women and men to be lay health resource persons in their community. Promotores focus on specific health issues within the Hispanic community, providing family, friends, neighbors and co-workers with effective and culturally-appropriate health information. The program provides a cultural bridge between Hispanic residents and health and human services providers, reducing health disparities and fostering healthy living for all in our community.

The Reading Road Show, Gus Bus Program  
Michael Maurice, Program Coordinator  
Kim Hartzler Weakley, Director
This initiative is a mobile literacy program serving low-income neighborhoods and daily care centers in Harrisonburg, Rockingham County and Page County with a customized vehicle that provides a book exchange program, story time, nutritional support and resource referral information for families in need.

Ryan White Program Part B  
Jane Hubbell and Gary Race, Co-Lead Agents
The Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services administers Ryan White II Care Act funds for northwest Virginia. The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act is federal legislation that addresses the health needs of persons living with HIV disease by funding primary health care and support services. The CARE Act was named after Ryan White, an Indiana teenager whose courageous struggle with HIV/AIDS and against AIDS-related discrimination helped educate the nation.

Shenandoah Valley Child Development Clinic  
Kim Hartzler-Weakley, Program Director  
Ginger Griffin, Clinic Director
The Shenandoah Valley Child Development Clinic (CDC) provides individualized, interdisciplinary evaluations that may include medical, social work, nursing, educational, psychological, speech/language and audiology components depending upon the specialized needs of the child/adolescent. Children/adolescents evaluated may have developmental, educational, emotional or behavioral concerns. The CDC provides care coordination services and assists families in decisions that address their developmental, educational, emotional or behavioral concerns. Services are provided on a sliding fee scale and Medicaid/FAMIS are accepted. Training opportunities are available in the CDC for students from a variety of disciplines.

Shenandoah Valley Migrant Education Program  
Kim Hartzler-Weakley, Director
The Migrant Education Program (MEP) provides free, supplemental education services to children and youth aged 3-21 of migrant and highly mobile agricultural workers. Services include tutoring/mentoring, school readiness initiatives, dropout prevention activities, educational interpretations (Spanish/English) and facilitation of families’ stabilization in the community. The SVMEP serves as a point of contact for the Hispanic Services Council, a networking organization of agencies interested in the Latino population.

Smart Beginnings Shenandoah Valley  
Alysia Davis, Director
Smart Beginnings reflects a collaboration between the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, the area United Way and IIHHS. The goal of this program is to work in partnership with parents and other community leaders to enhance development for children ages 0-5 so that all children will be healthy and ready to learn when they enter school. Seven counties in the valley have parents, child care professionals, business leaders, schools, faith-based organizations and government officials involved in SBSV.

Speech-Language-Hearing Applied Laboratory  
Stacey Pavelko, Director
The JMU Speech-Language-Hearing Applied Laboratory, formerly referred to as the JMU Speech and Hearing Center, provides communication evaluation and treatment services to individuals with known or suspected speech and/or hearing impairments. This center assists residents of the Shenandoah Valley ranging in age from infants to senior citizens. Hearing testing and aid advising is available for those with concerns regarding hearing. Evaluation and treatment of communication impairments, including speech, sound disorders, language impairments, voice disorders and stuttering problems, are additional services offered in the applied laboratory. Graduate students supervised by faculty who are licensed audiologists or speech-language pathologists serve as clinicians in this lab.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative  
Kim Hartzler-Weakley, Director
The Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) program is designed to help teenagers make healthy choices and avoid risky behaviors with special emphasis on teen sexual activity and drug and alcohol use. TPP presents the best practices in school- and community-based prevention services.

The Health Place  
Emily Akerson, Director
The Health Place (THP), a satellite of the Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services, promotes collaborative and interprofessional health and human services that are affordable, accessible, responsive to and advance the health needs of Page County residents.

Training/Technical Assistance Centers  
Cheryl Henderson and Melinda Bright, Co-Directors
The mission of Virginia’s Training/Technical Assistance Centers (T/TAC) is to improve educational opportunities and contribute to the success of children and youth with disabilities (birth through 22 years). The centers provide quality training and technical assistance in response to local, regional and state needs. T/TAC services increase the capacity of schools, school personnel, service providers and families to meet the needs of children and youth. The Region 5 T/TAC serves as the fiscal agent for the Northwestern T/TAC Consortium, which includes the Region 4 T/TAC located at George Mason University.

Valley AIDS Network  
Alexandra de Havilland, Executive Director
The Valley AIDS Network (VAN) provides case management, medical and dental assistance, transportation support, client advocacy, housing assistance, and nutritional support services to people living with HIV/AIDS in this region. Through information, education, outreach and referral, VAN aims to prevent the spread of the HIV virus in the Central Shenandoah Valley.

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Valley Program for Aging Services  
Beth Bland, Director

An institute partnership program, the mission of Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS) is to assist individuals age 60 and older with a range of services that enhance their dignity, privacy and ability to live independently for as long as is appropriate. VPAS’ services include: adult day care; information and assistance; care coordination; disease prevention and health promotion; emergency assistance; health education and screening; home delivered meals, personal care and homemaker services in a person’s home; legal assistance; congregate meals, socialization, recreation and transportation in senior centers; insurance counseling; elder abuse prevention and the Long Term Care Ombudsman program; medication management; and public information and education.

Virginia Collaboration for Health Outreach  
Gary Race, Director

The Virginia Collaboration for Health Outreach (VCHO) is developing an infrastructure to strengthen the practice, policy and research of the Community Health Worker (CHW) field in Virginia. CHWs are trained laypersons that serve as health resource persons in the communities where they live and work. The center works to acknowledge and help CHWs capitalize upon the key roles they play in closing the cost, care and access gaps for Virginia communities.