**Facilities and Other Resources**

**Montana State University – Overall Environment**

Montana State University’s research enterprise closed out 2014 with unprecedented accomplishments in health-related research. Biomedical and health research continues to represent the most prominent area of MSU’s portfolio with significant federal awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to enhance research in rural areas and into emerging infectious diseases and zoonotic diseases. NIH also supplied funding in the amount of $10.7 million to fund the Center for Health Equity Research. The Center will focus on health issues of rural Montana residents with a special focus on tribal regions. Dr. Allen Harmsen, PI of this grant, is leading a skilled interdisciplinary team of researchers to investigate mental health, chronic illness, and substance abuse in remote regions where access to healthcare remains problematic. The year of 2014 also saw the establishment of the Center for Mental Health Research and Recovery led by Dr. Matthew Byerly, MD, who will serve as Co-PI on this grant. The Center, a collaboration between MSU and the Montana Chapter of the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI), seeks to apply research-driven techniques in solving serious mental illnesses that are often a prequel to suicide.

The lively and productive scholarly culture that has developed at MSU is a major point of attraction for faculty looking to transfer institutions. Some recent faculty recruitments include internationally known nurse economist, Peter Buerhaus, to the College of Nursing, Doug Kominsky to Immunology and Infectious Disease and Microbiology, and Matthew Cook to Chemistry. MSU is now poised to make a significant difference in rural health and anticipates many new and exciting research ventures on behalf of these new hires and the excellence of extant faculty. Montana State University’s recent success originates from a solid foundation of good programs and good people.

Montana State University was established in 1893 under the land grant mission to further the education of students in the region and to institute research facilities that would serve the broader constituency. MSU’s mission to educate students, create knowledge and art, and serve communities has consistently been met if not exceeded. MSU is now the largest research university in Montana and contributes significantly to the regional economy via creation of employment opportunities, provision of contracts to businesses, and application of research. The land grant mission is particularly important for health research as investigators are attuned to the importance of translating their results within the communities of practitioners and patients who would directly benefit from their findings. Since its institution, MSU has earned a reputation for high research activity and is now recognized nationally for its prominence in research, as evidenced by its classification by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as having “higher research activity.” MSU is credited for a number of significant discoveries and currently holds more than 250 active technology licenses, 91 patents, and 36 plant variety certificates.

The research enterprise is currently lead by Dr. Renee Reijo Pera, internationally recognized stem cell scientist who has made great strides in invigorating research activity and biomedical research in particular. Dr. Reijo Pera has been instrumental in the establishment of the Center for Mental Health Research and Recovery and in a number of institutional changes that support faculty research including a bridge funding initiative for maintaining labs in between periods of funding, an expanded proposal services office that supports faculty proposals, and the first state-funded *Montana Research Initiative,* funded at $15 million by the 2015 Legislature and Governor Steve Bullock. MSU received 540 new awards in fiscal year 2015, the largest number in the history of the university with the exception 2010 when MSU received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Dr. Reijo Pera is keenly interested in this project and has expressed her support in its success.

**Montana State University Extension**

MSU Extension is a statewide educational outreach network that applies unbiased, research-based university resources to practical needs identified by the people of Montana in their home communities. The Extension network connects researchers and educators on the MSU campus with a web of MSU Extension faculty located throughout the state's 56 counties and seven reservations. Cooperating with local governments and citizens, MSU Extension agents and campus based specialists collaborate to develop educational programs and partnerships that make a positive difference in people's daily lives. The result is a dynamic cycle of timely and relevant knowledge, resources and support to help Montanans meet new challenges, make informed decisions and take action to improve their own quality of life. Dr. Sandra Bailey currently serves as Professor and Extension Family & Human Development Specialist for MSU Extension and the Department of Health and Human Development.

The PI will coordinate the delivery of content through the eXtension interface. The MUS Extension network offers excellent communication capabilities that will utilized for the regional and national dissemination of materials. Project directors have arranged for project results to be communicated to State, Regional and National stakeholders and the public through reports and meetings such as the Montana Extension Annual Conference, the Montana Family & Consumer Sciences Update and the Montana 4-H Update; the Montana Education Association Conference, the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, and National 4-H.

**Department of Health and Human Development**

The Department of Health and Human Development (HHD) strives to promote health and wellbeing by taking a multifaceted approach that integrates students and faculty working together to learn, teach, and research within five domains that contribute to the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. These five domains include: social, economic/financial, emotional/spiritual, physical and intellectual. This multifaceted approach trains researchers to focus on both the obvious and less obvious factors that contribute to the health of individuals and families. Within this college, several programs are housed that exemplify this multifaceted approach to achieving and maintaining good health. Much of the success of these programs results from this multi-focused approach, especially in regard to meaningful engagement and relationship building with diverse populations. This multifaceted approach, which is the gold standard for all activities in this college and department, underpins the work described in this proposal.

*Computing and Office*: Dr. Bailey occupies a dedicated office space in 316B Herrick Hall, a central building on the MSU campus that houses the majority of faculty from the College of Education, Health, and Human Development. Her office is equipped with modern communication and computing equipment with securities installed for the purposes of the project. The Information Technology Center (ITC) maintains the MSU computing system for access to electronic mail, the Internet, a Virtual Private Network, and a centralized campus server for file backup and storage. Desktop computing support and troubleshooting is also provided by MSU ITC. Dr. Bailey’s office space is sufficient for conducting the proposed research and maintaining sensitive data in a secure manner under the guidance of MSU ITC and their subgroup, the IT Research Cyberinfrastructure Group, an expert group responsible for managing scalable computing and storage resources that are available to campus researchers.

*Clinical and Other*: The College of Education, Health, and Human Development provides additional support to faculty through the provision of a dedicated Grant Specialist and a team of administrative staff to assist with budgeting and grant management. Faculty also have access to modern meeting and teaching spaces and specialized resource centers for advising, Native American collaborations, mentoring, and other grant-related activities. Due to the great distances between townships and cities in rural Montana, faculty are given access to telecommunication spaces and equipment which will be utilized for interacting with off-site personnel.

**Center for Mental Health Research and Recovery (CMHRR)**

The Center for Mental Health Research and Recovery at Montana State University, approved by the Montana University Systems Board of Regents in 2014, seeks to respond to specific challenges associated with diagnosing and treating serious mental illnesses such as major depression, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia that severely restrict quality of life and are often a prequel to suicide. The Center is a collaboration between Montana State University and the Montana chapter of the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI). This Center combines clinical health and basic research resources to improve the process of diagnosing and treating serious mental illness through collaborative efforts between neuroscientists, social scientists, clinicians, engineers, and those affected by mental illness, and their families.CMHRR director, Dr. Matthew Byerly will serve as a Co-PI on this grant. CMHRR is located in Leon Johnson, a high-rise building central to campus with state-of-the-art research facilities, software, hardware, and human support.

*Computing and Office*: Dr. Matt Byerly occupies a dedicated and secure office space in 319A Leon Johnson Hall. His office is located on the third (main) floor of Leon Johnson which was recently renovated to modernize both the office and meeting spaces. Dr. Byerly’s office is equipped with modern communication and computing equipment with securities installed for the purposes of the project. The Information Technology Center (ITC) maintains the MSU computing system for access to electronic mail, the Internet, a Virtual Private Network, and a centralized campus server for file backup and storage. Desktop computing support and troubleshooting is also provided by MSU ITC. Dr. Byerly’s office space is sufficient for conducting the proposed research and maintaining sensitive data in a secure manner under the guidance of MSU ITC and their subgroup, the IT Research Cyberinfrastructure Group, an expert group responsible for managing scalable computing and storage resources that are available to campus researchers.

*Clinical and Other*:CMHRR received grants totaling $2.3 million to support their establishment and many projects focused on mental health in rural settings. These funds were partially used to establish the infrastructure needed to support grant activities, and CMHRR leverages resources with regional mental health centers and clinics and with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Montana.

**Facilities and Other Resources of Collaborating Institutions**

**Stone Child College on the Rocky Boys Reservation**

Collaborators, Mary Ruth St. Pierre, Extension Agent from Stone Child College on the Rocky Boys Reservation will partner with MSU on this proposal and will be trained to offer the YAM curriculum on the reservation, will review the curriculum to assess cultural appropriateness, and assist with the evaluation on the reservation. St. Pierre is currently certified in MHFA. Mrs. St. Pierre has access to a dedicated office space and other facilities for managing the project on the reservation.

**Little Big Horn Community College on the Crow Reservation**

Latonna Old Elk, Extension Agent from Little Big Horn Community College on the Crow Reservation will partner with MSU on this proposal and will also be trained to offer the YAM curriculum on the reservation, will review the curriculum to assess cultural appropriateness, and assist with the evaluation on the reservation Old Elk will become certified in MHFA. Mrs. Old Elk has access to a dedicated office space and other facilities for managing the project on the reservation.

**One Montana**

One Montanais a 501c3, statewide program to build and sustain basic connections between rural and urban Montanans. Dr. Bill Bryan, President of One Montana will serve as a consultant to the project and will aid in making connections to key stakeholders across Montana. One Montana has a long history of successfully bringing together diverse communities to build relationships with the goal of community resiliency in mind. Dr. Bryan will provide effective collaboration that would otherwise present challenges to those without a meaningful history with the various communities.

**Montana Office of Rural Health and Area Health Education Center**

Kristin Juliar serves as the Director of Montana Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and Office of Rural Health (MORH). She will be an active member of the team and will work with the project leaders to support the implementation and evaluation of YAM through engagement with rural hospitals and schools (see letter of support). The Montana Office of Rural Health/AHEC was established in 1992 by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System to improve the health of Montana residents by increasing access to quality health care for people living in rural regions. MORH manages multiple federal, state and privately funded initiatives and operates five regional centers in addition to the office at MSU. MORH is affiliated with the MSU College of Nursing, and UW WWAMI School of Medicine. Montana has come to rely on MORH for rural health policy development, translational of research into practice, community health needs assessment, assistance to rural communities and facilities, and facilitation of interactions between rural communities and MSU researchers. Staff at MORH and AHEC will also work with Ms. Juliar and Dr. Bailey on the dissemination of the project materials through the MSU Extension Service and other channels.

**Western Regional Rural Development Center**

The project will partner with the Western Regional Rural Development Center. Dr. Bailey will be responsible for working with the Center and keeping the Center Director, Dr. Don Albrecht informed of the project progress. Promising practices as the result of the proposed project will be shared with the Center. A letter of commitment is included in this grant package from Dr. Albrecht. We will also work with the Western Regional Rural Development Center to seek to have the project can be listed on the CAPE Behavior Health Program Database. We will seek to have the project highlighted on the website for the Montana Area Health Education Centers and Montana Office of Rural Health.