

South Carolina Public Health Preparedness Student Corps (SCPHPSC)
Quarterly (5th) Progress Report to Funder: April 1 – June 30, 2023

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This quarterly report reflects outcomes of the 15-month grant funded (#NU90TP922168) project (SCPHPSC) that was designed to increase access to an interdisciplinary and sustainable pipeline of culturally competent students for emergency and public health response within local, state, and global communities. It reflects planned and unplanned activities of the project's implementation by South Carolina's Clemson University (CU) as lead organization and subrecipients Benedict College (BC), Claflin University (ClfU), Coastal Carolina University (CCU), Francis Marion University (FMU), and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

As applicable, this report data highlight 1) the number of new and total enrolled student participants and their academic majors/programs of study; 2) types of education, clinical, or leadership-centered project related events; 3) major activities/accomplishments completed; 4) challenges or departures from the project's work plan; 5) identification of technical resources needed from the South Carolina (SC) Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC); 6) description of "new hires" to original project teams; 7) "other" noteworthy project related information; and 8) description of the lead organization's formal engagements with subrecipients. These data are presented, per program site, within headings A through H, of this report, as well as reported in summary.

Four (4) new project participants were added since the previous quarterly report and a total of 488 students were enrolled during the overall initial project period (April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). This sum reflects a *corrected* originally planned goal of 75 versus 100 enrollees at Coastal Carolina University. Therefore, the projected total number of participants, to include the recently extended project period (April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024), is 763. This total includes 50 at Benedict College, Claflin University, Clemson University, Francis Marion University, and the Medical University of South Carolina and 25 at Coastal Carolina University.

Participants' academic majors continue to be diverse--consistent with previous reports. The majority (256) is enrolled in nursing/pre-nursing followed by public health (72) and biology related disciplines (52). Remaining participants are enrolled in programs that range from computer science and marketing to engineering.

All students were engaged in select educational, leadership, and clinical learning experiences. One educational session was the 2nd Annual SCPHPSC Conference (*The Emergency Preparedness Workforce: Opportunities and Possibilities*) that was convened at the CU location and attended by 4 of 5 subrecipients and participating students. The 5th subrecipient (MUSC) coordinated and hosted a local conference, instead, due to logistical barriers related to traffic conditions and travel distance to the conference site. Other educational sessions consisted of students' attendance to the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Preparedness Summit and engagement in a Friday Night at the ER Training -- a simulated teams' management of services within a busy hospital scenario. Leadership experiences were also coordinated toward student learning. They ranged from scholarly presentation delivery within professional organizations (e.g., SC Public Health Association) and reflecting on the work of leadership organizations (e.g., academic-based Public Health Alliance and SCPHPSC Advisory Committee) to partnering with community groups (i.e., Council on Aging, Meals on Wheels) to assist in outreach related to hurricane preparedness and COVID-19 prevention education within low-resourced communities. Students were also supported in hands-on learning such as STOP THE BLEED® skills check-off offered by two project sites.

Several major project activities were recognized. For example, students were involved in the election of new officers within their institution's Public Health Alliance as well as the creation of an additional office (2nd

Vice President) within it that was specifically designed to help identify additional project-relevant student learning opportunities. Another noteworthy event is that several project faculty (e.g., FMU, CU, BC) were invited to public health related professional conferences (e.g., Association of Community Health Nursing Educators, Association of Public Health Nurses Joint Conference, International Rural Nursing Conference, NAACHO Preparedness Summit, SC Public Health Association) to share and discuss project outcomes. Project “news” is also being developed, in article format, to circulate within the local community (i.e., MUSC). That students continue to progress in completing required project activities--followed by receipt of stipend and notice of a project year #3 funding extension were also deemed major SCPHPSC activities.

Four challenges (and resolutions) to project implementation occurred: 1) Concerns about timely mailing of stipend checks (2nd/3rd cohorts) before campus budget office closings was addressed by project team leaders (ClfU) assuming management of the mailings aligned with proper documentation of recipients’ identification and dates that checks were received by them. 2) Some students’ inadequate acclimatization to the “new” SC PHRC onboarding platform (Better Impact) resulted in incomplete registrations. This challenge, while an ongoing concern, was resolved through the development of detailed step-by-step instructions provided by the Upstate PHRC Coordinator including the creation of a unique Better Impact web-site link for CU students. Future students will receive same guidance by CU team members. 3) Inability to conduct “Door Knock Campaign” (hurricane preparedness education to marginalized populations), as planned, was resolved by project team’s (CCU) partnership with a community organization (i.e., Horry County Council on Aging) to integrate effort within which the educational materials were disseminated. 4) Some students (MUSC) continued to encounter difficulty accessing the “free” online Coursera contact tracing course. This was remedied using a temporary “work-around” by instructing students to register, at the site, using Google vs Coursera log-in information. A comprehensive assessment to identify a permanent resolution to this problem is currently being addressed by a designated CU team member as the occurrence appears to be limited to a small cohort of students at one project site. 5) While not defined as a challenge, per se, one site received approval, by CU Project Director, to reallocate unused student travel funds to cover faculty travel to present project information at relevant professional conferences, per invitation.

Two technical needs requests of SC DHEC were identified. Need #1 is for enhanced technology (i.e., DocuSign or comparable secure online signature software) be implemented to facilitate students’ completion of the Better Impact onboarding process (e.g., signing/uploading forms) as a “less burdensome” option to the current more manual process that requires print, sign, scan, and email forms. Need #2 is for support toward developing a community of disaster responders based on much interest (and valuing) in “this” work -- especially by nursing students.

There were no SCPHPSC new hires during this period. This outcome is consistent with the previous report.

In addition to convening the SCPHPSC 2nd annual conference, CU arranged one formal engagement with subrecipients: The month of may’s Statewide Monthly meeting. This assembly strategically followed the in-person networking of project team members at the April 1st conference and offered the opportunity for attendees to review its processes, outcomes and vision for the 3rd event to be convened in 2024.

A. Program participants: Number and academic major

	No. New	No. Total	Academic Major
BC	0	77	bio (25), // pub.hlth. (21), // psych. (17), // soc.wk. (9), // mass.com. (5)
ClfU	0	98	bio/biotech/bio.info/envir.sci (45) // chem/biochem. (9) // comp.sci/math.comp.eng. (13) // bus.adm./psych/pol.sci/mass.com/marketing (20) // earlychild/elem.edu. /Afr.Amer hist. (4) // studio.art/sports.mngmnt. (3) // crim.just. (4)
CU	0	100	nursing (100)

CCU	0	58	pub.hlth. (51) // educ. (1) // soc. (1) // bus.man (1) // history (1), // psych. (1), // bio. (1), // hlth.com. (1)
FMU	3	105	pre-nursing/nursing (68) // hlthcare.adm.(pub. hlth.) (26) // psych. (1) biol.(pre-med.) (6) // hlthcare.adm.(pub. hlth.) & hlth. informs. (1) // soc. (1) // hlth.sciences (1) // undecided (1)
MUSC	1	50	nursing (51)

B. Types of project events (education, clinical, leadership)/No. Attendees (SCPHPSC related)

	Type	Name
BC	1. Leadership 2. Educational 3. Leadership 4. Educational	1. SC Public Health Association Conference/6 2. 2 nd Annual SCPHPSC Conference/22 3. Benedict College Public Health Advisory Committee Meeting/18 4. National Association of County and City Health Officials Preparedness Summit (NACCHO) Preparedness Summit/4
ClFU	1. Educational	1. 2 nd Annual SCPHPSC Conference/19
CU	1. Education 2. Clinical	1. Hosted (4.1.23) 2 nd SCPHPSC Annual Conference (<i>The Emergency Preparedness Workforce: Opportunities and Possibilities</i>) at Madren Conf. Center, Clemson SC 2. Conducted three STOP THE BLEED® Skills checkoffs for CU participants: Mar. 31, June 12, June 14
CCU	1. Leadership 2. Leadership 3. Clinical 4. Leadership	1. Partnered with Grand Strand Senior Horry County Council on Aging toward developing/disseminating education materials to clients re: hurricane awareness/preparedness (May 23-31)/6 (outreach-73) 2. Door Knock Campaigns (hurricane awareness/preparedness) with Meals on Wheels (May 3-10)/6 (outreach-91) 3. STOP THE BLEED® Certification/11 4. Tabling Events-May 25- June 7 (Local grocery stores, YMCA Healthy Kids, CMC Wellness Expo, Hurricane Expo, Medical Needs Shelter): Educational materials distribution about hurricane preparedness (e.g., nearest shelter location) and COVID-19 prevention/vaccinations within low income/resource communities)/16 (outreach-248)
FMU	1. Educational 2. Educational	1. 2 nd Annual SCPHPSC Conference/14 2. Friday Night at the ER Training (April 5-6, 2023)/35
MUSC	1. Educational 2. Leadership 3. Leadership	1. Annual SCPHPSC Conference: MUSC (local)/44 2. MUSC SCPHPSC Advisory meeting/6 3. MUSC SCPHPSC Advisory meeting/5

C. Major activities/accomplishments completed and No.

	Activities/Accomplishments	No.
BC	1. Attended the NACCHO Preparedness Summit in Atlanta GA in Atlanta, GA 2. Attended the SCPHPSC 2 nd Annual Conference in Clemson, SC 3. Presented at the SC Public Health Association Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC	3

ClFU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two team members attended the NACCHO Preparedness Summit in Atlanta GA 2. Transitioned new Public Health Alliance (PHA) officers and Chairperson who were voted on by project participants 3. Created 2nd Vice President role, within the PHA, to help advertise, coordinate, and relay to the SCPHPSC Program Coordinator project-relevant events of benefit to and interest by students 4. 3rd Year of SCPHPSC funding award 	4
CU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conducted planning meeting,#1 with CU participant, toward initiating process to sustain SCPHPSC workforce development model as a CU Student Organization 2. Drafted#1 PPT slide about MRC/SCPHPSC focus to be disseminated to all sites for inclusion within relevant course content (i.e., emergency management/disaster preparedness), as applicable per specific course faculty 	2
CCU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. See item B above: Types of project events 	4
FMU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruited 120 students to participate --105 completed all requirements and have successfully received the stipend (88% retention). 2. Contracted with outside consulting training agency to host and offer Friday Night at the ER training (April 5-6, 2023) -- 34 students in attendance. 3. Project faculty presented on project implementation at the national conference--The Association of Community Health Nursing Educators and The Association of Public Health Nurses Joint Conference, in San Diego, CA (June 7, 2023). 4. Project faculty have been accepted to present on project implementation at the International Rural Nursing Conference in Tennessee (July 25-28, 2023). 	4
MUSC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MUSC SCPHPSC conference was a success--students reporting positive feedback about combination of hands-on skills and lectures. 2. SCPHPSC Advisory Board meetings took place--providing valuable feedback on 1st cohort's activities and brainstorming about activities for next cohort. 3. A total of 50 students successfully completed the program requirements. 4. An article was developed in collaboration with MUSC College of Nursing media director to share the SCPHPSC program with local community. 	4

D. Challenges (i.e., departures from project work plan) and resolutions

	Challenge	Resolution
BC	There have been no major challenges at this time.	
ClFU	1. Dissemination of mailed stipends to 2 nd and 3 rd cohorts mailed in timely manner (i.e., before closing of the budgets on campus)	1. Stipend mailed by project team leaders with record of names and dates checks received by participants

CU	1. Student participants' acclimation to "new" SC PHRC onboarding platform (Better Impact) and inadequate completion of all registration components	1. A new (CU unique) link to Better Impact (https://btrr.im/wjwei) was provided by Upstate PHRC Coordinator as well as detailed guidance for adequate completion of registration: 1) complete contact profile completely on registration page (i.e., name, address, phone, etc.); 2) After registration, go to MY PROFILE (bottom, left side of page), open drop down and complete ADDITIONAL INFO completely; 3) Click on the SCPHPSC box that is under AFFILIATIONS (toward end of page).
CCU	1. Inability to conduct Door Knock campaign as originally planned (i.e., receipt of address list of marginalized persons) from SC DHEC)	1. Implemented alternative Door Knock campaign: Worked with Horry County Council on Aging (Meals on Wheels) to provide food insecurity intervention and distribute educational materials about emergency and hurricane preparedness
FMU	1. Spent less than budgeted student travel funds	1. Reallocated the respective funds to support faculty travel to present (conferences) project implementation strategies- -with approval by CU Project Director.
MUSC	1. Difficulty accessing the Coursera contact tracing course	1. Workarounds (i.e., use of Google versus Coursera sign-in) were available to access course.

E. Technical needs requested from SCDHEC

BC	None
ClfU	n/a
CU	n/a
CCU	n/a
FMU	Paperwork required for the DHEC Reserve Corps registration has been burdensome to students. Explore possibility of offering paperwork through DocuSign or comparable secure online signature software so that students can complete, sign, send, upload forms as needed instead of having to print to sign, scan, and email to submit.
MUSC	There is much interest in this nature of work from students in the College of Nursing...Support in continuing to develop a community of disaster responders would be valuable!

F. Description of new hires (Title/Role)

BC	n/a
ClfU	n/a
CU	n/a
CCU	n/a
FMU	n/a
MUSC	n/a

G. "Other" noteworthy project related information

BC	BC is honored to be a part of the SCPHPSC Program. This is a great opportunity for our students.
ClfU	All of us send our congratulations to all of the sites for receiving 3rd year funding!
CU	1. Project director and co-director attended the NACCHO Preparedness Summit along with two student participants (one student attended virtually) 2. CU Public Health Sciences "pending" two new team members oriented to SCPHPSC (04.17.23) 3. Poster presentation (<i>College Students Making a Difference: Expanding the Public Health Workforce toward Community Resilience</i>) presented at NACCHO Preparedness Summit

	(04.25.23) 4. Convened 1 st of 2 SCPHPSC Advisory Board Meetings (05.18.23) 5. Convened meeting with CU Simulation Lab Assoc. Dir. re: sustainability potential of STB within community health course curricula 6. Documented two social media posts (i.e., LinkedIn) from two project participants (J. Frey, A. Chung) who acknowledged appreciation/fulfilment in having “become a disaster volunteer”
CCU	n/a
FMU	n/a
MUSC	Looking forward to the next cohort!

H. CU formal engagement with subrecipients

Engagement	Date
1. Statewide Monthly Subrecipients Meeting #12	5.23.23