

OKLAHOMA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER (OKAHEC)

Mission

The Oklahoma Area Health Education Center Program provides specialized, community-based training opportunities for Oklahoma's youth, health professional students, health providers, and residents that are synergistic with other statewide and community initiatives to positively influence the availability and quality of health professionals choosing to practice in rural and underserved areas.

Vision

OKAHEC will be considered the "best place" for design and implementation of unique, quality, community-based health careers and health workforce development training programs in Oklahoma.

Core Values

Excellence – We seek excellence in all our endeavors, and we are committed to continuous improvement.

Integrity – We are committed to the principles of truth and honesty, and we will be equitable, ethical, and professional.

Service – We believe that serving others is a noble and worthy endeavor.

Intellectual Freedom – We believe in ethical and scholarly questioning in an environment that respects the rights of all to freely pursue knowledge.

Diversity – We respect others and value diversity of opinion, freedom of expression, and other ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Stewardship of Resources – We are dedicated to the efficient and effective use of resources. We accept the responsibility of the public's trust and are accountable for our actions.

Strategic Goals, Critical Success Factors, Objectives, and Strategies

Goal One. Oklahoma communities and OKAHEC actively collaborate on health workforce development initiatives.

Critical Success Factors:

- 150 communities participate in OKAHEC activities.
- 200 community agencies and organizations participate in OKAHEC activities.
- 300 community-based preceptors and mentors participate in OKAHEC activities.
- OKAHEC contracts with 4 regional AHEC centers.
- 150 primary and secondary schools participate in OKAHEC activities.
- 20 Career Technology, community colleges and regional universities participate in OKAHEC activities.

Objectives:

Objective 1.1: Oklahoma communities, schools and agencies participate in AHEC activities.

Strategies:

- Target communities, schools and agencies will be identified in conjunction with regional AHEC centers.
- Regional centers will invite participation of community agencies.

Objective 1.2: Specific health workforce development activities are developed in conjunction with Oklahoma communities.

Strategies:

- Develop community specific program plans and profiles of activities.
- Document AHEC activities by community.
- Develop maps of AHEC activities by region.

Goal Two. OKAHEC will offer specialized health workforce development opportunities for Oklahoma youth, health professions students, and practicing health professionals.

Critical Success Factors:

- AHEC supports intensive, community-based, career exploration experiences for 2,500 youth per year.
- AHEC sponsors 10 clinical rotations and supports 30 other community-based clinical training rotations and experiences for 2,000 students.
- AHEC supports 20 health professions training programs.
- AHEC supports 350 community-based continuing education experiences for 12,500 persons.
- AHEC provides support to all rural family practice residency programs in Oklahoma.
- AHEC supports 5 interdisciplinary training programs.
- Increase the % of exploration participants who enter a health professions training program over 2003 baseline.

Objectives:

Objective 2.1: Recruit individual and organizational participants for AHEC-sponsored training experiences and career education programs.

Strategies:

- Target individuals and programs will be identified in conjunction with regional AHEC centers.
- Individuals and programs will be invited to participate with AHEC in health workforce development activities.

Objective 2.2: Strengthen existing, and create new, health workforce development opportunities.

Strategies:

- AHEC centers and Program Office will periodically review and assess existing activities, and identify opportunities for new activities.
- Necessary and appropriate changes will be made to existing activities to improve quality, and new activities will be developed based on need.

Goal Three. OKAHEC's health workforce development opportunities are coordinated with other Oklahoma workforce initiatives for maximum impact on career decisions.

Critical Success Factors:

- OKAHEC collaborates with 5 other health career education programs in Oklahoma.
- OKAHEC collaborates with each Center unit on issues relating to rural health and rural health workforce development.
- All OSU health profession training programs will meet with OKAHEC.

Objectives:

Objective 3.1: OKAHEC will collaborate with other Oklahoma Rural Health Policy and Research Center units on project development and implementation.

Strategies:

- Collaborate with the OSU-CHS Division of Rural Health to investigate the feasibility of developing and implementing a rural health training track.
- Meet with other Oklahoma Rural Health Policy and Research Center units on a regular basis for project development and implementation.

Objective 3.2: OKAHEC staff will jointly plan health career education activities with local and regional schools, colleges, providers and communities.

Strategies:

- OKAHEC director and designated staff will serve on state and local community health workforce taskforces and committees.
- Representatives from state health workforce initiatives and health professions training programs will serve on the OKAHEC Statewide Advisory Board.

Objective 3.3: Coordinate with other OSU System health professions training programs.

Strategies:

- OKAHEC will identify health profession training programs within the OSU system.
- OKAHEC will sponsor a meeting with all the health profession training programs within the OSU system.
- OKAHEC will facilitate collaboration with OSU health profession training programs and implement projects.

Goal Four. OKAHEC program opportunities are designed to encourage students to choose Primary Care practice in rural or other underserved areas in Oklahoma.

Critical Success Factors:

- 40% of Career Education participants are from minority populations.
- 70% of Career Education participants are from disadvantaged populations.
- OKAHEC supports 200 community-based training settings.
- 60% of community-based training opportunities are in medically underserved settings.
- 75% of community-based training opportunities are in rural settings.
- 80% of AHEC-sponsored clinical training opportunities are in Primary Care settings.
- 30% of preceptors and mentors are from minority or disadvantaged backgrounds.
- 75% of youth receiving more than 20 hrs of career education report they are entering a health professions training program or college-track upon graduation from high school.
- 60% of health professional students participating in 2 or more OKAHEC sponsored rotations or experiences report that they have a moderate to high interest in practicing in a rural or medically underserved area.

Objectives:

Objective 4.1: Regional AHEC centers will recruit minority and disadvantaged youth for participation in career education programs.

Strategies:

- AHEC Centers will identify school districts with high levels of minority and disadvantaged youth and invite their participation in AHEC career education programs.
- Develop programs that are tailored to specific minority and disadvantaged student needs and interests.

Objective 4.2: OKAHEC will develop community-based training opportunities located in rural and medically underserved settings.

Strategies:

- OKAHEC Program Office will maintain a current list of communities and facilities that are considered shortage areas and/or medically underserved.
- OKAHEC will target 15 communities per AHEC region for development and maintenance of training sites.
- OKAHEC Centers will encourage and facilitate development and maintenance of training sites and opportunities in rural and underserved communities.

Objective 4.3: OKAHEC will encourage students to choose and enter primary care disciplines.

Strategies:

- OKAHEC training opportunities and experiences will focus on general primary care, especially: family medicine, nursing, and allied health disciplines.
- Expand early clinical mentoring experiences in Primary Care settings.

Objective 4.4: OKAHEC will identify community health professionals from minority and disadvantaged backgrounds to serve as preceptors, mentors and faculty.

Strategies:

- OKAHEC Program Office and regional AHEC Centers will survey existing preceptors, mentors, and community-based faculty to determine minority or disadvantaged background.
- OKAHEC Program Office and regional AHEC Centers will survey health professional students, new graduates and new community-based practitioners to determine minority or disadvantaged background.

Goal Five. OSU Community Health and Education Center (OCHEC) is established as an “urban AHEC” in North Tulsa.

Critical Success Factors:

- 1,500 community residents receive their primary medical care from OCHEC.
- 60 medical students and medical residents per year participate in training experiences at OCHEC.
- 40 health professions and social service students (excluding medical) per year participate in training experiences at OCHEC.
- 2,500 community residents receive health promotion and disease prevention education and interventions.
- OSU-CHS faculty contribute 20 hours per week at OCHEC.
- OCHEC funding relies on no source of funding (billing, grants, or donations) for more than 50% of its income.
- OCHEC income/funding annually exceeds its costs.

Objectives:

Objective 5.1: Increase and maintain tangible (resource) support for OCHEC from OSU-CHS, community, state legislature, and private and government funding agencies.

Strategies:

- Research and apply for funding from appropriate sources.

Objective 5.2: Provide primary medical care services at OCHEC to Tulsa public housing residents.

Strategies:

- Collaborate with OSU-CHS clinical departments to achieve appropriate staffing for clinic.
- Collaborate with other community health professions training programs to develop student service-learning and volunteer opportunities.
- Collaborate with other community providers and agencies for medical support and non-medical services.
- Market health care services to residents of community and surrounding neighborhood.

Objective 5.3: Provide health promotion and disease prevention education and interventions to Tulsa public housing residents.

Strategies:

- Coordinate with relevant OSU health training programs to provide training opportunities for students.
- Collaborate with other local and state health professions training programs on the development of community health training opportunities for students.
- Coordinate with local health organizations to bring education and prevention services to the neighborhood.

Objective 5.4: Develop interdisciplinary health professions training opportunities at OCHEC.

Strategies:

- Interdisciplinary curricular content will be developed specific to OCHEC community needs.
- Local and state health professional training programs will be invited to participate in interdisciplinary opportunities.

Goal Six: OKAHEC is recognized statewide and nationally as a quality health workforce development program.

Critical Success Factors:

- Information about OCHEC is disseminated at least annually to a minimum of twenty partners, constituents, et. al.
- 10 OKAHEC staff participate on state, regional or national organizations/committees
- Annual funding received will exceed \$2 million.
- OKAHEC collaborates on 5 funded projects with other organizations.
- Regular stories and articles about OKAHEC appear annually in at least five local, state, and national media.
- OCHEC is recognized as a national, “model” public housing clinic and training site by at least one national organization.

Objectives:

Objective 6.1: OKAHEC will have a coordinated, integrated and comprehensive information dissemination plan.

Strategies:

- OKAHEC Program Office and Regional AHEC centers will coordinate to gather current and updated program information for dissemination to others.
- Develop appropriate mediums for information dissemination, including website, annual report, newsletter, etc.
- Submit manuscripts for publication to state and national journals.
- Submit abstracts to national organizations for presentations at conferences and workshops.

Objective 6.2: OKAHEC staff actively participates on state and national committees/ organizations.

Strategies:

- Encourage and support staff to participate in state and national committees.

Objective 6.3: Total funding for OKAHEC will increase gradually but steadily.

Strategies:

- Pursue increased funding through multiple means, including grants, contracts, legislative appropriation, donations and institutional support.

Objective 6.4: OKAHEC will attract and hire a sufficient number of quality staff to implement programming proposed.

Strategies:

- Increase budget (see above).
- Advertise vacancies locally, regionally and nationally.
- Document and review number of staff at Program Office and Regional Centers, their qualifications (degrees and accomplishments), and the turnover rate and duration of employment.