



Community Engagement Programs & Activities Newark Campus



RUTGERS
BIOMEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES

RBHS Community Engagement Programs & Activities

Newark Campus

Fiscal Year 2020

New Jersey Medical School

Community service has been a fundamental cornerstone of faculty/student life at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School for decades. Located in the heart of Newark, the medical school is surrounded by a diverse community with complex social and economic challenges. Many students, faculty, and staff from the institution recognize the unique position of the medical school to partner with the community in order to achieve better health outcomes for local families.

- **The Office for Primary Care and Community Initiatives (OPCCI)** – Newly created, the OPCCI provides academic research and community service learning opportunities for students, organizations, and community members to enrich academic excellence and create mutually beneficial collaborations. OPCCI seeks to create and disseminate best practices in community engagement while improving the quality of life for the residents of Newark through research and service.
- **Student Family Health Care Center** – The Student Family Health Care Center (SFHCC), one of the oldest student-run clinics in the country, serves the needs of the medically underserved population. SFHCC is run by medical student volunteers from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and offers free, quality health care to the Newark community. Services include physical examinations, chronic disease management, gynecological care, and psychosocial counseling. All services are provided under the supervision of board-certified family physicians.
- **Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine (DAYAM)** - The Division of Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine (D.A.Y.A.M.) provides comprehensive, compassionate, trauma informed, culturally competent, and inclusive services to adolescents and young adults ages 13-26. These services are provided through the delivery of a broad range of health, psychosocial services, and interventions in its ambulatory clinic and community-based programs.
- **Early Intervention Program (EIP)** – EIP offers developmental evaluations and assessments to children residing in Essex County, age birth to three years at no cost to the family. The evaluation team is comprised of teachers, school psychologists, social workers, child development specialists, licensed physical, occupational, and speech therapists. EIP provides services to approximately 3,000 patients on

a yearly basis. Newark residents comprise approximately 75-80% of the children evaluated with the remaining percentages (15-20%) residing in surrounding areas including, but not limited to, Irvington, the Oranges, and lastly, smaller residential areas of Essex County. The program provides evaluation and assessment services to approximately 267 children per month.

- **Autism Center/Div. of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics** - The Center provides diagnostic and case management services for any child/adolescent referred who is at risk for developmental, behavioral and learning problems. Within the Child Evaluation Center, The Autism Center provides diagnostic services and ongoing care of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Diagnostic Center provides evaluation for children and adolescents with suspected FAS. These Centers also serve as training sites for medical students, residents, fellows and allied health professionals.

In FY2020, the Center completed 465 patient appointments through our clinic physicians. About 85% of the 465 total patients seen were from Essex county. All families received an Individual Service Plan at the end of their visit, outlining the evaluation results and the provider's recommendations. Social workers assisted families through 250 professional sessions and provided culturally competent education regarding diagnosis, short and long term treatment plans, and available area resources to meet the needs of patients and the family. All children seen through our division are screened for possible ASD, FAS, and hearing loss. One hundred and forty-four children were referred to the diagnostic hearing program. All were reported to the NJ DOH as required.

Of the individuals seen in the Child Evaluation Center, 27% had Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Other represented groups included children with a diagnosis of intellectual disability, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), Speech disorder and Learning disability. All families were evaluated for the presence of a primary care provider and insurance status at the time of the initial intake and provided support to obtain both, if needed.

- **UH Pathology Lab** - The University Hospital Pathology Lab, staffed with New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) Faculty, oversees broader Newark laboratory testing in collaboration with the Newark Department of Health.
- **The Infectious Diseases Program (IDP)** - The IDP, located in the Department of Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, has been serving the Newark community for over 25 years. It is a critical component of the recently formed Rutgers Biomedical Health Sciences Institute for Infectious and Inflammatory Diseases (i3D). The Newark-based IDP provides a spectrum of services that range

from community education, clinical care and treatment, and access to cutting-edge clinical trials—striving to provide the best possible opportunities for wellness for the people of Newark and the surrounding communities who are disproportionately affected by infectious diseases.

1) Clinical services - All clinical services are provided in partnership with University Hospital:

a. HIV Care and Treatment - The program receives Ryan White funds to provide HIV care and treatment for persons living with HIV (PLWH) regardless of their ability to pay. This is one of the largest such programs in the state providing care for over 1,650 PLWH.

b. HIV Testing and Prevention - The program offers free HIV testing at various locations, including the emergency department, outpatient primary care clinic, and the dental clinic. Collectively, the program tests about 1,200 persons every month. Additionally, the program also offers HIV Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and contact tracing for syphilis for Essex County.

c. Treatment for other Infectious Diseases - The IDP works closely with University Hospital to ensure appropriate follow up for many infectious diseases as well as appropriate follow up and monitoring for patients discharged from the hospital on intravenous antibiotics.

2) Clinical Research - The program has a National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded Clinical Trials Unit for almost 15 years providing access to HIV treatment and prevention studies. Most recently, the site has been selected as a COVID Prevention Trials Network (COVPN) site.

a. HIV Treatment and Prevention Studies - The clinical research center (CRC) has participated in multiple multi-center clinical trials that have transformed the lives not only of our community but of PLWH globally. For example, the results of the START trial influenced an important update in the HIV treatment guidelines for universal treatment regardless of CD4 count. Currently, the CRC is enrolling participants for several ongoing multi-site studies examining the prevalence and management of co-morbid health conditions in the context of a population aging with HIV.

b. COVID treatment and prevention studies - As part of the COVPN, the site has launched multiple treatment and prevention studies for COVID-19. Most significantly, the site recently launched a phase 3 COVID vaccine study (one of only two sites in NJ) that is open to the community.

3) Community Involvement - The IDP has two engaged community advisory boards (CAB) comprised of patients from the practice and members of the larger community. The CABs ensure that the clinical and research programs are not only responsive to the needs of the community, but also able to proactively identify unmet needs and make programmatic changes to address them. Multiple important improvements have resulted from CAB input, including expanding treatment of substance use disorders, offering transgender care, and improving and expanding our World AIDS Day programming for patients. Finally, patients are members of the continuous quality improvement committee, ensuring equal and active community partners in developing clinical programs aimed at improving outcomes across the HIV care continuum.

➤ **Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey at University Hospital** - Through our partnership with University Hospital, the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey at University Hospital provides NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center services such as access to the most advanced cancer treatment options and clinical trials to the residents of the greater Newark region to improve outcomes for patients and their families impacted by cancer.

1) **Community Outreach and Engagement** - In FY-20, the Cancer Center hosted screening events for breast, cervical, colorectal and lung cancer. Over 1,000 patients received services from the screening programs. In addition to the screening programs, Rutgers CINJ at University Hospital participated in over 30 community health fairs, hosted more than 10 patient educational workshops on various topics, and co-sponsored the American Cancer Society Cancer Walk held in the City of Newark.

2) **Outpatient Clinical Activity** - The Center has experienced an increase in patient volumes for infusion and clinic visits annually since 2018. Clinic volumes have increased by up to 30% YTD despite Covid-19. New initiatives, such as the Multidisciplinary Cancer Clinic (MDC), are underway to elevate the quality of care and improve patient retention and satisfaction. Faculty and staff capacity will be increased to meet the demand for services. Several areas of space have been repurposed and additional capital improvements are planned based on the projected growth during the next 5 years.

- **Department of Emergency Medicine** - Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Department of Emergency Medicine provides care to the Newark community. Specifically, we have developed a robust and innovative program in substance use harm reduction and treatment and oversee University Hospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) that provides prehospital services to Newark residents. The Poison Center (NJPIES) is uniquely situated in our emergency medicine department and New Jersey Medical School provides this service for the State of New Jersey. Medical toxicology services are unique to University Hospital and New Jersey Medical School is responsible for providing inpatient and outpatient care to patients with exposures to toxic substances. During COVID-19 the Department of Emergency Medicine was very involved in the palliative care effort in the ED and hospital.

- **Domestic Violence Intervention Program** - A collaboration of the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and domestic violence community agencies in Newark provide care to women and children who have experienced domestic violence. Students visit clinical settings and local communities to provide screening, education, and intervention on domestic violence and its health-related issues. During the COVID-19 pandemic, students have been conducting virtual education and intervention sessions with victims of domestic violence in the shelter. The Department of Family Medicine is in the process of establishing a telehealth infrastructure at a local domestic violence shelter that allows individuals and their children to obtain needed access to medical care. In the past 5 years, over 2,000 women have been screened for domestic violence through DVIP. The program has provided advocacy and education for more than 900 women and children.

- **WIC Program/Pediatrics** - The Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) Women's Infant and Children (WIC) Program services WIC eligible participants in all of Essex County. The New Jersey Department of Health reports the Essex County "estimated eligible persons/families to be 32,689. The current FY'20 WIC enrollment is 4,352, approximately 4,000 clients are from Newark (other surrounding areas include Belleville, Bloomfield, the Oranges and Irvington). In addition, the FY'20 WIC participation is reported at 3,040. Finally, Rutgers NJMS WIC in FY'20 contributes to the 63% enrollment of WIC programs in the City of Newark.

In addition to our main site, services are provided at satellite sites (DOC clinic, UH L&D, OB/GYN clinic and Ivy Hill Housing Development) to increase opportunities for eligible participants to enroll. WIC outreach and referral system allows for participants to receive information and extended services (dental, pregnancy testing, SNAP benefits etc.) that are tailored to personal/familial needs garnered from direct and indirect counseling/educational sessions.

➤ **Pre-College Programs**

- 1) **Science Medicine and Related Topics (SMART) Program** - SMART is a pre-college enrichment program designed to cultivate students' interest in health science and research, culminating in enhanced competitiveness and expansion of the pool of underrepresented minority students interested in pursuing health-related professions. The program focuses on youth development and academic excellence, provides opportunities to students to gain the knowledge and experiences necessary to maximize their potential for success. The SMART program accepts students in grades 6 – 12.
- 2) **Mini Med School/Pre-Medical Honors Programs** - Mini Med School and Pre-Medical Honors Programs host 250 high school students annually who are underrepresented in medicine.
- 3) **Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) & Summer Youth Scholars Program (SYSP)** – HCOE and SYSP was established in 1993 and addresses the unique needs of the Hispanic students and their parents/guardians. A total of 25 scholars are enrolled in a six week program and must have completed the 10th grade. The focus is on academic skills and SAT prep.

➤ **Undergraduate Programs**

- 1) **Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP)** – SHPEP is a 6-week residential interprofessional (IP) program that supports 80 rising freshman and sophomores or community college students.
- 2) **The Northeast Regional Alliance (NERA) MedPrep Scholars Program** - The NERA MedPrep Scholars program builds on the collective expertise of institutions committed to expanding the health careers interest and competitiveness of underrepresented in medicine /disadvantaged students from 6th grade through medical school.
- 3) **Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) and Student National Medical Association (SNMA)** - The LMSA and the SNMA play a pivotal role in the recruitment of college students and retention of medical students, who come from disadvantaged/underrepresented in medicine backgrounds. As evidenced by the broad range of programs available to our diverse student population, New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) students also have the opportunity to mentor and serve as role models to the Newark community.

- 4) **Pre-Matriculation First Introduction to Resources, Skills and Training (FIRST) Program** - FIRST is a six-week program for 20 incoming students from underrepresented or disadvantaged backgrounds providing the participants with segments of the medical school curriculum that requires different learning approaches while cultivating the requisite skills to manage the course work.

School of Dental Medicine (RSDM)

The Rutgers School of Dental Medicine delivers services to over 25,000 patients per year that reside in the City of Newark and serves as a referral center for community-based clinics.

- **Special Care Treatment Center** – RSDM operates one of the few facilities in the region treating patients with special needs, including autism, cerebral palsy, Alzheimer’s, Down Syndrome, geriatric patients and those with psychological disorders. For patients with disabilities, dental care is often scant or nonexistent, and the experience of visiting a dentist can be filled with panic and confusion. At our newly renovated Rutgers clinic – the Delta Dental of New Jersey Special Care Center – staff are trained to work with a variety of special needs patients. All RSDM undergraduate students complete a rotation in the clinic so they can learn how to care for patients with disabilities. The clinic, which treats more than 4,000 patients annually, draws patients from Delaware, Pennsylvania and New York.
- **Partnerships with New Jersey Medical School Healthcare Clinic and University Hospital** - Dental students work with an interdisciplinary team of RBHS students at Rutgers Student Family Health Care Center and University Hospital’s OB-GYN and pediatric primary care clinics.
- **Clinical Research on Alternatives to Opioids** - As part of an \$11.7 million NIH grant, RSDM will be conducting clinical research in its Newark-based clinics to study a combination of acetaminophen and ibuprofen as alternatives to opioids.
- **Oral Health Education** – RSDM students regularly provide oral health education in partnership with several local youth centers and the Newark Public Schools.
- **Pipeline Programs** – RSDM is committed to cultivating student interest in the dental profession. This is accomplished through several student focused programs that include Dental Express (grades K-3), Dental Explorers (grades 4-8), Decision Dentistry (grades 9-12), Gateway to Dentistry (college level), and the Summer Health Professions Program (college level).

- **Diabetes Screening Initiative** - RSDM providers began an initiative in 2019 to screen patients for diabetes as part of a new early detection program. Funded by a grant from Delta Dental of New Jersey, the two-year program is scheduled to screen up to 500 patients and train predoctoral students to identify at-risk patients, most of them elderly and middle-aged. After administering rapid screening tests, those with moderate to high levels of indicators for the disease would be referred to their primary care physician. If they don't have one, they'll be referred to Rutgers School of Nursing clinics or University Hospital. The Rutgers School of Health Profession's Department of Nutrition is also slated to collaborate so patients can be treated holistically.
- **Screening for Underserved Children** – In 2019, RSDM received a \$62,500 grant from Horizon Foundation for New Jersey to provide screenings, oral healthcare education, and dental sealants to 1,000 school children in Essex County.
- **Give Kids a Smile Day** – In 2019, RSDM hosted the Annual Give Kids A Smile Day. About 80 children, ages 6-12, from the Gray Charter School in Newark attended the screening, where they were treated to a magic show, along with student-supplied stickers, face painting and free toothbrushes and toothpaste. In addition to fluoride treatments and screenings, the children received more intensive preventive care which included fluoride sealants. Give Kids a Smile is a nationwide effort sponsored by the American Dental Association (ADA) to raise awareness of the epidemic of untreated dental disease.
- **Oral Cancer Screening** – For more than 20 years RSDM has hosted a health fair and screened individuals for signs of oral cancer and raised awareness about the disease. The goal of this initiative is to treat underserved patients with a high risk for oral cancer and other chronic diseases.
- **COVID-19 Outreach:** Students worked virtually with local residents in a number of ways, including helping out with grocery shopping for the elderly and scheduling virtual visits with children to provide oral health tips and helping with other needs, such as homework and activities to encourage healthy habits.
- **Oral Health Education**
 - 1) **Outreach at Liberty Science Center** - Students spend a day at Liberty Science Center, educating visitors and families about oral health in conjunction with Delta Dental of Hudson County.
 - 2) **Expectant Mothers-** Students and faculty work with gynecologists from the Rutgers Health system to provide information on how pregnancy affects oral health, including such conditions such as “pregnancy gingivitis” and the importance of preventing “bottle mouth” syndrome in infants, along with other early childhood oral health concerns.

- 3) **Essex County Public and Charter Schools** - Students visit dozens of schools a year to teach children about taking care of their teeth and gums.
- 4) **Homeless Shelters and Nursing Homes** - Students visit homeless shelters and nursing homes in Newark and South Jersey, and have worked with Asian and Indian communities in New York City and New Jersey to educate the public about oral health.

School of Health Professions

Since 1976, the Rutgers School of Health Professions has been a vibrant member of the Newark community. Our highly ranked academic programs have provided enormous amounts of community service ranging from elementary children to the elderly, including free clinical services and mentorship. Below we have listed the current, as well as a few future initiatives in the City of Newark.

- **Bachelor Degree Programs with Rutgers – Newark** - The Rutgers School of Health Professions currently offers five (5) joint bachelor degree programs with Rutgers – Newark including Medical Laboratory Sciences, Health Information Management, Health Sciences, Medical Imaging/Sonography, & Psychiatric Rehabilitation.
- **Health Sciences Careers program** - The Health Sciences Careers program is part of the regular high school day for students and offers 13 courses at various locations. Students take college-level, interdisciplinary, general health care, communication, and sciences courses generally during the junior and senior year of high school. Students enrolled in the program gain a solid foundation in the health sciences, and their experience with college level course work enhances academic skill development. The program is a part of the curriculum in 78 New Jersey high schools which includes Essex County and Newark.
- **Free Community Participatory Physical Therapy Clinic** - The Community Participatory Physical Therapy Clinic (CPPTC) serves people in Newark with physical therapy services along with wellness and health education. The clinic is supervised by a licensed physical therapist and student volunteers from the entry level doctoral program in physical therapy at the Rutgers School of Health Professions.
- **Head Start Early Education Provider Community Partnership** - The School of Health Professions is partnering with the Leaguer's Inc. to conduct a needs assessment to obtain current food insecurity risk and weight status data, and to learn from families in Newark about family functioning around weight related

behaviors using a family systems approach. The family has been identified as integral to pediatric obesity programs, but there is a need for more research about family systems and functions around food related behaviors and with low-income and racial and ethnic minority families. The research is funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), a component of the National Institute of Health (NIH) under award number UL1TR003017.

- **Integrity House Affiliation** - Dr. Suchismita Ray, associate professor from the Department of Health Informatics is affiliated with Integrity House in Newark, the largest drug addiction treatment facility in New Jersey. Through her National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded grants, she investigated brain, cognitive and behavioral impairments in chronic cocaine and opioid users that were undergoing addiction treatment in Integrity House. In addition, Dr. Ray offers regular lectures to the patients and staff members of Integrity House based on her research findings on neurocognitive changes in substance users and how to utilize effective strategies to reduce in-the-moment drug craving and use.

- **Socioeconomic Determinants of Health** - Dr. Barbara Gladson, Associate Dean of Education, is planning on a grant funded by RWJ Foundation to *Improve the Culture of Health in NJ*, which is slated to run ideation sessions in Newark that will explore linking the community to researchers at Rutgers involved in community engagement work - addressing socioeconomic determinants of health.

- **Community Health Screenings and Education Sessions** - Students, faculty, and staff have participated in a variety of health screening initiatives for the residents of Newark, including at the Newark Farmer's Market, with referral services to Rutgers-community clinics in Newark. Also, the school is involved in health fairs regularly and attends community information sessions such as the annual Newark Museum event.

- **Department of Clinical and Preventive Nutrition Sciences**
 - 1) **Health Education** - Alongside the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine, faculty and students provide diet education to patients in the dental clinics, education support during the oral cancer screening day, and nutrition education to the pediatric dentistry screening day of school age children (faculty only).

 - 2) **Medical Nutrition Therapy** - At University Hospital, Entry Level Master of Science Clinical Nutrition (ELMSCN) students provide Medical Nutrition Therapy services for inpatients and outpatients at the Ambulatory Care Center's Liver Transplant Clinic and Heart Failure Clinic. Our students

also orchestrated two theme meal events in University Hospital's cafeteria for staff and visitors in Spring 2020. At Newark Beth Israel Medical Center ELMSCN students provide Medical Nutrition Therapy services for inpatients, outpatient clinics (diabetes, pediatrics), and at Community Wellness Services including Hannah's Kitchen, the Beth Greenhouse Farmers Market, and community health fairs. ELMSCN students support nutrition education and community outreach at the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) - Rutgers-NJMS WIC Program.

➤ **Newark Food Policy Council** – The School of Health Professions is a member of the City of Newark's Food Policy Council. The Council, founded by the Office of Sustainability of the City of Newark convenes Newark residents, community and academic institutions and business leaders to formulate plans related to promoting food access and quality for residents of Newark, NJ. Dr. Rothpletz-Puglia is a member of the Food Policy Council and regularly participates in meetings and activities.

➤ **Doctor of Physical Therapy Program**

1) **Newark Physical Therapy Services** - The School of Health Professions provides high quality pediatric services to children in the Newark Public Schools, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and more.

2) **Youth Mentoring** - Faculty and students have participated in the Youth Transitions to Work, a mentoring program with high school and recent graduates considering a career in health care.

➤ **Future Initiatives**

1) In the Fall of 2021, the School of Health Professions will open a bilingual Speech-Language Pathology Clinic, that will serve the Newark Community, with a variety of therapy and diagnostic services for both adults and children.

➤ **Participation on Boards and Committees**

1) **Dr. Barbara Gladson**, Associate Dean of Education, is an active member of the Newark Career and Technical Education Network and also sits on the Advisory board of the Allied Health Academy at Weequahic High School.

School of Public Health

- Forged a low-cost population health certificate for Newark Department of Community Health and Wellness employees.
- SPH research team CHIBPS (Center for Health, Identity, Behavior & Prevention Studies) has HIV research collaborations with AAOGC (African American Office of Gay Concerns) and Hyacinth Foundations
- Dean Halkitis serves on the Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Council
- Dean Halkitis has worked closely with the LGBTQ center at the Newark Public Library including participating on the "Author Talk" panel.
- Dean Halkitis serves on the board of the Hyacinth Foundation
- Dean Halkitis has worked on the big idea plan for a new urban public health paradigm with Rutgers-Newark
- SPH developed a City-wide Community Health Needs Assessment (in partnership with Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition and Newark Department of Health and Community Wellness as well as University Hospital).
- **Evaluation of University Hospital's "Familiar Faces" Program** - SPH is conducting a mixed methods study that will include interviews with program staff and stakeholders, focus groups with program participants, and a quantitative analysis of patient data to assess whether the program is resulting in the use of more appropriate care.
- **Reducing Maternal Mortality and Severe Maternal Morbidity (SMM) Among Black Women in Newark** - Leslie Kantor is the PI on a sub-contract from the Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition for a Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) project which will engage 8 Black women from the community who experienced SMM and train them as community researchers. They will partner in developing questions, recruiting other women who experienced SMM, conducting interviews, and analyzing the data as well as making recommendations for improvements in programs, services, and policies. Leslie Kantor is also providing monitoring and evaluation of the overall initiative which also includes assessing the prevalence of SMM using the regional health information exchange system, trainings at the 3 Newark hospitals that provide Labor and Delivery Services, and an education campaign for providers and women in Newark.

- **Guaranteed Basic Income Task Force** - Leslie Kantor participated in a task force convened by the Mayor's office to develop a guaranteed basic income program pilot for Newark. In June of 2020 Mayor Ras J. Baraka and the Guaranteed Income Task Force released its report and findings, with recommendations for a pilot program in the City of Newark and a federal guaranteed income policy.
- **Believe in a Healthy Newark Steering Committee** – Leslie Kantor is a member of the New Jersey Health Initiatives, Believe in a Healthy Newark Steering Committee. The (BHN) initiative has developed impact teams that are focusing on three areas of health relevant to the Initiative's target population – the residents of the South and West Wards of Newark. These three areas include: Healthy Homes, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Food and Fitness.
- **Newark Community Health Needs Assessment.** Leslie Kantor was the PI on a study that examined differences in mortality within Newark and across municipalities in New Jersey. The report created sex and race-specific age-adjusted mortality rates for the top 10 causes of death in New Jersey.
- **Community Based Research** - Devin English is partnering with Hetrick-Martin in Newark to conduct community engaged research and develop a novel mHealth intervention. This research is focused on novel approaches to reducing the negative impacts of intersecting racial and sexual minority discrimination on HIV risk and prevention among young Black men who have sex with men.
- **SPH and EOSHI** - Partnering with Newark to address the lead in water crisis.
- **Contact Tracing** - SPH is partnering with the State of New Jersey to implement a robust contract tracing program. Specifically, SPH developed the contract tracing training program and worked with the City of Newark to aggressively implement a contract tracing program.
- **Newark Food Policy Council** – Shauna Downs participates in Newark's Office of Sustainability Food Policy Council meetings
- **Urban Agriculture Cooperative** – Shauna Downs partners with Newark's Urban Agriculture Cooperative for teaching and research
- **COVID-19 and Autocompletes Study in English and Spanish Speakers** – Pamela Valera is a Multiple PI on a study to understand how Spanish and English speakers search for COVID-19 related information on the Internet.

- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Smoking Study** – Pamela Valera is partnering with LGBT organizations in Newark and beyond to understand vaping and smoking behaviors in this population.
- **Cancer Health Justice Lab (www.chjl.org)** – SPH is partnering with New Jersey Medical School to train the Northeast Regional Alliance (NERA) MedPrep Scholars in social determinants of health research. This is a collaboration with New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) to train the NERA MedPrep Scholars in public health research, the Cancer Health Justice Lab (www.chjl.org) is part of SPH. Currently, we have two NERA Scholars getting trained in social determinants of health research. Dr. Valera recently conducted a social determinants of health presentation to 65+ NERA MedPrep Scholars.
- **COVID-19 Training Programs for Community Members** – SPH conducts train-the-trainer programs for community-based organizations on COVID-19 return to work/essential workers issues.
- **Opioids Training Programs** – The School of Public Health conducts opioids training programs for workers and community members.

School of Nursing

- **Rutgers School of Nursing Community Health Center** - The Rutgers Community Health Center offers comprehensive primary care with integrated behavioral health services in Newark, New Jersey. The health center provides services to infants, children, adolescents, adults and seniors. The health center also provides routine physical exams, women’s health, pediatric care, chronic disease management, integrated behavioral health and same-day sick visits. The Center is committed to promoting health and well-being while providing high quality patient centered care.
- **Educational Opportunity Fund Program (EOF)** - The School of Nursing EOF (SN-EOF) program was established in 1977 by Dr. Bobbie Jean Perdue. It is the only EOF program in the state that is tailored to the needs of EOF nursing students. The purpose of the EOF program is to provide an opportunity for economically disadvantaged students to participate in the state’s higher education program. In accordance with state guidelines, the SN-EOF program provides financial, academic, and counseling support services to qualified students who demonstrate potential and are in need of support.

- **The François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Center** – The FXB Center is a leader and innovator in programs for vulnerable women, children, youth, and families, including those infected/affected by HIV. FXB serves people in Newark, NJ and surrounding areas, and its staff provides health care, medical case management services, community outreach, and education for clients and their families.
- **Community Partnerships** - The School of Nursing has developed partnerships with the following organizations within the City of Newark to help improve access to health care systems, delivering quality clinical care, and providing health education in the community.
 - 1) Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
 - 2) African American Office for Gay Concerns (AAOGC)
 - 3) Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
 - 4) Newark Community Health Center
 - 5) City of Newark / Mary Eliza Mahoney Health Center
 - 6) NJ Community Research Initiative (NJCRI)
 - 7) Isiah House
 - 8) AIDS Resource Foundation
 - 9) Department of Health and Community Wellness (DHCW) Ryan White Unit (RWU) & the Newark Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA)
 - 10) Department of Children and Families / Division of Child Protection and Permanency
 - 11) Team Management 2000
 - 12) Saint Bridgets HIV/AIDS Support Services
 - 13) Newark Emergency Services for Families
 - 14) Urban Renewal Corp
 - 15) American Lung Association (ALA)
 - 16) Children’s Specialized Hospital Outpatient Center
- **Community Ambassador Backpack Drive** - The School of Nursing Department of Student Engagement partnered with the Community Ambassadors to ensure that children residing in local homeless shelters, in grades K-12 start the Fall 2019 school year off right with the tools they need to feel prepared and ready to learn. The Second Degree Newark students also decided to handwrite encouraging and inspiring back-to-school themed notes that were given to the shelters for children to receive. Rutgers Community Health Center, Rutgers School of Nursing Department of Student Engagement and the Community Ambassador Program collected and distributed over 200 backpacks to New Community Corporation, La Casa de Don Pedro, The Apostles’ House and St. Rocco’s Family Shelter, and local schools.

Cancer Institute of New Jersey

- **Community Outreach and Engagement Team** - The CINJ Community Outreach and Engagement team was launched in October 2019. The team's focus is on overall community health with an emphasis on cancer prevention. Through partnerships with healthcare provider agencies, public health agencies, and community organizations, they plan to increase cancer awareness and share information about cancer screening, treatment and research. Their current activities and partnerships include attending conferences, hosting workshops, and educating community partners about CINJ programs and research.
- **Screen NJ** – CINJ is partnering with the State of New Jersey to expand community screening, reduce mortality rates and to educate New Jersey residents about the importance of cancer screening, early detection, and prevention, as well as to reduce disparities in outcomes and access to care along the cancer care continuum, improve equitable and respectful enrollment of diverse patients in cancer clinical trials, and improve cancer health equity.
- **Community Health Worker Training Program** - CINJ Community Outreach and Engagement launched a Community Health Worker 5-week training program with 140 registrants in FY20. The training program will be ongoing.
- **Citizen Scientist Program** - 11 members of the CINJ Community Advisory Board graduated from the Citizen Scientist Program. They have obtained the skills to review scientific proposals, serve on scientific review boards, and community research boards.

University Behavioral Health Care

- **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)**- CCBHC is a comprehensive and integrated approach to care with emphasis on care coordination and linkage to medical and community resources. Serving adults, children and adolescents, it provides psychiatric evaluation, medication management including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for substance use disorder, individual therapy, group and family therapy, case management services, health screenings. Our multi-disciplinary staff includes licensed psychiatrists, advanced practice nurses, psychologists, social workers, licensed counselors, and case managers trained to work from a person-centered perspective, utilizing evidenced-based treatments.
- **School & Community Based Services** – UBHC continues a lengthy history of providing mental health and support services to Newark school children and adolescents who have limited access to services and strive to instill in them hope for the future. The services are enabled through a partnership with Newark Trust

for Education's Tier 3 program and exist in four Newark public schools (*Avon Ave., Peshine Ave., Belmont Runyon, Spencer/Miller*). The services are provided free of charge and delivered in a non-threatening and familiar environment. The goal of the program is to create a healthy environment for learning by partnering with schools in developing prevention and intervention strategies that promote academic and life success for students. UBHC has provided suicide prevention training for staff in all 62 Newark public schools. The following services are provided:

- 1) Individual and family counseling to students and families in Newark Public Schools
 - 2) Psycho-educational groups for children, parents and school staff
 - 3) After-school programs and in-school suspension counseling
 - 4) Crisis Intervention/Screenings
 - 5) Staff development workshops and consultation
 - 6) Drug/Alcohol Prevention and Intervention
 - 7) Case management and integration with community programs
- **Acute Psychiatric Screening Center** – UBHC provides acute psychiatric screening services at University Hospital, adjacent to the Emergency Department. Emergency evaluations are available 24/7 for individuals of all ages at imminent risk of harm to self or others due to a mental health condition. Evaluations in community settings are provided 24/7 and include consumer home locations. Referrals and linkages to appropriate aftercare including outpatient treatment, partial hospitalization, substance abuse treatment, voluntary hospitalization, and involuntary hospitalization are provided by UBHC. This service includes linkage to case management and family support as appropriate.
- **Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) for Co-occurring Disorders-** IOP is a 4-6 week structured program for adults ages, 18+ with a focus on persons with addictions, co-occurring, and general mood and anxiety disorders. Participants attend groups sessions for 3 hours /3 days a week and a weekly individual session. Medication management is available, including Suboxone maintenance.
- **Adult Acute Partial Hospital-** This is an all-day group based program that provides comprehensive recovery oriented treatment and case management services for individuals suffering with a psychiatric illness which may also include co-occurring substance use. The program mission is to provide accessible, person-centered and evidence-based services designed to assist individuals with achieving valued life roles as they actively pursue greater life satisfaction, enhanced functioning and personal goal attainment. The principles of cognitive behavioral therapy and the value of developing mindfulness serve to inform many of our group services.

- **Child Partial Hospital-** This is a partial hospitalization program (PHP) for children ages 5-17. Children in this program, typically, have had histories of psychiatric hospitalization or residential treatment or are at risk for such treatment. The PHP provides full day programming for youth ranging in age from 5 – 12 years. Adolescent programming is offered on a half day basis, allowing the youth to attend their regular assigned school in the a.m. with partial programming in the afternoon.
- **Children’s Crisis Clinic-** This clinic program services include walk-in access for evaluation of children/youth with clinicians, short term medication evaluation and management with prescribers, return-to-school note when applicable, outpatient therapy, and referral to longer-term outpatient, partial hospitalization or other services as appropriate.
- **Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)-** This clinic program provides walk-in access for adults to meet with and be evaluated by a clinician on a crisis or urgent need, but non-emergent basis, which includes a face-to-face meeting with a clinician within 24 hours of referral or telephone contact. Services may include medication evaluation and management by Advanced Practice Nurses, case management for linkage to services, individual, family and group therapy--all aimed at avoiding the need for more acute care/hospitalization or for referral to other forms of aftercare based on a 30-day intensive outpatient treatment design.
- **Community Support Services (CSS) –** CSS is a community-based rehabilitative service (non-clinical) provided to adults with serious mental illness in Essex County and focuses on skills development, case management, and illness management.
- **Maternal Wraparound Program –** This is a maternal community-based wraparound service provided to pregnant or post-partum women with Opioid Use Disorder up to 1-year post-birth; services include case management, coordination of care, safety care planning for infant and family/support system, and linkage to pre-natal treatment and MAT if desired.
- **Horizons IOP –** IOP is an intensive outpatient program for pregnant and parenting women with any substance use disorder. It is located at UBHC’s BHSB (183 South Orange Ave, Newark) and offers 3 hours of programming 3 days per week. The services offered include individual and group therapy, skills training, case management, MAT and medication management.
- **HUD-VASH (Housing and Urban Development-Veteran’s Affairs Supported Housing) –** HUD-VASH is part of the VA’s Homeless Services. Rutgers UBHC works

with homeless veterans in 14 Counties in New Jersey (including Essex) and assists them with obtaining permanent housing. Once housed, veterans continue to be provided with case management services and linked to medical, dental, mental health and substance abuse treatment as needed.

- **IRTS (Intensive Recovery Treatment Support)** – IRTS utilizes a peer-driven model to provide re-entry services to individuals being released from State Prisons who are struggling with an opioid addiction. It is critical to note that a peer-driven model is one that utilizes individuals with lived experience with incarceration, addiction and recovery or both. The IRTS Program is a state-wide program providing peer support services in all 21 Counties in New Jersey and in all 13 prisons in the NJ Department of Corrections System.

- **Rutgers UBHC Children’s Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (Essex County)** - Children’s Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (CMRSS) services are aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of children, youth and their families/ caregivers facing crisis situations. CMRSS provides immediate crisis response on-site and coordinates subsequent stabilization services to children, youth, their families, and caregivers. Target groups are children and young adults up to age 21 located in Essex County. Referrals are made 24/7 through the Contracted System Administrator (CSA) at 877-652-7624.

- **Collaborative Behavioral Health Care Project (Essex HUB)** - The Essex HUB team provides primary care providers with an opportunity to consult directly with child psychiatrists regarding psychiatric and/or behavioral issues 24/7. Primary Care Providers can call (973) 972-7889 and speak directly with a child psychiatrist to obtain information regarding psychiatric evaluations & consultation via telemedicine, medication management, referrals to services and the coordination of care. Essex HUB also provides training and educational programming for medical providers at no cost. Experts from the HUB team can assist with linkages and referrals to mental health and addiction services in Essex County.

Office of Interprofessional Programs

- **Believe in a Healthy Newark** - Dr. Denise Rodgers, the Vice Chancellor of Interprofessional Programs at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, currently serves as the chair of the Believe in a Healthy Newark steering committee and was responsible for submission of the original grant that started the project. It is now funded by a grant from the United Way of Greater Newark. The project aims to address social determinants of health with special emphasis on three key areas: Healthy Homes, Food and Fitness and Adverse Childhood Experiences. In collaboration with the Rutgers School of Public Health, BHN has developed a very

robust social media presence largely due to the work of a number of students from the School of Public Health. These students work under the direction of Dr. Leslie Kantor, chair of the Department of Urban and Global Public Health in the School of Public Health, who is also a member of the BHN Steering Committee. Specifically, BHN currently has a significant focus on COVID-19 including a strong social media presence on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook aimed at providing accurate COVID-19 information.

The BHN Food and Fitness Impact Team is working diligently to help insure access to food for food insecure families in Newark in partnership with a number of community-based organization and including representatives from the City and the Newark Public Schools.

For the past four years BHN has sponsored an annual conference focused on three major themes: Healthy Homes, Food and Fitness and Adverse Childhood Experiences. In 2020, BHN hosted a virtual conference, *Promoting Health, Healing and Sustainable Recovery*.

- **Newark Homelessness Commission** - Since January 2019, Dr. Denise Rodgers has chaired the Newark Homelessness Commission, a commission formed by the Mayor and Municipal Council. The overarching goal is to provide housing and appropriate services for our neighbors without addresses. In March 2020, Dr. Rodgers initiated a weekly virtual meeting with key members of the Commission, Dr. Mark Wade, director of the Newark Department of Health and Community Wellness, and others to address the challenges associated with homelessness during the COVID 19 pandemic. Dr. Erin Zerbo, from the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Department of Psychiatry and Director of the Northern NJ Medication-Assisted Treatment Center of Excellence, Dr. Pauline Thomas, Director of the Preventive Medicine Residency at the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and several of the preventive medicine residents participate regularly in these meetings. As commission chair, Dr. Rodgers was significantly involved in developing protocols and identifying potential staff for the Indigo Hotel, the site leased by the city to house COVID 19 infected or exposed homeless people. The meeting group also provides oversight for services provided in the Holiday Inn hotel.

- **Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition (GNHCC)** - Dr. Rodgers currently serves as vice-chair for the GNHCC and the chair of the GNHCC Population Health Hub subcommittee. The Population Health Hub is one of four Health Hubs (formerly Medicaid ACOs) funded by the NJ Department of Human Services in collaboration with the NJDOH. The goal of the Health Hubs is to provide an analysis of population health trends in Newark that will then result in targeted programming to address areas of need. The Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition also runs several initiatives that serve the residents of Newark. These include: Faith in Prevention -addressing chronic disease management, Healthy Women, Healthy Families – addressing the health of women of childbearing age, and the South Ward Promise Neighborhood

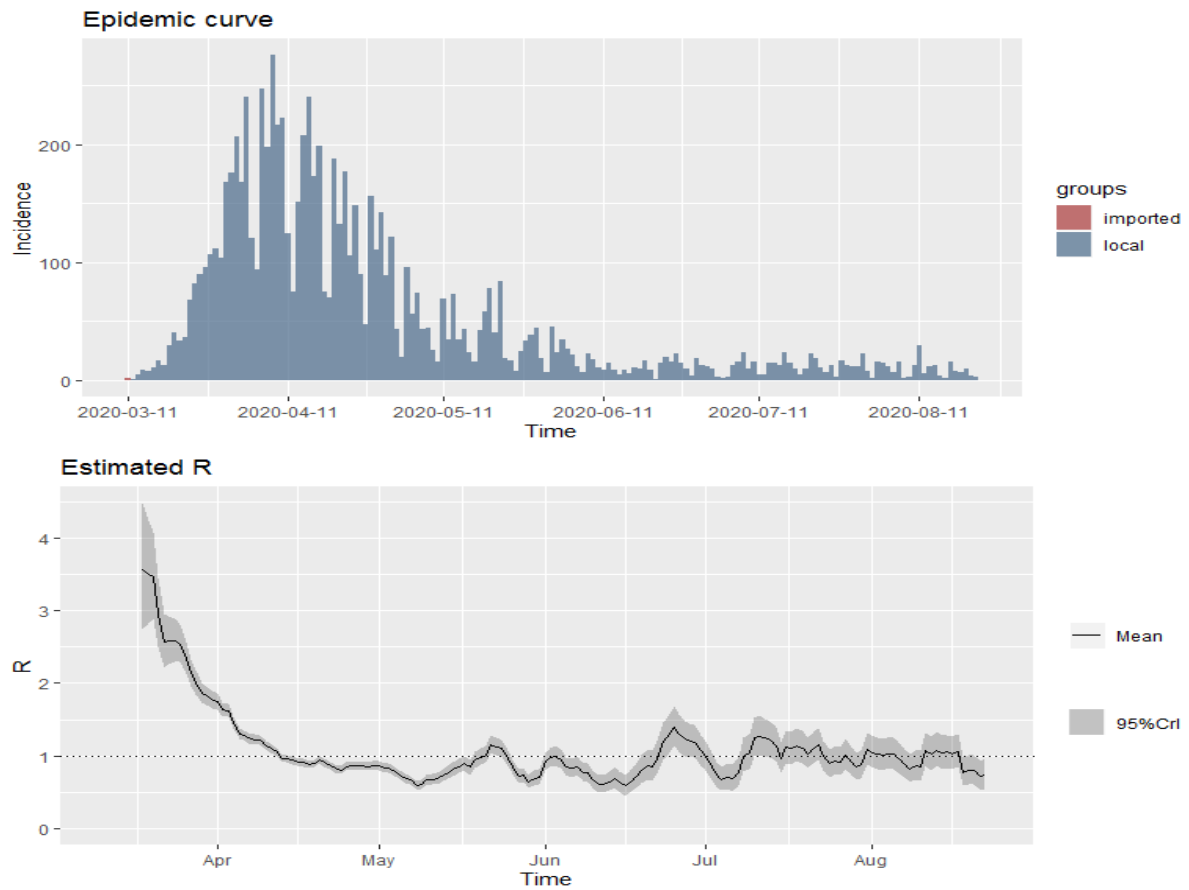
Project – GNHCC serves as the health anchor. University Behavioral Health Care President Frank Ghinassi, PhD, and Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Assistant Dean of Primary Care and Community Initiatives Dr. Ana Natale-Periera also serve on the GNHCC board.

- **Victoria Foundation** - Dr. Rodgers serves on the board of the Victoria Foundation who's stated mission is: "To improve the lives of children and families in Newark, New Jersey, and to protect water resources and preserve open space statewide." In addition to serving on the board, Dr. Rodgers has also provided educational sessions about COVID 19 to the COVID 19 Philanthropic Response Group.
- **COVID 19 Educational Sessions** - In April, Dr. Rodgers participated in a Facebook Live COVID 19 educational sessions with Assemblywomen Speight, Timberlake, McKnight, Sumter, and Councilwoman LaMonica McIver.

Rutgers Global Health Institute

- **Contact Tracing** - Rutgers Global Health Institute helped launch the initial Contact Tracing training efforts in the City of Newark by developing content and coordinating the webinars for contact tracers.
- **COVID-19 Testing Committee** – Richard Marlink, director of the Global Health Institute, co-Chaired the Testing Committee for the "First 30-Day Plan" for Newark, which produced the first testing plan for the city.
- **Mayor' Baraka's Strike Force on Data and Data Analysis Committee** – Mr. Marlink serves on this committee with Director Robert Scott and on the City of Newark's "Cross-pillar Team" for Testing, Contact tracing and Supportive Isolation.
- **COVID-19 Modeling Research** – The Rutgers Global Health Institute and the University of Botswana research team provided support for the City of Newark's ongoing COVID-19 response by utilizing the time varying effective reproduction number metric for the Newark Department of Health, amongst other indicators, characterizing the epidemic spread and the effort required for containment. The analyses were conducted according to the metrics suggested within the "COVID Act Now" modelling group, in order to provide an interpretation of the current status of the epidemic that may be comparable to other widely used simulation models. For Example: We note that from the Figure below that the effective reproduction number greatly reduced from its peak around mid-March to a number just below one around middle of April. This suggests that the containment measures succeeded in reducing transmission of the disease in the early days of the epidemic. However, the estimated reproduction number has been fluctuating around one and according to COVID Act Now this represent medium risk level ($0.9 \leq Rt \leq 1.1$), until October. Now,

however, the reproductive rate numbers have been increasing as has the infection rates for the city, as is being seen in the rest of the State of New Jersey.”



Government and Community Boards

RBHS Faculty and staff are members of many boards and committees that intersect with public policy issues. This local participation includes the City of Newark's Guaranteed Income Task Force, City of Newark LGBTQ Advisory Council, Mayor Baraka's Strike Force on Data and Data Analysis Committee, Hyacinth Foundation, International Surgical Health Initiative, New Jersey State Trauma System Advisory Committee, Ryan White Planning Council, Governor's Advisory Council on HIV/Aids & Related Blood Borne Pathogens, City of Newark Homeless Commission, City of Newark's FQHC Board of Commissioners, Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition, and the University Hospital Board of Directors.

**National Institutes of Health Grant Awards
Totals RBHS Newark**

Fiscal Year 2018 (10/1/17 - 9/30/18): \$48,322,960

Fiscal Year 2019 (10/1/18 - 9/30/19): \$51,199,178

Fiscal Year 2020 (10/1/18 - 9/30/19): \$58,196,025

FY 2018	Award
RBHS-NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL	\$46,481,060
RBHS-SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE	\$833,791
RBHS-SCHOOL OF NURSING	\$1,008,109
Subtotal	\$48,322,960
FY 2019	
RBHS-NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL	\$47,857,056
RBHS-SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE	\$1,224,661
RBHS-SCHOOL OF NURSING	\$764,949
RBHS-SCHOOL/ HEALTH RELATED PROFESSIONS	\$1,352,512
Subtotal	\$51,199,178
FY 2020	
RBHS-NEW JERSEY MEDICAL SCHOOL	\$52,180,575
RBHS-SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE	\$3,829,381
RBHS-SCHOOL OF NURSING	\$1,611,890
RBHS-SCHOOL/ HEALTH RELATED PROFESSIONS	\$574,179
Subtotal	\$58,196,025

RBHS Employment Statistics

January 27, 2021	# of Employees	% of Employees
Total Employees - Newark Campus	3,586	100%
Total Newark Residents	376	10.4%
Total Essex County Residents	1,250	34.8%

Hire Newark, Buy Newark and Live Newark

RBHS and RU-Newark developed institutional goals in support of the Newark Hire Buy and Live program launched by the City of Newark in 2017.

- **Hire Newark** - Hire Newark was created to connect 2,020 of the city's unemployed to full-time living wage jobs by the year 2020, cutting the employment gap between Newark and New Jersey in half. RBHS and RU-Newark set a target of hiring 220 Newark residents by 2020. This goal was exceeded by 302 hires.
- **Buy Newark** - Buy Newark was designed to support the growth of local businesses and match them to the purchasing needs of other Newark businesses, large and small, including the anchors, which are committed to increasing overall local procurement by 2020. Extensive outreach efforts were made to identify potential vendors and increase RBHS' local vendor activity by 20%. RBHS was able to increase this category by 18.5% in calendar year 2019. RBHS remains committed to building on this progress and working with RU-Newark to support the Buy Newark initiative.
- **Live Newark** - Live Newark was formed to attract more employees, faculty and students to live in the city and provide existing residents with additional rental and homeownership choices and incentives. RBHS and RU-Newark was able to encourage 27 employees to participate in the program. During 2019, the participants were able to receive \$72,708 in incentives. Nineteen of the employees are from RBHS.



RUTGERS

**BIOMEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES**

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