

GEORGIA  
**Rural**  **Health**  
INNOVATION CENTER  

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**AT MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

## Mission

Partnering with rural Georgia to improve healthcare through reliable research, creative strategies, consistent community support, and long-term solutions.

## Vision

A healthy Georgia.

# Values

## Trust

We build authentic relationships with communities and serve as a reliable partner, offering honest guidance and dependable support to achieve positive results.

## Commitment

We care deeply about rural Georgia communities and prove our passion by relentlessly pursuing solutions to improve healthcare opportunities and outcomes.

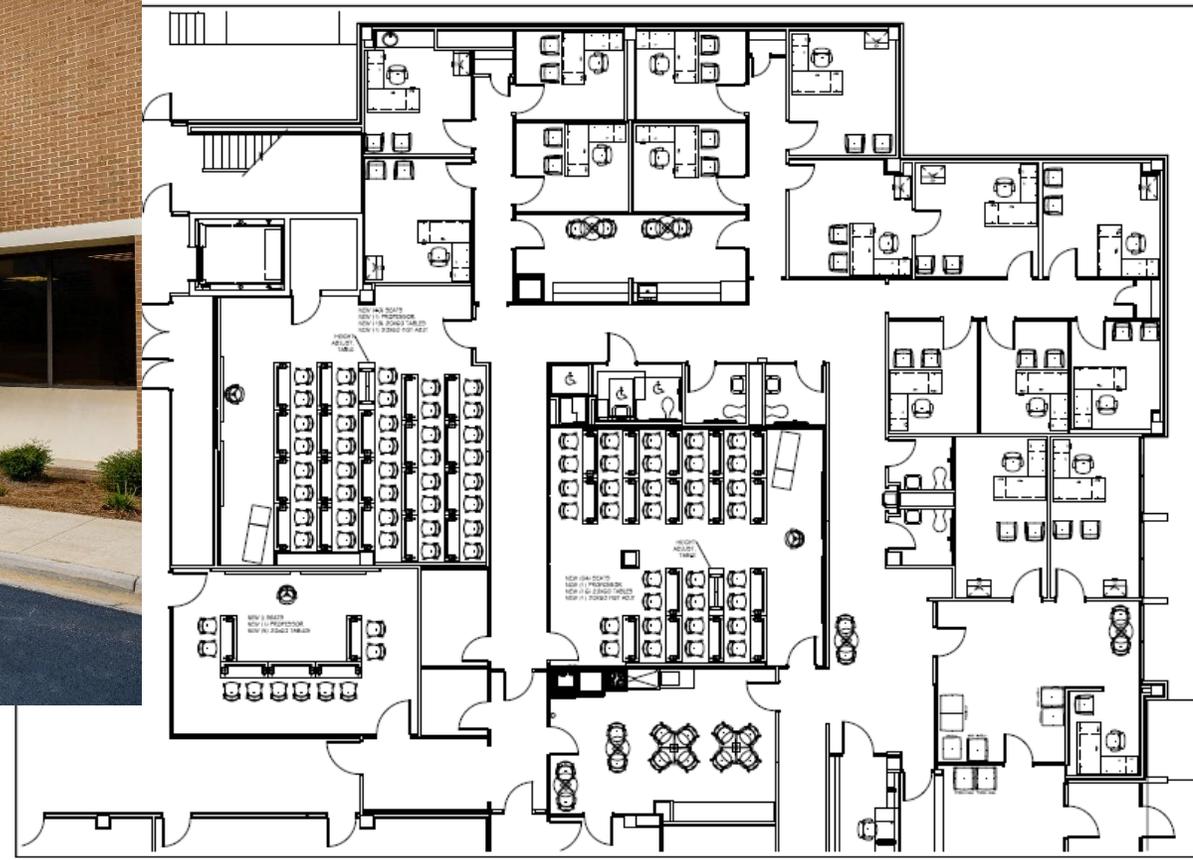
## Collaboration

We collaborate with rural Georgia communities and empower them to lead the charge in improving healthcare outcomes.

## Innovation

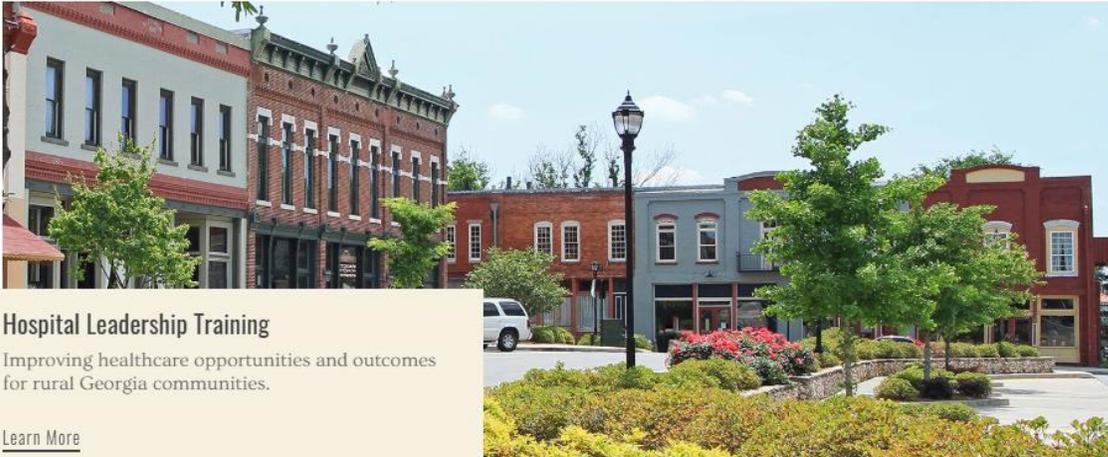
We solve complex healthcare challenges by implementing innovative, diverse strategies that produce sustainable results.

# Our Space





Menu



### Hospital Leadership Training

Improving healthcare opportunities and outcomes for rural Georgia communities.

[Learn More](#)

### Serving Georgia's Rural Health Needs

Collaboration. Innovation. Compassion. Trust.

The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center was established by the state at Mercer University School of Medicine to empower rural communities to improve access and effectiveness of health care. The Center accomplishes this mission by offering research, collaboration, and training opportunities.

[Learn More](#)



# www.GeorgiaRuralHealth.org



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## News & Resources

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### Well Water Quality

[All Counties](#), [Community Health](#), [Environmental Health](#)

September 10, 2019

Leonardo Da Vinci once said, "Water is the driving force of all nature." Water is essential for the survival of all that exists on earth. If water is essential for survival and necessary to stay healthy, then that water should not be harmful to people's health.

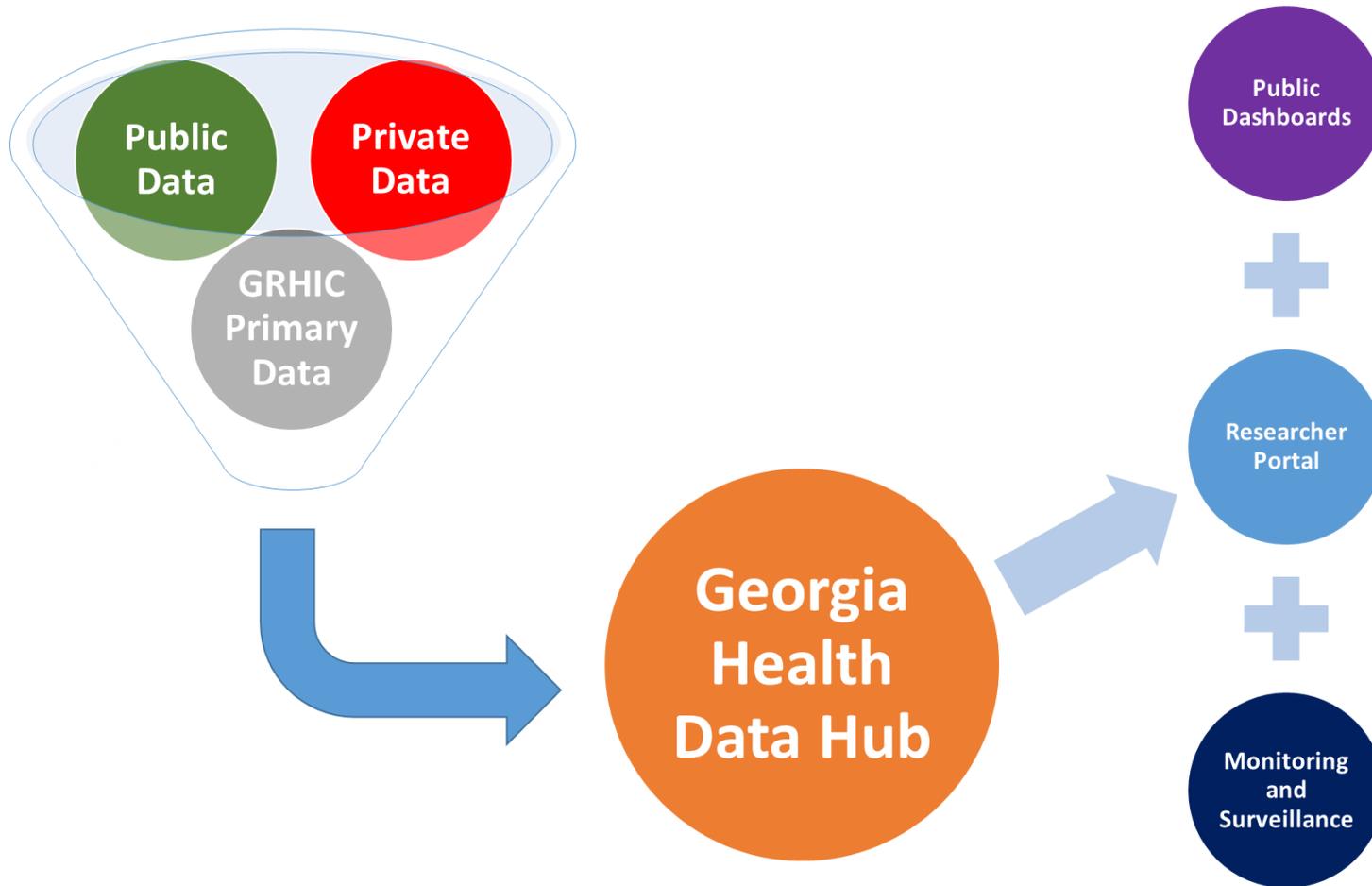
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Public water systems have mandated chlorination and filtering processes that keep the water clean for the community. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implements these processes as well as enforces the annual testing of contaminants in public water systems. This information is public knowledge and accessible to anyone. But what about when you use a private well? How do you know the water is safe?

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 9



# Data That Works for Georgia



# Advisory Board

The Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center Advisory Board brings together health practitioners, elected officials, business professionals and community leaders who share a passion for improving the availability and affordability of quality health care for rural Georgians.



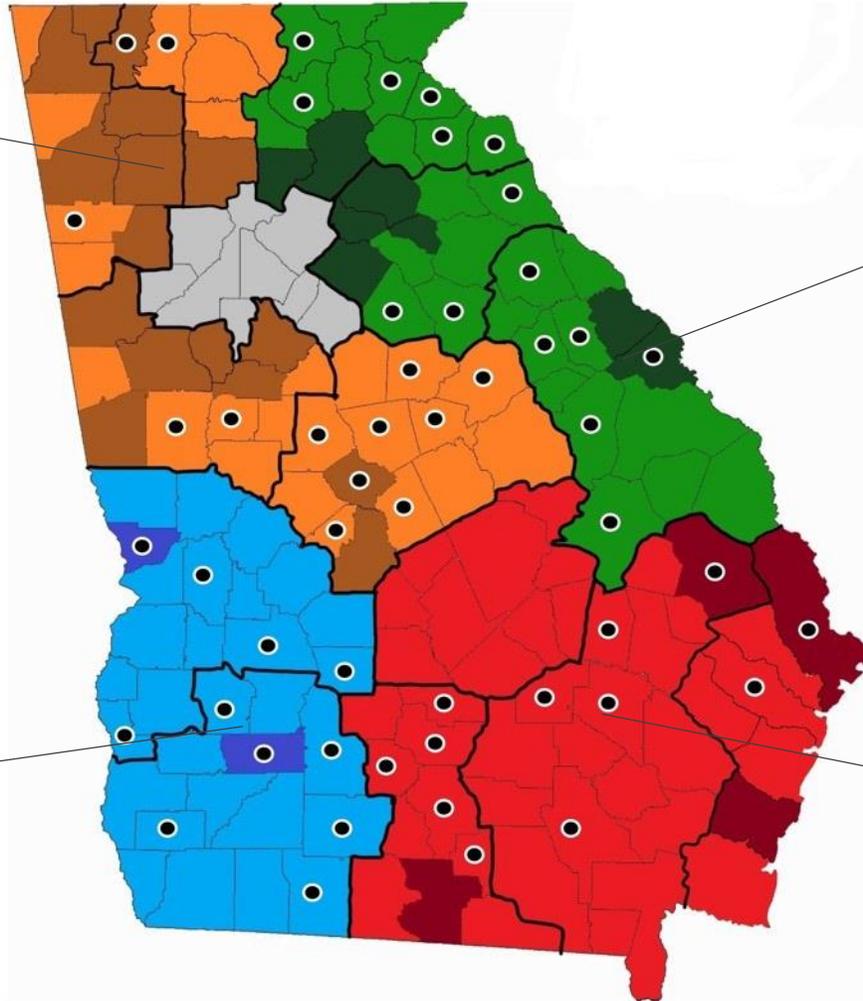
- ✦ Representative Butch Parrish
- ✦ Representative Sharon Cooper
- ✦ Senator David Lucas
- ✦ Senator Dean Burke, MD
- ✦ David Bridges, PhD
- ✦ Randall Brown, MD
- ✦ Laura Calhoun, MHA
- ✦ Thomas E. Craft, Jr., MD
- ✦ Layne H. Kitchens, APRN-BC
- ✦ Grace V. Davis, MD, MPH, FAAP
- ✦ Jill Nielsen, DNP, MSN, MPH, FNP-BC
- ✦ Justin Peterson, MD
- ✦ Bill Prather, Reg. Pharm.
- ✦ Willette Strickland, RN, MSN
- ✦ Kerry Trapnell



Darice Cudjoe



Morgan Bouwsma



Morgan Cook



Kelli Williams

# Overview of GRHIC Projects

- ✦ Data Analysis for MedBank Savannah
- ✦ Gynecological Care Network – Central Georgia
- ✦ Mental Health First Aid
- ✦ Hospital Training Standards
- ✦ Albany Telemedicine Project
- ✦ Aggregating current available health data
- ✦ Antibiotic Stewardship
- ✦ Exploring funding sources with Meriwether and Pike Health Department for program expansion
- ✦ Georgia Medical Education and Technology project with Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation
- ✦ Creation and implementation of rural health research internship program

# Rural Hospital Leadership Training

In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 31-2-16, training approved by the Center must be completed by “the chief executive officer, the chief financial officer, every board member, and every hospital authority member, if operated by a hospital authority pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 7 of this title, of a rural hospital organization as defined in Code Section 31-8-9.1”.

Such individuals are required to “complete an education program approved by the center pursuant to this paragraph no later than December 31, 2020, or within 12 months of initial hiring or appointment and every two years thereafter.”

# Topics for Standards

Prerequisite  
(2 Hours in Person)

Core Curriculum  
(6 Hours)

**Standard 1: Governance, Liability, and Accountability**

**Standard 2: Responsibility to Regulatory Agencies and Legal Considerations**

**Standard 3: Finances and Fiduciary Responsibility**

**Standard 4: Compliance**

**Standard 5: Ethics**

**Standard 6: Continuum of Care**

**Standard 7: Strategic Planning and Accountability**

**Standard 8: Grants**

# Role of Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center

- Review and certify curriculum submitted by vendors.
- Provide directory of approved vendors with full cost transparency.
- Monitor training compliance and provide proactive notification of deadlines, reports, and potential compliance lapses.
- Continued evaluation of vendors and deployment of curriculum through reports, surveys, and focus groups.
- Submit ongoing reports to the State Office of Rural Health and Department of Community Health.
- Keep you informed!

# Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour course that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis.

# Business in Medicine

- ✚ State of Healthcare in Georgia
- ✚ Healthcare Continuum Overview
- ✚ Introduction to Value Based Care
- ✚ Healthcare Panel: Practicing Medicine in Georgia
- ✚ Financial Goal Setting/Understanding Your Financial Value
  - Consumer Credit/How your Credit Score Works
  - Debt Management and Reduction Strategies
- ✚ Triple Aim/Value Based Care/Reimbursement
- ✚ Business Structures: (1) Hospital Employment (2) Independent Arrangement

# Rural Health Grand Challenges

- ✚ Maternal and Women's Health
- ✚ Child and Adolescent Health
- ✚ Social Determinants of Health
- ✚ Strategic Healthcare Availability and Access
- ✚ Healthcare Workforce
- ✚ Mental and Behavioral Health
- ✚ Health Literacy
- ✚ Substance Use Disorders
- ✚ Systems of Rural Community Based Care
- ✚ Rural Occupational Health

# Ways to Connect with GRHIC



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