

Final Report NO1 LM 13514 Outreach Travel & Training July 2002 - July 2003

**I. Training Sessions & Dates**

July 23, 2002 Missouri Rural Health Association, Fayette, Missouri  
Hands on training using PubMed

July 31, 2002 Missouri Rural Health Association, Fayette, Missouri  
Hands on training using MEDLINEplus.

August 4, 2002  
Great Mines Health Center, Potosi, Missouri  
Hands on demonstration of PubMed and MEDLINEplus

August 5 & 6th 2002  
Fitzgibbon Hospital Family Practice Clinic, Marshall, Missouri  
Hands on training - PubMed

October 18, 2002  
Cooper County Memorial Hospital  
Online demonstration - MEDLINE & MEDLINEplus

Fitzgibbon Hospital, Marshall, Missouri on:  
November 12th - Four physicians and five nurses participated  
November 13th - Two physicians and six nurses participated

Feb 24 & 25 2003  
Fitzgibbon Hospital, Marshall MO  
Advanced searching for medical professionals

March 20, 2003  
Missouri Institute for Community Health  
PubMed and MEDLINEplus demonstration

March 20, 2003  
Lake Regional Hospital  
MEDLINE training

March 21, 2003  
Missouri Rural Health Association & Capital Regional Medical Center  
MEDLINEplus training session

**II. Detailed List of Training Sites:**

Cooper County Memorial Hospital  
R R 1 HWY B P O BOX 88  
BOONVILLE, MO 65233  
District 6

Fitzgibbon Hospital  
2305 S 65 HIGHWAY  
MARSHALL, MO 65340  
District 4

Missouri Rural Health Association  
P.O. Box 1681

Jefferson City, MO 65401  
District 4

Capital Region Medical Center  
1432 Southwest Blvd.  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
District 4

Central Methodist College  
411 Central Methodist Square  
Fayette, MO 65248  
District 6

Pettis County Free Clinic now known as Regional Health Clinic in Sedalia  
1700 E Broadway  
Sedalia, MO 65301  
District 4

Great Mines Health Center  
600 Purcell Drive Suite B  
Potosi MO 63664  
District 8

Lake Regional Health System  
54 Hospital Drive  
Osage Beach, MO 65065  
District 4

### **III. Target Audience**

The target audience for this project was health care practitioners working in rural and medically underserved areas of Missouri.

### **IV. Exhibits Connected with Project**

We exhibited at the Missouri Free Clinic Association Conference and the Missouri Rural Health Association Conference.

### **V. Website development was not a component of this project.**

### **VI. Partnerships**

A. Funding for this project allowed us to expand our outreach activities in rural Missouri and to develop partnerships while improving access to current health information. Some of these partnerships blossomed and became long term relationships. A few examples are listed below:

- ❖ Mid-MO AHEC and the Missouri Rural Health Association (MRHA) have partnered on a variety of projects to improve health care providers' access to NLM databases and resources. Links for PubMed and MEDLINEplus are on the MRHA website and we continue to provide training opportunities at MRHA meetings across the state. We are currently working together on a state-wide project that incorporates MEDLINEplus training and the development of white papers on oral, mental and aging issues facing Missourians.
- ❖ Missouri Free Clinics Association continues a close relationship with Mid-MO AHEC. We are both committed to improving healthcare throughout Missouri and work together to achieve that goal whenever possible.

- ❖ We have a strong relationship with Lake Regional Health System and contract to provide library resources and services to health care providers at this facility. Lake Regional has become a core training site for medical students and two previous AHEC supported students have returned to the area to practice as physicians.
- ❖ Pettis County Free Clinic, now known as Regional Health Clinic in Sedalia, and Mid-MO AHEC have developed a strong relationship in part due to this funding. The clinic began as an all volunteer clinic providing health care to the Hispanic population employed by the local Tyson plant. Recently the clinic has transitioned into an FQHC look-a-like expecting full FQHC funding shortly. We are placing a new computer workstation with high-speed internet access in this clinic so healthcare providers have a dedicated workstation to access MEDLINE and MEDLINEplus.
- ❖ Fitzgibbon Hospital in Marshall has become a core training site for medical students in Mid-Missouri AHEC's region. Eight-five percent of the physicians with privileges at Fitzgibbon Hospital precept medical students. Bi-annually we conduct MEDLINE and MEDLINEplus training for medical and nursing staff at Fitzgibbon Hospital. Fitzgibbon Hospital is a partner in the MAHEC Digital Library project and our relationship was enhanced by this initial funding to expose and train health care providers on NLM databases and resources.
- ❖ Great Mines Health Clinic has two full time nurse practitioners that use online health information on a daily basis. We continue to provide library resources and services for this clinic.

B. We encountered a few challenges with this project. Internet speed in rural areas can still be a major barrier in accessing biomedical information. A hospital's desire to keep patient information private can create unnecessary difficulties when accessing health information on the internet. We understand the need for security but closing out internet access to health information should not be a viable solution. Several physicians that participated in training sessions stated that a lack of time and a lack of basic computer skills coupled with slow internet speed made it difficult to incorporate their training in their daily practice. A common refrain was for clinically focused information that could be accessed in five minutes or less. These comments became the basis for an Internet Access to Digital Library proposal to develop the "MAHEC Digital Library (MDL)".

C. A continued presence in these locations allowed us to develop a long term relationship with health care providers and improved the likelihood that they would use library resources and services. This outreach training project planted the seeds for a research project that became the MAHEC Digital Library.

Our MAHEC Digital Library proposal was funded by NLM and this year we received another IADL grant to expand the MDL into three additional AHEC regions and several mental health clinics throughout the state. In addition, Missouri Rural Health Association (MRHA) and Mid-MO AHEC are collaborating on a two year National Library of Medicine grant funded project that brings together rural residents and social services/health care professionals in a variety of ways. A primary goal of this project is to improve rural residents' access to accurate health and medical information. Three white papers focusing on mental, dental and elder health issues facing rural Missourians will also be developed as a result of this project. Each of these topics was identified as critical at regional MRHA meetings held throughout the state. Online communities are being used to bring together experts to generate solutions for access to care and integration of services problems by promoting cooperation among local and state health and social service professionals. The white papers will be a starting point to begin community dialog on the health issues impacting rural residents. Upon completion of the White Papers we will be conducting community meetings across the state to present findings and engage local communities in the issues.

With expanded funding to carry out outreach throughout Missouri we'd like to release any un-used funds and close out this project.