

**46th Annual Rural Health Conference
8th Rural Hospital Innovation Summit
May 16-19, 2023
San Diego, CA
Agenda**

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

5 – 7 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Welcome

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

7 – 8 a.m.

**Breakfast
Room**

8 – 9:30 a.m.

**Opening Session & Keynote
Room**

Speakers

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

1A

**Providing Comprehensive Cancer Care in the Rural Hospital
Room**

Jennifer Lane Lehr, MS, CCC-SLP, The National Rural Oncology Collaborative at Community Infusion Solutions Vice President of Oncology Services

Angel Portman, BSN, RN, Breckinridge Health, Inc. Chief Executive Officer

Mitchell Berenson, MPH, Community Infusion Solutions Chief Executive Officer

This presentation will review existing literature on the disparity of care for patients in rural communities, highlight a pilot program to provide comprehensive cancer care in rural communities, and share findings from the initial stage of implementation. The National Rural Oncology Collaborative program is designed to improve health outcomes in rural communities.

1B

**Strategies to Support the Readiness of Rural Health Clinics for Value-Based Care
Room**

TBA

1C

TBD

Room

1D

Health and Well-Being of LGBTQ+ Rural Residents

Room

*Carrie Henning-Smith, PhD, MPH, MSW, University of Minnesota School of Public Health
Associate Professor*

*Megan Lahr, MPH, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center Senior Research
Fellow*

Mariana Tuttle, MPH, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center Research Fellow

*Hannah MacDougall, PhD, MSW, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center Rural
Health Equity Postdoctoral Associate*

Using results from nationally representative surveys, key informant interviews, and case studies, this session will discuss rural/urban differences in health for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ+) adults, as well as within-rural differences by socio-demographic characteristics. We will also share challenges and best practices for supporting rural LGBTQ+ health and wellness.

1E

Strategies to Recruit and Retain Physicians in Rural Communities

Room

TBA

1F

The Future of Rural Health – Challenges and Opportunities

Room

John Gale, MS, Maine Rural Health Research Center Senior Research Associate

Rural healthcare is at a crossroad - COVID-19 has exacerbated the cracks in its foundation. Traditional policy interventions, however, have proven insufficient to fully repair the damage. This session describes the history of rural health, evolving challenges, a transformative vision for the future, and policy strategies to realize that vision.

RHIS – VBP Track

Lessons Learned from the Pennsylvania Rural Health Model

Room

Alana Knudson, PhD, NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis Director

Shena Popat, MHA, NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis Senior Research Scientist

Janice Walters, MHSA, Rural Health Redesign Center Chief Operating Officer

The Pennsylvania Rural Health Model (PARHM) is testing the use of global budgets and hospital transformation activities to improve population health outcomes, increase access to high-quality care, and improve the financial viability of rural hospitals in Pennsylvania. The session will highlight hospital and payer experiences implementing the Model.

RHIS – Operations Track

Swing Bed Value Proposition Present and Future

Room

Mark Lindsay, MD, MMM, Mayo Clinic Health System and Allevant Assistant Professor at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

The presentation will highlight 20 year plus experience implementing successful swing bed programs with emphasis on key metrics, team processes, outcomes, unique advantages compared to other hospital based post-acute programs, and essential need to influence Medicare Advantage plans in this underappreciated pathway.

1G

Contributed Research Papers

TBD

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Poster Session/Break

Room

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Plenary Session – HRSA Rural Health Update

Room

Tom Morris, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Associate Administrator

12:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Lunch

Room

1:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Student Track Session/Student Constituency Group Meeting

Room

2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

2A

Preventing Maternal Morbidity and Mortality in Rural Communities

Room

*Katy Kozhimannil, PhD, MPA, University of Minnesota School of Public Health Professor
Julia Interrante, MPH, University of Minnesota School of Public Health Doctoral Candidate
Lindsay Admon, MD, MSc, University of Michigan Medical School Assistant Professor and
Physician*

Maternal morbidity and mortality are a concern in rural communities, where obstetric care is declining. Over half of maternal deaths are preventable. This session describes research on clinical and non-clinical contributors to maternal morbidity and mortality for rural residents and discusses current program and policy initiatives for prevention.

Bridging the Gap: Stillbirth Prevention in Rural Settings

Room

Megan Aucutt, Healthy Birth Day, Inc. Program Director

How a small non-profit has created a national, evidence-based stillbirth prevention campaign that provides tools and resources to providers to educate patients on the importance of kick counting. This mHealth app connects those living in rural settings with health technology bridges the gap between patient and provider.

2B

Enhancing your Practice with Patient Centered Medical Home

Room

*Kate Hill, RN, The Compliance Team, Inc. VP Clinic Division
Kristen Ogden, RN, The Compliance Team, Inc. Director of Quality Improvement*

During this session, listeners will gain a deeper understanding of the Patient-Centered Medical Home model and all of the benefits that follow including improved patient and staff satisfaction and increased reimbursement from payers for excellence in quality. Clinics will understand how to meet the CMS directive to value-based care.

2C

Block Grant Funding for Rural Communities

Room

*Casey Balio, PhD, East Tennessee State University Center for Rural Health Research Assistant
Professor*

*Michael Meit, MA, MPH, East Tennessee State University Center for Rural Health Research
Director of Research and Programs and Research Associate Professor
Kevin Bennett, PhD, South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare Director
Sally Buck, MS, FACHE, National Rural Health Resource Center Chief Executive Officer*

Federal block grant funding provides critical infrastructure to state and local agencies; however, these funds may not equitably reach rural communities. This session will explore whether and how block grant funding flows to rural communities and strategies for improving rural access to these funds, including through rural carve outs.

2D

Philanthropy and Development of Community Health Worker Models

Room

*Deb Koester, PhD, DNP, MSN, RN, Marshall University Joan C Edwards School of Medicine
Assistant Professor and Director of Community Health
Kim Tieman, MSW, Claude Washington Benedum Foundation Vice President and Program
Director*

Populations across Appalachia face a disproportionate burden of chronic disease contributing to health equity issues, healthcare costs, and reduced quality of life. This session will present the role of philanthropy in the development of a community-health worker chronic care management model in West Virginia and strategies to replicate the approach.

2E

University-Community Partners Build Innovative Rural Health Workforce Pipelines

Room

*Beth Bowling, RN, University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health Rural Project
Manager
Frances Feltner, DNP, University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health Director
William Mace Baker, RN, University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health Rural
Project Manager*

Two innovative health career pipeline programs in Kentucky are addressing rural health workforce shortages and investing in high school students. These replicable programs focus on health research/leadership development in youth and on a dual-credit curriculum and apprenticeship for community health worker training based upon the 28-year successful Kentucky Homeplace model.

Rural High School Enrichment: Making Our Mosaic Meaningful

Room

Nicholas Bibbs, MS, University of Mississippi Medical Center Academic Counselor

Few individuals from rural backgrounds choose careers in healthcare because they lack exposure. This session seeks to show the necessity and value of rural high school enrichment programs. Additionally, it articulates how they can be formed and implemented across the nation through partnerships between healthcare and education.

2F

What does HPSA Designation mean for Rural Counties?

Room

Craig Holden, NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis Health Researcher

Lisa Davis, Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health Director and Outreach Associate Professor of Health Policy and Administration

Across the United States, access to health care varies and often becomes more limited from metropolitan to rural and frontier areas. Health Professional Shortage Area designation aims to highlight, understand, and address gaps in access. This session will highlight recent findings and discuss how HPSA designation affects rural counties.

RHIS – VBP Track

Rural Anesthesia: Implications when Politics Trumps Good Policy

Room

Jenny Schmitt, MSN, CRNA, APRN, American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology Director of Region 4 and Board Member

Rural healthcare is in a state of emergency. Positive regulations to solve the complex problems our rural hospitals are facing often fall victim to politics, including anesthesia. Anesthesia deserts are becoming more common. Rural anesthesia is vital for the survival of our rural health infrastructure. Lecture will cover anesthesia regulations.

RHIS – Operations Track

TBD

Room

2G

Contributed Research Papers

TBD

3:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Poster Session/Break

Room

4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

3A

Intimate Partner Violence, Pregnancy, and Disparities among Rural Women

Room

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

*Marsha Presley, PhD, MPH, A.T. Still University College of Graduate Health Studies Research
Associate and Adjunct Faculty*

*Susan Thomas, MEd, BME, A.T. Still University College of Graduate Health Studies Instructional
Designer and Adjunct Faculty*

Aaron Thomas, LPN, Complete Family Medicine Hannibal Regional Healthcare Systems LPN

Rural women experience higher rates of intimate partner violence, increased distances to access to care facilities, and higher levels of isolation. The purpose of this session is to understand the issues and consequences of these disparities and how they affect rural communities, as well as to discuss mitigation strategies.

3B

The Changing RHC Landscape

Room

Kate Hill, RN, The Compliance Team, Inc. VP Clinic Division

Listeners will learn about new Rural Health Clinic regulations and the revised CMS appendix G. We will also discuss how to avoid the most common deficiencies seen across the country.

3C

Lessons from the Rural Communities Opioid Response Grant Program

Room

*Holly Andrilla, MS, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center Senior Research Scientist and Deputy
Director*

Stephan Crowe, MSW, JBS International Technical Expert Lead

Kamu Aysola, MPH, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Public Health Analyst

Learn about lessons from the work of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program's (RCORP) Technical Assistance and Evaluation Teams in hundreds of communities nationwide. We will share community success stories and strategies to overcome challenges, highlighting outcomes from the Implementation, Medication Assisted Treatment Expansion, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Psychostimulant grants.

3D

Rural Maternal Telehealth Use and Health Equity

Room

*Peiyin Hung, PhD, University of South Carolina Rural and Minority Health Research Center
Deputy Director and Assistant Professor*

Jihong Liu, ScD, University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health Professor

During the COVID-19 pandemic, expanded federal and state-level telehealth coverage may be closing gaps in access to telehealth or quality maternity care. This session will discuss statewide maternal telehealth referral programs and share current evidence on the intersections between COVID-19, perinatal telehealth uptake, and health disparities facing rural maternal populations.

3E

Analysis of Hospitals Categorized in Section 131 of the CAA

Room

*Mark Holmes, PhD, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health Professor
Mukesh Adhikari, MPH, MPA, University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health
Graduate Research Assistant*

Emily Hawes, PharmD, University of North Carolina School of Medicine Associate Professor

Erin Fraher, PhD, MPP, University of North Carolina School of Medicine Associate Professor

Section 131 of the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2021 (CAA) permits certain hospitals to request cap adjustments for rural GME programs. However, the hospitals that are impacted by this statute are unknown. Based on hospital and community characteristics, we identify hospitals that may be good candidates for new GME funding.

3F

FORHP Policy Update

Room

TBA

RHIS – VBP Track

Reinventing a Rural Health System for Success

Room

Mike Valli, Optum Provider Services Northeast Region President

*Tommy Ibrahim, MD, MHA, CPE, FHM, Bassett Healthcare Network President and Chief
Executive Officer*

This session will highlight the challenges, opportunities and solutions that rural health systems face when considering the need to strengthen financial stability, grow and preserve their

independence. The discussion will draw from the recent experience of a current provider organization serving a predominantly rural community in upstate New York.

RHIS – Operations Track

A Hospital for the Community, not by the Community

Room

Curtis Hendershott, TreanorHL Principal

David Garnas, Cloud County Health Center Administrator

This presentation is about Cloud County Health Center's (CCHC) new hospital. We will discuss community engagement, the project's economic impact on the rural Kansas community, and how taxpayer dollars were not needed due to funding by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the hospital through operations and fundraising.

Seven Steps to Highly Successful Facility Investments in Rural Health

Room

Brian Haapala, StroudwaterGCL Chief Executive Officer

This presentation shares and walks through customized best practices for planning and developing successful capital investments leading to proven effective outcomes in rural healthcare projects identifying actual case studies which led to proven outcomes. This is specifically for rural healthcare entities, as opposed to mainstream healthcare entities.

Thursday, May 18, 2022

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Constituency Group Meetings and Continental Breakfast

Public Health Status/Clinical CG Meeting **Room**

FQHC CG Meeting **Room**

Research & Education/ Journal of Rural Health **Room**

Rural Health Clinic **Room**

State Association Council **Room**

Statewide Health Resources/ NOSORH **Room**

Hospital **Room**

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

4A

TBD

Room

4B

RHC Reimbursement – Actual Results of a New Environment

Room

Jonathan Pantenburg, Wintergreen Inc. Principal

The 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act fundamentally changed the reimbursement methodology for RHCs. This presentation, using FY21 filed Medicare Cost Report data, will detail the actual impact experienced by RHCs in each State while projecting the future impact and identifying specific strategies to mitigate the effects of this legislative change.

4C

Enhancing Rural Resilience: Emergency Preparedness and Response Tools

Room

Alana Knudson, PhD, NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis Director

Kristine Sande, MBA, RHHub Director

Diane Hall, PhD, MEd, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Rural Health Lead

Experience the new Rural Emergency Preparedness Toolkit, featuring practical and action-based information rural providers can use to increase preparedness capacity and improve resilience. Developed by the Rural Health Information Hub and NORC Walsh Center, with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funding.

The Medical Response to Eastern Kentucky Flooding

Room

Key Douthitt, MD, University of Kentucky North Fork Valley Community Health Center Medical Director and University of Kentucky's Department of Family and Community Medicine Assistant Professor

The historic flooding of 4 counties in eastern Kentucky in July 2022 resulted in a rural healthcare crisis in a region already suffering from poor health related outcomes. This session will describe successes, challenges and lessons learned from the medical response to this natural disaster.

4D

Holistic, Sustainable Improvements to Healthcare in Mississippi Delta

Room

Suzanne Snyder, MSW, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Hospital State Division Public Health Analyst

Bethany Adams, MHA, FACHE, MT(ASCP), National Rural Health Resource Center Program Director

Corey Wiggins, PhD, MSPH, Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chairman

With support from the Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program, discover how health care organizations utilized technical assistance, data, assessments, and community feedback to drive change and improve sustainability by developing a local system of care, filling gaps in service, and building local capacity to sustain performance gains.

4E

Strengthening Rural Obstetric Training for Family Physicians

Room

Erin Fredrickson, DO, MPH, University of Washington Family Medicine Residency PGY3

David Evans, MD, University of Washington Family Medicine Residency Program Director and Rosenblatt Family Endowed Professor of Rural Health

Davis Patterson, PhD, University of Washington Department of Family Medicine Research Associate Professor

Rural communities struggle with shortages of obstetrics (OB) providers. Learn about new research findings on the availability of rural OB training in family medicine physician residencies and fellowships as well as ways to support robust OB training. Engage in a discussion of solutions to grow OB providers in your community.

Initiatives to Address Maternal Health Disparities in Rural

Room

Manorama Khare, PhD, MS, University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford Division of Health Research and Evaluation Research Associate, Professor, and Director

Tracy Glascoe, MPAS, PA-C, Health Resources and Services Administration Bureau of Health Workforce Commander and U.S. Public Health Service Corps Public Health Analyst

Heather O'Hara, MD, MSPH, Memorial Occupational Health Clinic Medical Director

Catherine Lavender, MD, FAAFP, The University of Alabama Department of Family, Internal, and Rural Medicine Associate Professor and Division of Family Medicine Obstetrics Director

The purpose of the Bureau of Health Workforce's Primary Care Training and Enhancement-Community Prevention and Maternal Health (PCTE-CPMH) grant program is to train primary care physicians in maternal health care to improve maternal health outcomes. This session will discuss three grantee models for training primary care physicians for rural practice.

4F

CDC Rural Health Update

Room

TBA

RHIS – VBP

**The Effect of Public Policy on New Models of Rural Health Payment and Delivery
Room**

John Supplitt, MBA, MPA, American Hospital Association Senior Director

As public and commercial payers steer providers away from volume-based payment, hospitals must learn to adapt to value-based incentives. In this session we examine how alternative payment models are driving new models of delivery including federal and private sector initiatives to improve the value of care to our rural communities.

RHIS – Operations

**Rural Inpatient Psychiatric Care: Availability and Quality Trends
Room**

*Peiyin Hung, PhD, University of South Carolina Rural and Minority Health Research Center
Deputy Director and Assistant Professor*

*Janice C Probst, PhD, University of South Carolina Rural and Minority Health Research Center
Associate Director*

John Gale, Maine Rural Health Research Center Senior Research Associate

Rural inpatient psychiatric units provide vital care to patients with severe mental illness. Panelists will present information regarding factors influencing the loss of rural psychiatric beds, spatial accessibility to rural inpatient psychiatric care, and trends in care quality across rural and urban institutions.

4G

**Contributed Research Papers – TBD
Room**

10:15 – 10:45 a.m.

**Poster Session/Break
Room**

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

5A

**Improving Rural Oral Health: Training Primary Care and Dental Teams
Room**

*Shawnda Schroeder, PhD, University of North Dakota Department of Indigenous Health
Educator Scholar and Assistant Professor*

Julie Reiten, University of North Dakota Center for Rural Health Project ECHO Coordinator

Although many rural communities lack local dental services, *Dentistry as Primary Care TeleECHO™ Clinics* focused on training dental teams (who serve rural persons) on their role as primary care providers, conducting blood pressure screenings, assessing mental health, and more. *Oral Health in Primary Care TeleECHO™ Clinics* train rural primary care and public health professionals on best practices in oral health screening, case management, fluoride varnish application, and billing for these services in non-dental settings. TeleECHO™ clinics are an excellent, rural, evidence-based practice for clinical knowledge translation.

5B

TBD

Room

5C

Implementation of the New Rural Emergency Hospital Model

Room

Yvonne Jonk, PhD, Maine Rural Health Research Center Deputy Director

Mark Holmes, PhD, University of North Carolina Sheps Center Director

Davis Patterson, PhD, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center Director

This session will address how the REH model will affect EMS volumes, workforce, performance, and funding; and community services: RHCs, nursing homes, SNFs, and FQHCs. We will also discuss factors influencing the long-term viability of REHs: patient volume, payment rates, payer mix, staffing models, capital needs; and workforce implications.

Does the Rural Emergency Hospital Program make sense for me?

Room

Krisi Martinsen, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Hospital State Division Director

Jodi Manz, MSW, The National Academy for State Health Policy Behavioral Health, Aging, and Disability Director

Many hospitals and communities may be wondering if the new Rural Emergency Hospital provider type makes sense for their situation. In this session, attendees will hear about regulations and requirements for REHs learn from the REH National TA Center about current resources to help make decisions about REH conversion.

5D

Practical Community Engagement Strategies to Advance Health Equity

Room

John Gale, MS, Maine Rural Health Research Center Senior Research Associate

Alana Knudson, PhD, NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis Director

Shena Popat, MHA, NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis Senior Research Scientist

Lara Wilson, MS, University of Maryland Shore Regional Health Rural Health Care Transformation Director

The National Academy of Medicine's Assessing Community Engagement (ACE) model provides a framework to advance health equity and system transformation in rural communities. This session explores how the ACE framework can improve local community engagement efforts and practical strategies to transform rural systems of care and improve health equity.

5E

Stories and Lessons from Rural Internal Medicine Residencies

Room

Roger Bush, MD, Rural Residency Program Planning and Development Program Technical Assistance Center Technical Advisor

Joe Weigel, MD, Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program Director

Amanda Finley, DO, Henry County Medical Center Internal Medicine Residency and Designated Institutional Officer Program Director

Matthew Tobey, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital Rural Health Leadership Fellowship Associate Program Director

We offer compiled experience of 4 emerging rural Internal Medicine Residency Programs and the Rural Residency Program Planning and Development Technical Assistance Center (RRPD-TAC), funded by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). We assist in the development of rural residency programs or Rural Training Tracks (RTT) in Internal Medicine.

5F

Innovative Approaches to Enhance Behavioral Healthcare Access in Rural

Room

TBA

RHIS – VBP

The Cultural Transformation of a Critical Access Hospital

Room

Bill Auxier, PhD, Auxier Group Chief Executive Officer

Rena Salamacha, Mee Memorial Hospital Chief Executive Officer

Barry Nateman, Mee Memorial Hospital Director of Human Resources

Robert Valladares, MD, Mee Memorial Hospital Chief Medical Officer

The culture of a rural hospital determines many elements of delivering care in rural hospitals as well as a hospital's survival. When change is needed, it doesn't happen overnight, and it begins at the top. This presentation will share one rural hospital's journey of cultural transformation.

RHIS – Operations

Rural Hospital Access to Capital Funding

Room

David Line, PhD, MPH, MSW, Midwestern University Program Director

James McNatt, CPA, Protiviti Associate Director

Mary-Katherine McNatt, DrPH, MPH, MCHES, CP, A.T. Still University Chair and Professor

Most independent rural hospitals have limited capital resources, lack the ability to issue bonds, and do not have as much cash flow as their urban counterparts. Without these resources they are unable to meet the needs of the vulnerable and complex patients. This session focuses on the issues and mitigations.

5G

Contributed Research Papers – TBD

Room

12:00 – 1:45 p.m.

Rural Health Awards Luncheon

Room

Join NRHA for a tribute to the 2023 Rural Health Award winners.

1:45 – 3:15 p.m.

Terry Reilly Lecture

Room

Benjamin Gilmer, MD

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Poster Session/Break

Room

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

6A

Treating Opioid Use Disorder with Rural Healthcare

Room

Kelly Black, MA, Essentia Health System Opioid Program Manager

Joseph Bianco, MD, FAAFP, Essentia Health Ambulatory Opioid Medical Director

Shiela Klemmetsen, MD, Essentia Health Substance Use Disorder Medical Director

Jessica Schwartz, RN, CARN, Essentia Health Substance Use Disorder Program Manager

Implementing Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) into a continuum of care across a Midwest rural healthcare system allows for patients to receive a comprehensive range of health services. Office based opioid treatment (OBOT) is an evidence-based treatment model and reduces related health harms and overdose deaths.

CDC Clinical Guidelines for Pain: Overview and Resources

Room

Molly Dowling, MPH, CHES, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Overdose Prevention Health Communication Specialist

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s online clinical tools, trainings, and patient case scenarios can support rural health professionals with drug overdose education and prevention. The 2022 Clinical Guidelines for Pain (Guidelines) provide guidance for patient-centered pain management. CDC resources can equip clinicians with tools to implement the Guidelines.

6B

Palliative Care Challenges and Solutions in Rural Communities

Room

*Natalia Oster, PhD, University of Washington Research Scientist
Karla Weng, MPH, CPHQ, Stratis Health Senior Program Manager
Pat Justis, MA, Rural Health/Office of Community Health Systems Executive Director
Davis Patterson, PhD, University of Washington Department of Family Medicine Research Associate Professor*

Palliative care (PC) improves quality of life for patients and families while lowering healthcare costs. We describe the availability and challenges of PC in varied rural settings based on provider surveys and interviews, followed by examples of successful PC models, to engage attendees in thinking about solutions for their communities.

6C

TBD

Room

6D

Teens Linked to Care Youth-Led Rural Health Initiative

Room

*Hailey Bednar, CDC Foundation Emergency Response Specialist
Suzanne McMillan, CDC Foundation Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist*

Teens Linked to Care (TLC) is an after-school initiative implemented in rural communities in Indiana and Kentucky preventing substance use and risky sexual behavior. TLC is comprised of a youth advisory board, where student-led initiatives have promoted resiliency, connectedness and improved mental health in the selected rural communities.

6E

Leadership: The Biggest Predictor of Rural Hospital Success

Room

Sydney Grant, MHA, NRHA Rural Hospital Certification Programs/ Center for Rural Health Leadership Director of Programming

Bill Auxier, PhD, NRHA Certification Programs/ Center for Rural Health Leadership Program Director

This presentation provides the story the data is telling from an ongoing study examining the growth in confidence of rural hospital CEOs participating in NRHA's Rural Hospital CEO Certification Program. What is the relationship between growth in leadership confidence and performance? This presentation will help answer that question and more.

Preparing Emerging Administrative Leaders for Rural Health Roles

Room

Melinda Merrell, PhD, MPH, University of South Carolina Clinical Assistant Professor and MHA Program Director

Kristin Wilson, PhD, MHA, University of Iowa Clinical Associate Professor and MHA Program Director

Rural facilities face similar challenges with recruiting and retaining rural health care administrators and managers in addition to addressing clinical rural health workforce shortages. Master of Health Administration programs have an opportunity to ensure their students are exposed to the opportunities to work in and with rural facilities.

6F

Calling for Reinforcements: Partnering across sectors to increase positive health outcomes

Room

TBA

RHIS – VBP

Lessons Learned from Rural Hospital Transformation Programs

Room

John Gale, MS, Maine Rural Health Research Center Senior Research Associate

Transformation is central to the Pennsylvania Rural Health, Community Health Access and Rural Transformation, and Vermont All-Payer Accountable Care Organization models and the Tennessee Rural Hospital Transformation and Georgia Rural Hospital Stabilization programs. This session explores lessons learned a study of programs to improve and transform rural hospital performance.

RHIS – Operations

TBD

Room

6G

Contributed Research Papers – TBD

Room

Friday, May 19, 2023

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Washington Update

Room

Carrie Cochran-McClain, NRHA Chief Policy Officer

Join rural health's top federal lobbyist for an insider's update about what's going on in Washington and what to expect in the next year.

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Break

9:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

7A

Rural Diabetes Care: Frameworks, Big-Data, and Innovation Opportunities

Room

Sagar Dugani, MD, PhD, MPH, Mayo Clinic Assistant Professor of Medicine

Mike Bancks, PhD, MPH, Wake Forest University School of Medicine Department of Epidemiology and Prevention Assistant Professor

Alva Ferdinand, DrPH, JD, Texas A&M University School of Public Health Department of Health Policy and Management Associate Professor

United States rural vs. urban populations have a higher diabetes burden, with sparse information on systematic approaches to improve rural diabetes care. We will discuss conceptual frameworks (e.g., National Institutes of Health), electronic health record

approaches to leverage big-data on individual/community risk factors, and strategies to improve rural diabetes care.

7B

Preparing Rural Health Clinics for Value-Based Care

Room

John Gale, MS, Maine Rural Health Research Center Senior Research Associate

Growth in value-based care requires Rural Health Clinics to adapt to payment programs that emphasize primary care, preventive services, care coordination, disease management, population health, information sharing, and quality reporting. This session describes tools and care models to prepare RHCs for changes in the evolving rural health care marketplace.

7C

FORHP Telehealth Session/ OAT

Room

TBA

7D

Project REACH (Rural Experts Advancing Community Health)

Room

Katie Rydberg, MPH, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center Program Manager

Carrie Henning-Smith, PhD, MPH, MSW, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center Deputy Director

Ann Bussey, Community Advocate

Lacey Loomer, PhD, University of Minnesota Duluth Labovitz School of Business and Economics Assistant Professor

Project REACH (Rural Experts Advancing Community Health) engages with community leaders in rural Minnesota to provide health policy and leadership training to support their efforts to improve health in their communities. This session describes the program model, impact on rural Minnesota communities, and opportunities for future growth and replication.

7E

Growing your own: Training Doctors in Rural Communities

Room

Steven Crane, MD, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Professor of Medicine

Louis Sanner, University of Wisconsin Emeritus Professor

Randy Longenecker, MD, Ohio University Professor of Medicine and Rural and Underserved Populations Assistant Dean

Physician shortages in rural communities are wide spread and persist despite decades of state and federal initiatives to increase supply. During this session three experts in rural graduate medical education will describe important recent developments in federal funding that offer significant opportunities to establish new rural residency programs.

7F

Approaches to Improving Rural Postpartum Care

Room

TBA

RHIS – VBP

TBD

Room

RHIS – Operations

Clinic Strategies for Rural Hospitals

Room

Ellen Garlick, FORVIS Healthcare Consulting Manager

Jill Griffith-Goodwin, FORVIS Healthcare Consulting Senior Manager

This session will discuss financial and operational strategies of establishing provider-based clinics and freestanding or provider-based Rural Health Clinics from a rural perspective. It will present strategies for new revenue opportunities and the payment and billing challenges associated with these types of transitions in the changing regulatory environment.

7G

Contributed Research Papers – TBD

Room

11:00 a.m.

End of Annual Conference