

Our Goals

Collaboration and Leadership:

- Facilitate the development and successful operations of RHAN Community Partnership Board
- Maintain working collaborative relationships among state agencies and organizations working to enhance the health and well-being of older adults
- Determine shared mission and values

Research:

- Strengthen capacity to conduct innovative community-based participatory research
- Work with community partners to bring an evidence-based physical activity program to underserved older adults
- Assess opportunities and any barriers for senior friendly physical activity statewide

RHAN Community Partnership Board

Jane Marks, Chair	WV Alzheimer's Association
Chuck Conner	Winding Roads Rural Health Education Partnership
Cheryl Mitchem	Larry Joe Harless Community Center
Gaylene Miller	WV AARP
Richard Riopelle	West Virginia Community Member
Germaine Weis	WV Bureau for Public Health Osteoporosis and Arthritis Program
Deloris Wilder	WV Bureau of Senior Services

CORE RHAN STAFF

R. Turner Goins	Principal Investigator WVU Center on Aging, Department of Community Medicine
Dina Jones	Co-Investigator WVU Department of Orthopedics & Division of Physical Therapy
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The Rural Healthy Aging Network is supported by the Healthy Aging Program, Division of Adult and Community Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Web Site:
www.hsc.wvu.edu/coa/rhan

Rural Healthy Aging Network

The West Virginia University (WVU) Prevention Research Center (PRC) Rural Healthy Aging Network (RHAN) is one of several participating Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-Healthy Aging Network (HAN).

RHAN consists of an Community Partnership Board and the core WVU staff. Partnering with community-based groups in West Virginia and the larger CDC-HAN, RHAN hopes to better understand determinants of rural healthy aging in older adult populations, identify interventions that promote rural healthy aging, and to assist in the translation of such research into sustainable community-based programs throughout the nation. These efforts coincide with the two goals of *Healthy People 2020*, of increasing quality and years of healthy life and eliminating health disparities.

CDC funding for RHAN is from September 30, 2009 through September 29, 2014.

Mission

The focus of the RHAN is on unique rural aging issues and while assisting with the development of a research and dissemination agenda related to public health aspects of healthy aging. As a member of the CDC-HAN, RHAN works to create synergy through its participation in value-adding activities with the larger network and with RHAN's partners. Specifically, the focus is on rural older adults who share a disproportionate burden of illness and chronic disease.



WVU RHAN

WVU RHAN is an active and unique contributor to the CDC-HAN, focusing on disparities in health and health care access of the West Virginia rural older adults.

WVU RHAN uses a cadre of strong, committed state and local partnerships to combine resources, expertise, and experience for conducting and translating research into policy designed to enhance the health and well-being of rural older adults.

Members of the WVU RHAN Community Partnership Board meet two times over the course of one year and have quarterly conference calls.

Evaluation of the project will be conducted by the WVU PRC Evaluation Oversight and Coordination Unit via short anonymous surveys from the Community Partnership Board, as well as through opportunities to provide observations of the project's accomplishments.

On-Going Activities

Healthy Brain Project

Chronic Disease Self Management Online

www.activeoptions.org

Enhance Fitness

www.wvcaregivers.org

WV Consortium for Older Adult Wellness