

Perspectives in Rural Health

Amy Brock Martin, Dr.P.H.

**Deputy Director & Research Assistant Professor
SC Rural Health Research Center
Department of Health Services Policy & Management
Arnold School of Public Health
University of South Carolina**



South Carolina
Rural Health Research Center



Rationale for Course

South Carolina is a rural state with well-documented health disparities across the lifespan.

Inadequate access to care exacerbates disparities in rural parts of the state.

HSPM 709 takes a practical approach to cultivating expertise on rural health disparities and policy in future leaders.



South Carolina

Rural Health Research Center



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Course Purposes

- Enhance students' knowledge of demographic, economic, and political forces affecting access to care and community health in rural America and;
- Impart communication, analytical, and decision-making skills necessary to provide leadership in rural community health settings.



Course Objectives

- Identify key **policy issues & historical factors** that distinguish rural populations from urban.
- Describe **national infrastructure** and resources for rural health programs.
- Describe **state infrastructure** for facilitating rural health programs and policies.
- Identify essential components of **rural community healthcare systems**.
- Describe opportunities and **barriers for recruiting** healthcare providers to rural.
- Identify **rural safety net** providers and describe their contributions to the local system of care.
- Describe the complex issues faced by **special populations** rural communities.



Teaching Methods

- Readings
- Group discussions
- Lectures by national and state rural health leaders,
- Field trips
- Writing assignments
- Group projects



South Carolina

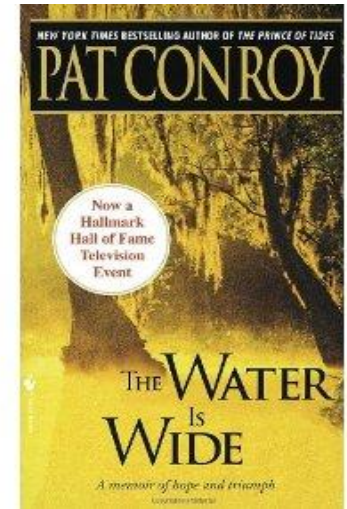
Rural Health Research Center



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Readings

- Journal articles, policy briefs, and governmental publications.
- Pat Conroy's ***The Water is Wide***, a personal account by a young school teacher in the newly desegregated South. While the story centers on education, there are stark parallels to addressing the healthcare needs of rural, minority populations.



South Carolina

Rural Health Research Center



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Learning Assessments

- Midterm examination
- Classroom participation
- Assignments:
 - ***Rural Culture Paper*** – Students examine the role rural cultures play in the health status of communities, using Conroy’s book as a basis from which to frame the paper.
 - ***Scholarship*** - Students select one rural policy, program, or health challenge on which they develop a scholarly poster to be presented at the Annual SC Rural Health Conference.



South Carolina

Rural Health Research Center



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Student Outcomes

- Many students go on to choose practicum and residencies in rural settings or begin their careers serving rural communities.
- The 2007 HSPM 709 class worked under the direction of the USC Media Department to develop “Rx,” a film about rural health issues which has one several independent film awards. The trailer can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoszCb4ZB8w.



LOCATION 1 – Federally Qualified Health Center

An FQHC is a community-based organization that provides an array of health care services to many different populations in the United States in both rural and urban settings. Dr. Stuart Hamilton and his centers are FQHCs. His story, along with the population of pregnant Hispanic women his team sees, is profiled for this segment.

[more...](#)



LOCATION 2 – Non-Profit Pediatric Dental Centers

Community-based, non-profit organizations are often the only frontline defense of services in many areas of rural South Carolina. Recognizing the overwhelming need of poor children for dental care, Commun-I-Care, in partnership with indigenous community partners, responded.

[more...](#)



LOCATION 3 – Critical Access Hospitals

CAHs are rural hospitals that have converted to a special designation through the federal policy, Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant. This designation encourages hospitals to focus on acute care by limiting the number of beds to 25 and patient length of stay to 96 hours. Larry Dozier is the Chief Executive Officer of Fairfield Memorial Hospital in Winnsboro. His organization will serve as the representative for this segment.



South Carolina

Rural Health Research Center



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

Contact information



Thank you to Delta Omega!

Amy Brock Martin, Dr.P.H.

brocka@mailbox.sc.edu

SC Rural Health Research Center

220 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 204

Columbia, SC 29201

803-251-6317 (telephone)

803-251-6399 (fax)



South Carolina

Rural Health Research Center



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA