

Coordinating Mobile Health Access for Rural Communities

Bringing university health resources into communities across rural Kentucky.



AT A GLANCE

9	126	3	Several thousand
rural counties	students in field placements	consecutive summers	individual screenings

CLIENT	SCOPE
A public university's health sciences departments	Multi-site mobile health program across nine rural Kentucky counties

01 THE CHALLENGE

Care had to meet people where they were.

Distance, lack of insurance, and earned mistrust of outside systems made traditional outreach a poor fit. The program needed local sites, trusted partners, and careful coordination to reach residents.

THE FIELD OPERATIONS QUESTION

How could one university program set up teams across nine counties and deliver useful screenings in communities with the least access to care?

- Local placements and outreach with Area Health Education Centers
- Faculty-supervised students from several health and social work disciplines
- Screenings residents could receive in a single visit

02 THE STRATEGY

Local trust, coordinated teams, practical field operations

Contracted to manage the field operations of a mobile, interdisciplinary community health initiative bringing university resources directly into rural communities to deliver holistic health screenings to residents who would not otherwise access care, while coordinating the training of emerging health and social work professionals.

01	02	03
Community trust	Interdisciplinary care	Field operations
Place clinics with local partners in the communities being served.	Coordinate faculty-supervised cohorts of seven students per county site.	Keep each site ready and the program consistent across three summers.
• Nine rural county field sites • Regional Area Health Education Center partnerships • Outreach outside formal medical settings	• Social work, medicine, nursing, dental, and health education • Physical, dental, behavioral, and psychosocial screening • One coordinated resident visit	• Team schedules and site preparation • On-the-ground logistics and faculty coordination • Resource alignment with local partners

03 THE RESULTS

Thousands of screenings. A working model for future professionals.

Over three years, 126 students worked in faculty-supervised teams across nine counties and delivered several thousand individual health screenings.

9	126	3
counties served	student placements	consecutive summers

ONE EXAMPLE OF FOLLOW-THROUGH
A screening identified a resident's undiagnosed hypertension. The local Area Health Education Center connected the resident with a physician for ongoing care.

04 THE FULL BREAKDOWN

What it took to run the program

01	Program operations and field coordination	Contracted to manage end-to-end field operations for a mobile community health initiative across 9 rural Kentucky counties over 3 consecutive summers. Coordinated team scheduling, site preparation, and on-the-ground logistics for cohorts of 7 students per field site, supervised by faculty across each represented discipline.
02	Interdisciplinary team supervision	Oversaw cross-functional student teams representing social work, medicine, nursing, dental, and community health education, totaling 126 students and 5 faculty across the engagement's 3-year tenure. Facilitated team cohesion across disciplines, supporting students in developing the communication and collaboration skills necessary to build unified, comprehensive resident evaluations.
03	Community outreach and partner engagement	Partnered with regional Area Health Education Centers to coordinate site placement, local outreach, and resource alignment in federally designated Medically Underserved Areas and Health Professional Shortage Areas, ensuring field sites reached the communities with the greatest need and the least access.
04	Holistic screening model	Supported delivery of a multi-triage screening model that addressed physical health (blood pressure, glucose), preventative dental care, behavioral and mental health assessments, generating a comprehensive clinical profile for each resident served and contributing to a statewide database tracking healthcare disparities across Kentucky.
05	Practicum and professional development	Contributed to the program's function as a credited field practicum for university students supporting their transition from academic training to applied practice, and modeling interdisciplinary collaboration as a core professional competency. Worked alongside students, faculty, and community stakeholders in a capacity that deepened operational expertise across public health, community outreach, and multi-stakeholder program management.