



# National Rural Health Association

Rural Health Equity Conference  
May 15-16, 2023 — San Diego, CA

## Monday, May 15

1 – 1:15 p.m.

### Conference Welcome

*Alan Morgan, MPA, NRHA CEO*

*Mary-Katherine Smith McNatt, DrPH, MPH, NRHA Health Equity Council Chair*

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

### Opening Plenary

#### Using Insights from the Rural Health Equity Toolkit

*Luciana Rocha, MPH, NORC at the University of Chicago Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis research scientist*

*Alana Knudson, PhD, NORC at the University of Chicago Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis director*

This session discusses the Rural Health Information Hub's Rural Health Equity Toolkit, including examples of how rural community health programs have sought to advance health equity through strategic framing and planning, identifying community priorities, fostering multi-sector partnerships, and building organizational capacity. Considerations for implementation, evaluation, and sustainability will be included.

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

### Networking Break, Poster Session

2:45 – 4 p.m.

### Concurrent Sessions

#### 1A. Trust-based Philanthropy Is A Game Changer in Addressing Rural Social Determinants of Health

*Carla Gibson, MPA, REACH Healthcare Foundation vice president of programs*

*Tonia Wright, BA, Grace Advertising and Consulting/Altruism Media Inc., president and chief executive officer*

As philanthropy enters uncharted waters embarking in trust-based grantmaking, rural communities have opportunity to push the envelope to address social determinants of health. Trust-based philanthropy fosters systemic, equity-centered changes and opens new pathways for optimal health outcomes. Learn how one rural community is making inroads optimizing on this pivotal time.

#### 1B. Critical Indigenous Health Inequities in Inadequate Transfer Systems

*Christopher Jentoft, MD, Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility clinical director*

Geography and an inadequate system of interfacility transfer are challenges to addressing health inequity for rural and Indigenous patients. This session describes how systems that deliver emergency care and transfer to definitive care were strained during the pandemic and proposes policy solutions to advance health care equity.

#### Native American Access to Care in Non-tribal Areas

*Mary-Katherine McNatt, DrPH, MPH, A.T. Still University College of Graduate Health Studies MPH Public Health Department chair and professor*

*Marsha Presley, PhD, MPH, A.T. Still University College of Graduate Health Studies MPH research associate and faculty*

*Michael Tongkeamha, Texas Native Health outreach coordinator*

*Susan Thomas, MEd, BME, A.T. Still University College of Graduate Health Studies instructional designer and adjunct faculty*

Presently, 78% of Native Americans live outside reservations. In both rural and urban developments, Native Americans have limited access to basic healthcare. Additionally, funding for Native American healthcare is below the national average allotted. This session examines issues and solutions to healthcare access for Native Americans living outside reservations.

### **1C. Building Power for Health: BIPOC Rural Community Organizing**

*Jenna Gaarde, MPH, The Praxis Project program director for research and training*

*Danielle Lucero, MPH, MSW, The Praxis Project program manager for research and training*

The Praxis Project has been convening a Community of Practice of 16 Black, Indigenous, and people of color rural community organizers building power for health. We will share findings from four Learning Circles designed to landscape rural organizing, build capacity and relationships, and inform the ecosystem of rural organizing.

**4 – 4:15 p.m.**

**Networking Break, Poster Session**

**4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**Concurrent Session**

### **2A. Rural Arizona CHW Workforce Development Network (RAzCHOW)!**

*Floribella Redondo Martinez, BA, Arizona CHW Association chief executive officer*

*Susan Kunz, MPH, Susan Kunz Consulting independent consultant*

The Rural Arizona CHW Workforce Development Network (RAzCHOW), a RHND grantee, is building the capacity of CHWs and the rural organizations that employ them to improve access to care, improve health outcomes, and promote health equity. Learn about voluntary certification in AZ and how CHWs/CHRs/Promotores are increasing value-based reimbursement.

### **Community Health Workers and Health Literacy: Bringing Health Equity and Positive Health Outcomes to Rural and Underserved Populations**

*Michal Searls, MEd, Ohio University director of professional programs and partnerships*

*Kerri Shaw, MSW, LISW-S, C-CHW, Ohio University associate professor of instruction and community health worker lead*

*Melissa Kimmel, MPA, MA, Ohio University executive in residence and aging lead*

This presentation will discuss methods to address the challenges of achieving health literacy and influence social determinants of health through community health workers and identify opportunities for further research and education. Discussion includes education, approach, and strategies to become culturally inclusive and sensitive using specific examples from rural Appalachian Ohio.

### **2B. Using Telehealth to Deliver Provider Visits in Schools**

*Randy McKinney, MS, MPA, Louisiana Primary Care Association healthcare technology and innovations manager*

This session highlights the development of an RHC/School District collaboration resulting in what has been referred to as "The Bienville Model" of providing health services to children, faculty, and staff in rural Bienville Parish Schools (Louisiana) through Telehealth delivery. The program received NRHA's 2019 Outstanding Rural Health Program Award.

### **How Mobile Integrated Health can Support Vulnerable Populations**

*Lindsay Corcoran, MHA, Stroudwater Associates senior consultant*

*Rebekah Jones, MBA, Great Mines Health Center chief operating officer*

*Justin Duncan, BS, NRP, CCEMT-P, FP-C, Washington County Ambulance District chief executive officer*

Gain insight into how one FQHC and an ambulance district in rural Missouri leveraged health related data to identify a vulnerable population and created a Mobile Integrated Healthcare Network to bring primary care to the home of those most at risk and now expanded to include behavioral health and SUD/OD.

## **2C. Ending The Syndemic in Rural Tennessee**

*Rebecca Amantia, PhD, Tennessee Department of Health End the Syndemic project associate and researcher*

*Amber Coyne, MPH, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Tennessee Department of Health CDC public health advisor*

*Abigail Anderson, MPH, Tennessee Department of Health End the Syndemic epidemiologist intern*

End The Syndemic Tennessee is a movement that addresses HIV, sexually transmitted infections, substance use disorder, and viral hepatitis. This presentation highlights the unique rural experiences captured through Tennessee's first statewide syndemic needs assessments to better understand the needs and barriers across these health conditions and support services.

**Tuesday, May 16**

**7 – 8 a.m.**

**Continental Breakfast**

**Poster Session**

**8:00 – 9:15 a.m.**

**Opening Plenary**

### **Housing as a Social Determinant of Rural Health Equity**

*Megan Lahr, MPH, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center senior research fellow*

*Katie Rydberg, MPH, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center program manager*

*Madeleine Pick, MPH, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center research fellow*

*Hawking Yam, MS, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center graduate research assistant*

In this session, we will describe rural/urban differences in housing characteristics (e.g., quality and affordability). We will also describe within-rural housing-related health equity issues by race, ethnicity, and disability status. Finally, we share results from key informant interviews and case studies highlighting policy implications and best practices in rural housing.

**9:15 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Networking Break, Poster Session**

**9:30 – 10:45 a.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

## **3A. FORHP – Behavioral Health**

### **3B. Partnerships Promote Rural Health Equity via Vaccine Confidence**

*Katie Stofer, PhD, University of Florida research associate professor*

*Dawn Burton, Prairie View A&M University program specialist*

*Lindsey Haynes-Maslow, PhD, University of North Carolina associate professor*

Rural health equity necessitates vaccine uptake among adults. Systemic obstacles to uptake are lack of trust between healthcare entities and rural communities. The Cooperative Extension system, a trusted messenger,

promotes vaccine education through local rural partnerships using culturally competent, tailored messaging regarding preventive vaccines to promote health equity.

### **3C. The National Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services Standards Capacity-Building Workshop**

*Mariana Gonzalez, BSPH, Southeast Arizona Health Education Center (SEAHEC) program manager for health equity*  
*Pablo Albelais, Southeast Arizona Health Education Center (SEAHEC) program manager for health equity*

In this capacity-building workshop, you will learn how the implementation of the National Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services standards in rural healthcare entities, help advance health equity, improve quality of care, reduce healthcare disparities, and lower risk factors like geographic isolation, limited job opportunities, and others.

### **AZ Librarians Fostering Resilient Rural Communities**

*Laura Schweers, MSW, University of Arizona College of Public Health Center for Rural Health program management assistant*

*Lisa Lewis, Arizona Library Association President*

*Mona Arora, PhD, MSPH, University of Arizona College of Public Health Center for Rural Health assistant researcher and professor*

This session highlights features and outcomes of a program co-developed by UArizona Center for Rural Health and the Arizona Library Association. The aim of the program is to reduce health disparities in rural communities by engaging and empowering librarians as community leaders through training and funding of mini-grants (14 libraries).

**10:45 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Networking Break, Poster Session**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

**Concurrent Session**

### **4A. FORHP**

### **4B. Outreach as Equity: Early intervention for High-Risk Covid**

*Christopher Jentoft, MD, Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility clinical director*

*Myles Stone, MD, MPH, Sacred Peaks Health Center medical director*

Collaboration between public health and medical agencies proved essential to limiting severity of COVID-19 in a rural, Indigenous community. Frequent, in-person evaluations of people at risk for severe COVID-19 limited communitywide mortality was supported by an integrated, data-driven response that adapted real-time data to identify patients for evaluation and treatment.

### **Rural COVID-19 Resiliency: Addressing High Risk, Underserved Populations**

*Cambren Walker, MS, Kittitas County Public Health Department health promotion specialist*

Facilitated by health department staff, a Covid-19 Health Equity Coalition awarded nearly \$200,000 in rural carve out funding to support resiliency in Kittitas County, a rural county with 45% of its population in unincorporated areas. Projects include peer support for Latinx community and cultural opportunities for Native American/Alaskan Native families.

### **4C. Caring with Pride: Health for Rural LGBTQ+ Communities**

*Rachel Blanton, MHA, Cornerstone Whole Healthcare Organization Inc. chief operating officer*

*Camille Evans, Valor Health director of behavioral health*

*Jeffery Pennings, DO, Full Circle Health faculty physician*

Three collaborative partners in rural Idaho highlight their efforts to develop a consult and training model to enhance access to LGBTQ+ affirming healthcare services outside of specialty clinics and urban treatment settings.

### **Affirming LGBTQIA2S+ Care in a Small Town Clinic**

*Anthony Carney, DNP, University of Kentucky assistant professor*

This session will showcase strategies used by a nurse practitioner led clinic in Wilmore, Kentucky to provide affirming healthcare access for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, asexual, and two-spirit patients. LGBTQ+ Patients in this small town now have access to hormone therapy, HIV prevention, primary care, and mental health care.

**12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Networking Lunch**

**1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Plenary Presentation**

### **Developing partnerships to address COVID-19 in rural communities**

*Dorothy Evans, MPH, MEd, CDC Foundation program manager*

*Corina Norrbom, MD, Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service Center for Civic Engagement health policy fellow*

*Mariana Savelle Chimal, BA, Wisconsin Institute for Policy Policy and Service program manager and certified health navigator*

The CDC Foundation partnered with community-based organizations to address the equitable uptake and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Two grantees, the Hmong American Center and the Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence, will discuss the challenges, strategies, and partnerships they engaged to build vaccine confidence in diverse rural communities.

**2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

**Networking Break, Poster Session**

**2:45 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Concurrent Session**

### **5A. Oral Health**

### **5B. Improving Health Equity through Hospital and Community Collaboration**

*Kaarin Lund, MPH, National Rural Health Resource Center senior community program specialist*

*Suzanne Snyder, MSW, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Hospital State Division public health analyst and program officer*

*Joann Emge, BSN, Sparta Community Hospital chief executive officer*

*Jennifer Barbour, MPA, Sparta Community Hospital director of relations*

With support from the Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program, learn how Sparta Community Hospital utilized a stepwise approach to identify and start addressing health equity challenges alongside community partners. Leverage this approach to understand and address the needs of your unique, rural community.

### **Addressing Health Literacy in a Rural Border Region**

*Shiloh Williams, PhD, MSN, RN-BC, CNE, San Diego State University assistant professor and El Centro Regional Medical Center director of research*

This session will explore how one rural-border hospital strived to address health equity by better understanding the health literacy needs of their population during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants will explore strategies for addressing low health literacy in racially and ethnically diverse communities and supporting patient centered care.

### **5C. Amplifying Policies Toward Better Rural Futures**

*Hollie Storie, MPH, ChangeLab Solutions senior policy analyst*  
*Edgar Camero, MA, ChangeLab Solutions planner*

Towards Better Rural Futures project aims to amplify state and local policies and practices that advance racial, economic, and health equity for communities across the rural United States. This session will provide an overview of a policy scan designed to identify policies that address structural barriers in BIPOC rural communities.

### **Measuring What Matters: Reassessing Equitable Rural Health Success**

*Bonita Robertson-Hardy, JD, Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group co-executive director*  
*Marjory Givens, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison Population Health Institute associate director and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps co-director*  
*Calvin Allen, Rural Forward NC director*

Whether our towns have clean water, connected residents, and an inclusive economy — all impact our opportunity to be healthy. The Thrive Rural Health Framework can help your organization or community identify its social and economic assets, implement strategies, and measure progress to advance equitable prosperity, health, and wellbeing.

**4:00 – 5:15 p.m.**

### **Plenary Presentation**

#### **A Rural Lens at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health**

*Darci Graves, MPP, MA, MA, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health co-chair of the rural health council*  
*Pamela Gentry, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health acting deputy director*

In this session, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health will highlight CMS's new Framework for Advancing Health Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities to expand on efforts in advancing health equity, expanding access to quality, affordable health coverage, and improving health outcomes.

**5:15 p.m.**

### **Conference Adjourns**

**Thank you for your attendance and your continued support of NRHA and the Health Equity Conference! Join us next year in New Orleans, LA on May 5-6, 2024.**

**National Rural Health Association**  
**2023 Health Equity Conference Accepted Poster Sessions**

- Effects of Punitive Legislation for Perinatal Substance Use  
Kristen Sparagna, MD
- Integrating Community Health Workers and Rural Food Pantries  
Allison Swain, MPH; Kathryn Williams
- Factors in Embedding Play Promotion into Well-Child Visits  
Shelby Anderson-Badbade, MA
- Community Collaboration to Address Opioid Crisis  
Bianca SantaMaria, MPH
- A first of its kind, Global Health Equity Community Survey  
Jeanne Regnante
- Addressing Stigma of Dementia: Rural Capacity-Building Workshop  
Juanita-Dawne Bacsu, PhD; Marc Viger, MD
- Rural Mississippians' Perceptions of Primary Healthcare as a Mental Health Resource  
Melika Kooshki Forooshani, MD; Mary Nelson Robertson, PhD; David Buys, PhD
- Strategies for outreach and quick assessments of the cross-border truckers entering the Santa Teresa Port of Entry during the COVID-19 Pandemic  
Melissa Limon, MPH
- Developing Research-Based COVID-19 information for Latino Migrant Workers  
Cassandra Oshinnaiye, BA; Lissette Badillo, MPH
- Bureaucratic Indifference and American Indian Rural Healthcare Disparities  
Greg Yungtum, MD, MA
- Substance Use Disorders in the Great Plains  
Lisa McFadden, PhD; Ahmed Nahian, BS
- Workshops to Promote Health Equity in Rural Communities  
LaToya O'Neal, PhD, MA
- Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Resources in Rural Communities  
Stephanie Bernard, PhD, MPH
- Rural Colonoscopy Costs: Disparities in Preventative Care  
Rithika Ginjupalli
- Connecting Communities with Community Health Workers  
Laura Aviles
- Temporal Trends: COVID-19 Outcomes by Rurality in N3C  
Kim Murray, MA
- Physician Practice Location Choices after THC Residency Training  
Denna Wheeler, PhD
- Advancing Regional Equity Through the COVID-19 Pandemic  
Jamen Garcia, MS; Alyssa Kennett, MIA, MPH

- Institutionalizing Health Literacy  
Georgia Weiss-Elliott, MA
- Rural High School Student Intentions and Medical Knowledge  
Jon Oules
- Rural-Urban Disparities, Sociodemographic Measures, and Incident Diabetes  
Sagar Dugani, MD, PhD, MPH
- Engaging Rural Health Equity Stakeholders Through Virtual Conferences  
Lindsay Bailey, MPH
- Improving Rural Health Through Telehealth-Guided Provider-to-Provider Communication  
Melissa Green Parker, PhD
- Training Future Rural Health Practitioners through Poverty Simulation  
Kara Platt, DNP, RN
- EPOPS: A Simulation Program for Health Care Paraprofessional Students  
Jessica Ransome
- Analytical Application of CBPR Evaluation Model - Rural Nevada  
Godwin Nwando, MPH
- The Interplay of Sociodemographic Health Determinants and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Impact on Opioid Prescribing Patterns- A Descriptive Study  
Sahar Soliman, RPh, PhD
- TeleMedicine Improves Stroke Patient Outcomes in Rural America  
Meera Vadlamani, MD; Naya Chopra
- Remote Patient Monitoring Improves Outcomes in Rural America  
Meera Vadlamani, MD; Naya Chopra
- Rural Resiliency Model in Health Professions Students  
Kent Guion, MD, MA
- Another Look at Agricultural Rural Food Deserts  
Hamidah Sharif, EdD
- Health Equity and Vaccine Hesitancy Among Underserved Populations  
Daniel Jimenez, PhD(c)
- Juntos en Salud: Health communication in rural Oregon  
Megan Patton-Lopez, PhD, RDN
- Novel Outreach Strategies to Engage Rural Veterans in the All of Us Research Program  
Lauren Thomann, MPH
- Virtual Care to Address Patient Access in Rural Populations  
David Berg, MBA, FACHE
- Mobile Clinic Delivery of Healthcare Services in Appalachia  
Teresa Tyson, DNP, MSN, FNP-BC, FAANP
- Creating English and Spanish visit-summaries in low-resource setting  
Matthew Rode, MS
- Medicaid Expansion and Health Equity  
Andrew Kim, PhD, MPH
- How Neighborhood Health Workers Improve Physical, Emotional and Social Health  
Marta Michelle Colon, PsyD
- Nursing Equity Education Through Service-Learning  
Anthony Carney, DNP
- Succeeding in Population Health by Leveraging Team-Based Care  
Ashok Roy, MD; Mark Thomas, MD



- Developing a free rural university clinic to bridge the speech/language gap  
Meagan Spencer, EdD, CCC-SLP, LSVT
- A leadership skills exchange to advance rural health equity  
Stephanie Sun
- All Payer Claims Databases and Rural Health  
Dustin Moyer, MPP
- Improving Health Equity with Co-design  
Julie Bosak, DrPH, CNM; Cheri Bryer, CCAR
- Indian Health System HCV Elimination through Academic Telehealth  
Radhika Jain, MD

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