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**Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance Wins \$1,545,000 in Federal Funds
for Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network Program**

Tappahannock, Virginia: Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance (BRTA) has been awarded federal grant funds by the Health Resources and Services Administration of \$1,545,000 over three years to aid in workforce development and diversification of opportunities for Emergency Medical Services workers located in the Middle Peninsula (Essex, King and Queen, King William, Mathews and Middlesex counties), the Northern Neck (Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties), and Eastern Shore (Accomack and Northampton counties).

The purpose of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Workforce Project is to support training and implementation of Mobile Integrated Health (MIH). Working with its partners, BRTA will support career development and community placement of a more diverse workforce of Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics to extend medical care beyond Emergency services, providing support for chronic disease management and connections with primary care providers, mental health, and substance abuse services.

BRTA and ESTC will begin the grant by partnering to develop training and clinical rotations with the Virginia Center for Trauma and Critical Care Education, Rappahannock Community College, VCU Health Tappahannock Hospital, Eastern Shore Community Services Board, Bay Aging and Ledwith Lewis Free Clinic. EMS Departments in Northampton County, Essex County, and Westmoreland County Department of EMS will implement Mobile Integrated Health and encourage their EMTs to pursue paramedic credentials and the skills to provide Mobile Integrated Health. The goals of this grant are to establish and extend the network of EMS training programs and to advance the skill level of the EMS workforce by creating career pathways that make the profession more attractive to a more diverse range of individuals.

Eastern Shore Telehealth Consortium is a subsidiary of BRTA that was established on the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 2020. In addition to this grant, BRTA has four other grants focused on substance use, chronic disease management, and telehealth. If any agency is interested in learning more about BRTA, ESTC, or partnering opportunities, please contact Mary Ochsner.

Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance is consortium of organizations interested in extending telehealth services whose vision is for virtual health strategies to contribute to better health and well-being for populations in Virginia communities. BRTA serves as a mentor and fiscal agent to foster the growth and success of the Eastern Shore Telehealth Consortium.