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

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

Policy Institute is at the Hilton Washington, D.C. National Mall at the Wharf, 480 L’Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20024
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.  
All times are in EST.  

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 Dirkenson-G50  

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Thursday, Feb. 9

Rural Health Disparities Summit
All sessions are in L’Enfant Ballroom unless otherwise indicated. *All times are in EST.*

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
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