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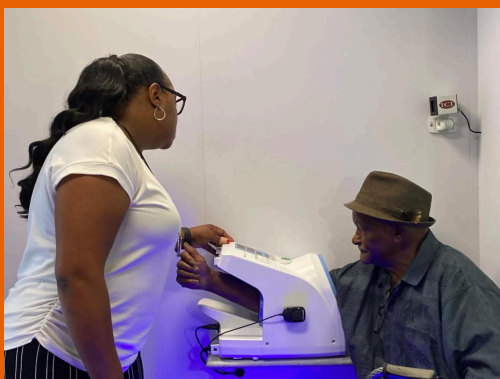
Outreach

(AURHI) AU Rural Health Initiative Summer 2025 Recap



Mental Health Fairs in Chambers & Hale Counties

Anna Beth Gandy, RHI Graduate Assistant, led two mental health fairs that focused on stress relief, physical health, and access to care. Collaborations with Auburn University and the University of Alabama counseling students encouraged meaningful conversations to break the stigma surrounding mental health. In Chambers County, Circle of Care also partnered with local organizations to strengthen community support.



Hale County's Blood Pressure Champion Campaign

Huge shout-out to Latarsha Tubbs, Dimetra Rollins, and Jovita Lewis for organizing the Blood Pressure Champion Campaign in Hale County! Community members who checked their blood pressure three consecutive days could enter a drawing for fresh produce and a healthy snack basket. This effort encouraged healthy habits and brought awareness to the importance of blood pressure monitoring.

Hale County Diabetes Coalition Meeting

The Hale County Diabetes Coalition came together at the OnMed CareStation for a fun and informative meeting. Members enjoyed bingo and a presentation from Jovita Lewis, County Extension Director, on how the Auburn University Rural Health Initiative is expanding access to care. Topics explored included foot care and healthy eating.



Greene County Family Fun Day in Boligee, AL

Family Fun Day in Boligee was a huge success! Youth and families enjoyed basketball, line dancing, and delicious food! They also had the opportunity to engage in an interactive “germ room” to learn how germs spread. A great takeaway from this day was introducing the OnMed CareStation to the community. Special thanks to Iris Sermon, Doug Fulghum, and Clara Ragan for hosting such a great event!

AU Rural Health Initiative Framework



Auburn University Rural Health Initiative

The Auburn University Rural Health Initiative collaborates with communities to enhance access to high-quality, affordable healthcare and wellness services throughout rural Alabama. Our "mission" is to increase healthcare access and improve health outcomes throughout Rural Alabama while providing impactful experiences for students in health-related fields through unparalleled collaboration between the resources of Auburn University, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), and Alabama communities.

Why is this important?

Rural communities face significant barriers to healthcare, including provider shortages, transportation challenges, and limited access to specialized services. These disparities contribute to poorer health outcomes and shorter life expectancies. By partnering directly with communities, the Auburn University Rural Health Initiative works to bridge these gaps—bringing innovative, equitable, and sustainable healthcare solutions to those who need them most.

[Read More](#)



Rural Health Connect places students in communities across Alabama

In one rural Alabama county, Auburn students planning to enter the medical and health fields are breaking down barriers that limit access to health care.

[Read More](#)



Looking to Get Involved?

AURHI is calling on students, faculty, and community partners to join hands in expanding rural health solutions. Discover opportunities for:

- Volunteering at health and wellness centers
- Becoming a Health Ambassador or joining Rural Health Connect
- Submitting your own rural health-focused project proposals
- Collaborating on faculty-led research and grant-funded programs

[Read More](#)

AURHI Health & Wellness Locations

Chambers County

Chambers Community Health and Wellness Center

404 9th Ave SW, LaFayette, AL 36862

Mon–Fri: 8 AM–8 PM | Sat: 1 PM–6 PM

(334) 459-0173

Ms. Leah Sledge Ins0007@auburn.edu (334) 864-9373

Ms. Debra Ward warddeb@auburn.edu (334) 459-0173

Greene County

Boligee Community Center, 17404 County Road 20, Boligee, AL 35443

Mon–Fri: 9 AM–6 PM

Ms. Iris Sermon — (334) 844-5442 | ics0017@uburb.edu

Hale County

Akron Public Library, 207 1st Ave South, Akron, AL 35441

Tue: 8 AM–5 PM | Wed & Thu: 8 AM–12 PM | Fri: 5 PM–8 PM

Ms. LaTarsha Tubbs — (334) 844-4017 | lct0012@auburn.edu

Sumter County

Gainesville Municipal Complex, 10900 State St, Gainesville, AL 35464

Mon–Fri: 8 AM–6 PM

Ms. Shakeria Williams — (334) 844-5029 | ssw0046@auburn.edu

Wilcox County

Elijah Tracey Shaw III Community Center, 17349 AL-5, Catherine, AL 36728

Regular Hours:

Mon/Wed/Fri: 9 AM–1 PM | Tue/Thu: 1 PM–6 PM

Shanicqa Davis — (334) 844-3011 | smd0122@auburn.edu

For more information, visit auburn.edu/outreach/ruralhealth.

Mark Your Calendar!

Chambers County Health and Wellness Center

Location: Chambers Community Health and Wellness Center, 404 9th Ave SW, LaFayette, AL 36862

- Every Wednesday – Free Blood Pressure Screenings
- October 7, 2025 (1–4 pm CST) – Free Hearing Screenings
- October 21, 2025 (1–4 pm CST) – Free Hearing Screenings
- October 25, 2025 (9–11 am CST) – Free Speech Screenings

[Check Out Our Website!](#)



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