

## Monday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Pre-Session Day**

*All times are in EST*

#### **11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

##### **NRHA Rural Health Fellows Meeting**

*Initial training session for the new 2026 Rural Health Fellows. (Limited to incoming cohort only)*

#### **12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**

##### **State Association Council Meeting**

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

#### **1:30 – 2:15 p.m.**

##### **Government Affairs Committee**

*Meeting of the NRHA Government Affairs Committee.*

#### **2:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

##### **NRHA Board of Trustees**

*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 NRHA Constituency Groups. Open to public.*

- *Clinical Constituency Group*
- *Federally Qualified Health Center Constituency Group*
- *Hospital and Health System Constituency Group*
- *Public Health Constituency Group*
- *Research and Education Constituency Group*
- *Rural Health Clinic Constituency Group*
- *Statewide Health Resources Constituency Group*
- *Student Constituency Group*

#### **5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

##### **NRHA Rural Health Congress Meeting**

*Meeting of the NRHA Rural Health Congress. Open to public for observation.*

## Tuesday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>

### **Planting Policy: Where Rural Health Takes Root**

*All times are in EST*

#### **7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

##### **Registration**

#### **7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

##### **Continental Breakfast**

#### **8:30 – 8:45 a.m.**

##### **Your Voice. Louder!**

*Hear from NRHA's 2026 President to learn about the association's priorities in the coming year.*

*Carrie Henning Smith, NRHA President*

#### **8:45 – 9:00 a.m.**

##### **Welcome**

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

*Carrie Cochran-McClain, NRHA*

#### **9:00 – 9:30 a.m.**

##### **Department of Health and Human Services**

*Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (invited)*

#### **9:30 – 9:45 a.m.**

##### **Congressional Speakers**

#### **9:45 – 10:15 a.m.**

##### **State Leaders Fireside Chat**

#### **10:15 – 10:30 a.m.**

##### **Break**

#### **10:30 – 11:00 a.m.**

##### **Federal Office of Rural Health Policy**

*Associate Administrator Tom Morris (invited)*

#### **11:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

##### **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**

*Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz (invited)*

#### **11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

##### **Health Resources and Services Administration**

*Administrator Tom Engels (invited)*

**12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

**Networking Lunch (optional)**

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Keynote: Rural Community Engagement**

Tony Pipa, Brookings Institution

Cara V. James, Grantmakers in Health

**2:00 – 2:45 p.m.**

**Congressional Speakers**

**2:45 – 3:15 p.m.**

**Rural Health Transformation Program Panel**

Alina Czekai, CMS (*invited*)

Dr. Meena Seshamani, Maryland Department of Health  
(*invited*)

**3:15 – 3:45 p.m.**

**Rural Hospitals in Transition: Findings and  
Policy Implications for 2025**

Chartis Center for Rural Health

**3:45 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Break**

**4:00 – 4:50 p.m.**

**Breakout sessions**

- *Counting the Cost: H.R. 1's Medicaid Cuts and the Rural Health Equation*
- *Leveling the Field or Losing Ground? Site Neutrality's Impact on Rural Hospital Viability*
- *Shifting Ground: Federal Policy and the Future of the Rural Health Workforce*
- *Building Integrated Networks for Rural Health Resilience*

**5:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

**Advocacy 101**

NRHA Government Affairs team

**5:30 – 6:00 p.m.**

**State Prep Meetings**

*Time for conference participants meet by state to prepare for Hill visits.*

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

**NRHA Rural Health Fellows Graduation and  
Reception**

*Graduation ceremony and reception to celebrate the 2025 Rural Health Fellows cohort.*

**Wednesday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>**

***Branching out: Spread our message to  
Capitol Hill***

*All times are in EST*

**7:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Registration**

**7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**

**NRHA Priorities and Advocacy Tools**

*Welcome to day two as we take our fight to Members of Congress. Learn messages and tools for advocacy.*

Carrie Cochran-McClain, NRHA

**9:30 – 10:00 a.m.**

**State and Congressional District Rural Health  
Profiles**

Stroudwater Associates

**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**

**Thursday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>**

***Cultivating Results: Policy into Practice***

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**7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Continental Breakfast**

**7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Special Interest Group Breakfasts**

- *Behavioral Health*
- *Indigenous Peoples Health*
- *Veterans' Health*
- *Rural Medical Education*

**8:30 – 8:40 a.m.**

**Welcome**

Carrie Cochran-McClain, NRHA

**8:40 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Director Diane Hall, Office of Rural Health (*invited*)

**9:00 – 9:45 a.m.**

**Congressional Speakers**

**9:45 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Break**

**10:00 – 10:55 a.m.**

**Breakout Sessions**

- *Remote Patient Monitoring Solutions to Rural Aging in Place*
- *State Voices, Shared Vision: Rural Health Transformation in Practice*
- *Rural Health Under the MA Umbrella: Data Insights and Policy Innovations*

**11:00 a.m. – noon p.m.**

**Breakout Sessions**

- *From Payment to Preservation: The Future of CAHs in Federal Policy*
- *Smiles, Systems, and Sustainability: Rural Oral Health in the Policy Landscape*