

NRHA's 34th Rural Health Policy Institute is Feb. 7-9 in Washington, D.C.

Monday, Feb. 6th

Pre-Session Day

All times are in EST

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

NRHA Rural Health Fellows Meeting

L'Enfant Ballroom A

Initial training session for the new 2023 Rural Health Fellows. (Limited to incoming cohort only)

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

State Association Council Meeting

Gallery III/IV

Meeting of the State Association Council. (Limited to current members only)

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

NRHA Board of Trustees

Gallery III/IV

Meeting of the NRHA Board of Trustees. (Limited to current Board Members only)

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

NRHA Constituency Group Meetings

Meeting of the NRHA Constituency Groups:

- *Clinical Constituency Group, McPherson Room*
- *Federally Qualified Health Center Constituency Group, McPherson Room*
- *Hospital and Health System Constituency Group, Gallery I*
- *Public Health Constituency Group, Potomac Room*
- *Research and Education Constituency Group, L'Enfant Ballroom B*
- *Rural Health Clinic Constituency Group, L'Enfant Ballroom A*
- *Statewide Health Resources Constituency Group, Gallery II*
- *Student Constituency Group, Pentagon Room*
- *State Office Council, DuPont Room*

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

NRHA Rural Health Congress Meeting

Gallery III/IV

Meeting of the NRHA Rural Health Congress. (Limited to current NRHA Rural Health Congress members and Fellows only)

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

NRHA Government Affairs Committee Meeting

Gallery III/IV

Meeting of the NRHA Government Affairs Committee. (Limited to current NRHA Government Affairs Committee members only)

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

NRHA Rural Health Fellows Graduation Mt. Vernon Room

Graduation ceremony for the 2022 Rural Health Fellows cohort.

Policy Institute is at the Hilton Washington, D.C. National Mall at the Wharf, 480 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20024

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Tuesday, Feb. 7

Informational Sessions Day

All sessions are in L'Enfant Ballroom unless otherwise indicated.

All times are in EST.

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration

7:30 – 8:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Welcome

Kick off the Policy Institute to learn key advocacy messages for rural health.

Carrie Cochran-McClain, NRHA Chief Policy Officer

8:45 – 9:00 a.m.

Your Voice. Louder!

Hear from NRHA's 2023 President to learn about the association's priorities in the coming year.

Leslie Marsh, President, NRHA

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Secretary Denis McDonough

For the first time at Policy Institute, hear from VA leadership on how the Department is improving care for rural veterans.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Administrator Carole Johnson

Hear from HRSA leadership on its current priorities and pandemic-related rural health care challenges and solutions.

Health Resources and Services Administration

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Congressional Speakers

Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Secretary Tom Vilsack and Under Secretary for Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small

Hear from USDA leadership on how the Department is supporting rural communities and health care.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Impact of Political Polarization on Rural Health Care

Former Senator Heidi Heitkamp, Founder, One Country Project and Director, University of Chicago Institute of Politics

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Networking Lunch

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure

Hear about federal rural health priorities from CMS leadership.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Congressional Speakers

Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE)

Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL)

Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN)

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)

2:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Assessing the Stability of the Rural Safety Net in the Aftermath of the Pandemic

Michael Topchik, National Leader, Chartis Center for Rural Health

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4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Breakout sessions

Current State of Rural Medicare Policy **Gallery III/IV**

Doug Jacobs, MD, MPH, Chief Transformation Officer, Center for Medicare, CMS
Kerri Cornejo, MPH, Policy Coordinator, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, HRSA
Moderator: Brock Slabach, Chief Operating Officer, NRHA

Rural Emergency Hospitals: Policy and Implementation

Gallery I/II

John Henderson, President & CEO, Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals
George H. Pink, PhD, Deputy Director, North Carolina Rural Health Research Center at the Sheps Center for Health Services Research
Janice Walters, MSHA, CHFP, Chief Operating Officer, Pennsylvania Rural Health System

5:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Advocacy 101

NRHA Government Affairs team

5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

State Prep Meetings

NRHA Government Affairs team

Wednesday, Feb. 8

Advocacy in Practice

All sessions are in L'Enfant Ballroom unless otherwise indicated.

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7:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Registration

7:30 – 8:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

Foyer

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.

NRHA Priorities

Welcome to day two as we take our fight to Capitol Hill. Learn messages and strategies for advocacy.
Carrie Cochran-McClain, Chief Policy Officer, NRHA

8:45 – 9:15 a.m.

Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy Tom Morris

Learn about current FORHP initiatives to improve rural health and health care access.
Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

9:15 – 10:00 a.m.

National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services

Hear Advisory Committee members speak on current rural health policy issues.

Moderator: Former Governor Jeff Colyer, Chair, NACRHHS

Cara V. James, PhD, CEO and President, Grantmakers in Health

Mark Holmes, Director, North Carolina Rural Health Research Center at the Sheps Center for Health Services Research

Pat Schou, Executive Director, Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Capitol Hill Advocacy

Opportunities to meet with participants' state delegations on rural health priorities.

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Congressional Reception

Senate Building Dirksen-G50

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Thursday, Feb. 9

Rural Health Disparities Summit

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7:30 – 8:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

Foyer

8:00 – 8:20 a.m.

Congressional Speakers

Sen. John Tester (D-MT)

8:20 – 8:30 a.m.

Faces of Rural

Kick off for NRHA's Faces of Rural campaign.

Amy Elizondo, Chief Strategy Officer, NRHA

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Assistant Secretary Admiral Rachel Levine

Learn about HHS' efforts to address rural challenges and barriers to care and improve public health at the federal level.

Office of the Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

9:00 – 9:45 a.m.

Congressional Speakers

Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY)

Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO)

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)

9:45 – 10:15 a.m.

White House Domestic Policy Council

Learn about the White House's work on rural health and public health initiatives.

Catherine Oakar, Special Assistant to the President for Public Health and Disparities

Nisha Bhat, Senior Policy Advisor for Medicare

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

Rural Aging in Place

Gallery I

Kathy Greenlee, Senior Director of Elder Justice Initiatives, ADvancing States

Moderator: Nancy Wexler, Program Officer, John A. Hartford Foundation

Emerging Issues in Rural Healthcare Workforce

Gallery II

Tate Hinkle, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer - Alabama, Main Street Health

Stephanie Katz, JD, MPH Assistant Vice President for Policy and Advocacy, National Council for Mental Wellbeing

Randall Longenecker, MD, Executive Director, RTT Collaborative

Hemi Tewarson, JD, MPH, Executive Director, National Academy for State Health Policy

Public Health at the USDA: Programs and Opportunities

Gallery III

Aurora Calvillo Buffington, PhD, RDN, LD, FAND, Chief, SNAP Nutrition Education Branch

Natalie Roy, MPH, CEO, AgriSafe

Mike Stranz, Vice President of Advocacy, National Farmers Union

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Tackling Rural Chronic Disease

Gallery I

Cody Mullen, PhD, Clinical Associate Professor, Purdue University

Ann O'Connor, MPA, Deputy Director, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, CDC

Moderator: Dorothea Vafiadis, Director, Healthy Aging Partnerships and Strategic Engagement, National Council on Aging

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Supporting Medicaid in Rural America

Gallery II

Patrick Finnerty, Owner, PWF Consulting

Patti Barnett, Regional Vice President of Health Policy, Centene

Erin Prendergast, MPH, Deputy Director, Federal and State Policy, National Association of Community Health Centers

Addressing Rural Maternal Health Deserts

Gallery III

Colleen Durocher, Project Manager, Rural OB Access & Maternal Services (ROAMS)

Yalda Jabbarpour, MD, Director, Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies

Kristen Zycherman, Coordinator for Maternal Infant Health Initiative, Centers for Medicaid and CHIP Services, CMS

Moderator: Carrie Cochran-McClain, Chief Policy Officer, NRHA

12:15 – 12:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Alan Morgan, CEO, NRHA

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