National Rural Health Association
49th Annual Rural Health Conference
11th Rural Hospital Innovation Summit
May 19-22, 2026 – San Diego, CA
Agenda

Tuesday, May 19, 2026
5 – 7 p.m.
Exhibit Hall Welcome
Seaport D-H

Wednesday, May 20, 2026
7:00-8:00 a.m.
Breakfast
Seaport Foyer

8 – 9:30 a.m.
Opening Session & Keynote:
Seaport ABC

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.
Concurrent Sessions

1A
Exploring differences in CHWs and promotoras survey participants across 9 states
Balboa ABC
Heather Clark, DrPH, Texas A&M University School of Public Health, Assistant Professor of Practice

This session will share study results of CHW participant data obtained during a diabetes continuing education workshop. Data were examined for differences in work settings, topic areas, job responsibilities, training preferences, and others to better understand the work environment of community health workers in rural communities in the U.S.

1B
Artificial Intelligence in Rural Healthcare
Gaslamp AB
Qian Huang, PhD, MA, MPA, East Tennessee State University, Research Assistant Professor
Whitney Zahnd, PhD, University of Iowa, Assistant Professor

Shiloh Williams, PhD, RN, San Diego State University, Assistant Professor
Jue Wang, PhD, University of Toronto, Assistant Professor

This session explores practical applications, emerging opportunities, and critical challenges associated with implementing Artificial Intelligence (AI) in rural healthcare. Attendees will examine the evolving policy landscape, identify strategies to overcome implementation barriers, and discuss collaborative approaches to leverage AI effectively, improving healthcare access and reducing disparities within rural communities.

1D
Powering Rural Health Through State Partnerships
Old Town AB
Jed Hansen, PhD, APRN, FNP-C, Nebraska Rural Health Association, Executive Director
Margaret Woeppel, MSN, RN, CPHQ, FACHE, Nebraska Hospital Association, Chief Nursing & Informatics Officer

Explore how Nebraska's Rural Health and Hospital Associations joined forces to advance rural health. Through case studies in Age-Friendly, maternal health, and dental access. This session highlights how blending clinical data expertise with grassroots infrastructure knowledge creates impactful, scalable solutions for rural communities through shared advocacy, education, and data-driven initiatives.

1E
Recruiting and Retaining Nurses to Critical Access Hospitals
La Jolla AB
David Schmitz, MD, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Professor and Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine
Stacy Kusler, BA, CPRP, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Workforce Specialist

The Community Apgar Project encompasses national research service projects enabling rural communities to assess and improve capabilities for recruitment and retention of providers including nurses, physicians, and CEOs. This updated program is specific to recruiting and retaining nurses to CAH rural communities. Presenters will also share the North Dakota findings.

1F
State Lessons in Advancing Rural Health Policy
Coronado A

Megan Weis, DrPH, MPH, MCHES, SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare, Director of Policy and Engagement
Cody Mullen, PhD, Purdue University, Clinical Professor, Department of Public Health; Director of Master of Health Administration Program

State laws and policies significantly shape rural health outcomes. This session features policy experts collaborating with legislators and agencies across multiple states, sharing effective strategies and tools for advancing state-level policy education and advocacy to improve rural health.

RHIS – Operations Track
Sustaining Rural Maternity Care Services
Coronado D
Marie Barry, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC), Director of Community Economic & Workforce Development
Christine Trautmad, MD, Reedsburg Area Medical Center, OBGYN
Melody Hargis, MSN, RN, Door County Medical Center, Director, Inpatient Services
Theresa Hollinger, MHA, MSN RN, NEA-BC, Grant Regional Health Center, Chief Nursing Officer

The Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative launched a Maternity Services Workgroup to maximize the ongoing supply and quality of maternity services in rural Wisconsin. Hear from member CAHs about the collaborative strategies being utilized to help preserve and sustain access to and quality of maternity care in rural communities.

RHIS – APM / VBC
Leveraging Rural Data to Create Meaningful Public Policy
Coronado E
Lauren Lapine, Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Senior Director of Legislative & Public Policy
Michael Shepherd, University of Michigan, Assistant Professor
Jeremiah Hodshire, Hillsdale Hospital, President & CEO

This session will highlight the innovative approach the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) took to supporting rural hospitals after the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025. The session will highlight the collaborations between a University of Michigan rural researcher and key stakeholders across the state.

1G

Contributed Research Papers - Rural Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder
Coronado B

1. **Access and Perceived Barriers to Substance Use Treatment**
   Benjamin Montemayor, PhD, Texas A&M University School of Public Health, Assistant Professor
2. **Rural and Urban Availability of Substance Use Treatment Facilities**
   Ty Borders, PhD, TCU, Professor and Chair
3. **Acceptability of Harm Reduction Services in Rural Wyoming**
   Ruth Korankye, University of Wyoming, Research Assistant
4. **Older Adults' Mental Health Treatment Use: Rural-Urban Differences**
   Anna Shetler, PhD, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center, Postdoctoral Fellow

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.
Poster Session/Break
Seaport Foyer

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Plenary Session – Federal Office of Rural Health Rural Health Update
Seaport ABC
This session will provide updates regarding key federal activities that help improve access to quality health care in rural communities.

12:15 – 2:30 p.m.
Lunch in Exhibit Hall
Seaport D-H

1:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Student Track Session/Student Constituency Group Meeting
Room TBA

2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions

2A
Obstetric and neonatal care access in rural communities
Balboa ABC
Katy Kozhimannil, PhD, MPA, University of Minnesota School of Public Health
Julia Interrante, PhD, MPH, University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Emily Sheffield, MPH, University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Amidst rising maternal and infant mortality, both of which are elevated for rural residents, access to childbirth and higher-level neonatal care services are essential. This session provides updates on maternity and neonatal care closures, examines factors in proximity to neonatal intensive care units, and describes predictors of obstetric unit closures.

2B
Closing Gaps: Smart Staffing in Rural Psychiatry Programs
Gaslamp AB
Vishal Adma, MD, Integrated Psychiatric Consultants, President and CEO
Heidi Monroe, DBH, Johnson Memorial Health, Director of Behavioral Health

Rural communities face barriers in accessing timely psychiatric care due to provider shortages, coverage gaps, and inconsistent oversight. This session presents innovative staffing strategies to expand rural program capacity and improve clinical outcomes, offering a practical framework for single-source staffing and highlighting a successful implementation at a rural psychiatric hospital.

2C
The Future of Rural Health: An Interactive Discussion
Gaslamp CD
John Gale, MS, Maine Rural Health Research Center and Cutler Institute, Senior Research Associate

Learn how rural health providers are leveraging resources from community partners, foundations, and the private and public sectors to address patients' needs – food, housing, and transportation. Find out how the economic vitality of rural communities improves when social determinants of health are addressed. Resources and tools will be highlighted.

How rural hospitals could transform for the future of rural health
Kevin Bennett, PhD, University of South Carolina, Professor & Director
JT Douglas, WestHealth, Director of Strategy
Jeremy Levin, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, Director of Advocacy

Discussion of the future of hospital service delivery, and the issues facing survival; discuss the potential of the Rural health transformation program and discuss specific examples of

innovative programs; discuss what the future of rural hospital care could include, and how such care will need to evolve to survive.

2D
Stronger Together: Rural Public Health and Primary Care
Old Town AB
Cody Mullen, PhD, Purdue University, Clinical Professor
Michael Meit, MA, MPH, East Tennessee State University, Director, Center for Rural Health and Research
Alana Knudson, PhD, NORC Walsh Research Center, Director
Diane Hall, PhD, MSEd, Office of Rural Health, CDC, Director

This panel presentation session will include a discussion of the role of public health in rural communities, the response to past rural emergencies, and the connection between where primary care and public health meet. Hear solutions and resources to connect with local rural public health.

2E
Data-Driven Solutions for Strengthening Rural Nurse Workforce
La Jolla AB
Qian Huang, PhD, MA, MPA, East Tennessee State University, Research Assistant Professor
Kathleen Kinser, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, R, Tennessee Center for Nursing Advancement, Nurse Scientist
Shiloh Williams, PhD, RN, San Diego State University, Assistant Professor

This session highlights emerging tools and strategies to support rural nurse workforce planning, including Geographic Information Systems dashboards and integrated data systems. Learn how these innovations are shaping policy, addressing geographic disparities, and informing sustainable solutions to meet the evolving healthcare needs of rural communities.

RHIS - Operations Track: Rural Hospital Closures: Early Warning Signs For Rural Leaders
Coronado D
Jeff Sommer, Stroudwater Associates, Managing Director

The Stroudwater Rural Hospital Closure Study has been constructed to provide timely insights specifically for rural hospital leaders. The study also creates a framework for assessment of the risk of closure along with targeted action steps/course correct based on the early markers signifying increased risk of closure.

RHIS – APM/VBC: Emerging Issue
Coronado E

2G
Contributed Research Papers – Veterans Health
Coronado B

- **Veteran Firearm Injury and Death Rates by Rurality**
  Tess Gilbert, VA Portland Health Care System, Research Associate
- **Exploring Innovative Pathways for Rural Native Veterans' Reintegration**
  Cynthia Goss, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center - Salt Lake City, Population Specialist
- **Enhancing Rural Veteran Access to Pelvic Health Rehabilitation**
  Kristen Gray, PhD, Veterans Health Administration
- **Identifying and Overcoming Barriers to Rural Caregiver Identification**
  Claire Grant, PhD, VA CHOIR, Postdoctoral Research Fellow

3:45 – 4:00 p.m.
Poster Session/Break
Seaport Foyer

4:00 – 5:15 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions

3A
Improving Autism Primary Care in Rural Communities
Balboa ABC
Rosalinda Saucedo, MS, CHES, American Academy of Pediatrics, Program Manager, Rural Health
Julia Matakis, MPH, American Academy of Pediatrics, Senior Manager, Mental Health Programs

AAP NRACH ECHO training center will describe how an ECHO Autism Collaborative expands care for children with autism in rural primary care settings. We will show how ECHO learning increases capacity, fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, and improves access to neuroaffirming, trauma-informed care for autistic children in underserved communities.

Building Capacity for Rural Pediatric Primary Care
Rosalinda Saucedo, MS, CHES, American Academy of Pediatrics, Program Manager, Rural Health
Julia Matakis, MPH, American Academy of Pediatrics, Senior Manager, Mental Health Programs

Oyin Oloniniyi, MPH, American Academy of Pediatrics, Program Manager, ECHO Initiatives
Erika Davis, PhD, MPH, American Academy of Pediatrics, Manager, Program Evaluation

AAP will share insights from the NRACH ECHO Training Center, highlighting how it builds pediatric workforce capacity in rural and frontier communities. This session explores collaborative learning, mentorship, and practical tools that empower clinicians to address mental and behavioral health needs in underserved pediatric populations

3C
TXREP, An Innovative Statewide Academic-Community Partnership
Gaslamp CD
Kia Parsi, MD, Texas A&M Rural and Community Institute (ARCHI), Executive Director
John Henderson, Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals, President & CEO
Melissa Lackey, MSN, RN, Texas A&M Rural and Community Institute (ARCHI), Director of Rural Health Support and Engagement
Albert Ruiz, Texas State Office of Rural Health Program, Rural Health Specialist

Texas A&M Rural Engagement Programs (TXREP) is an innovative legislative-funded initiative partnering an academic institution with community hospitals and clinics. The A&M Rural and Community Health Institute and other colleges leverage university resources to provide solutions for 100+ hospitals and clinics in Texas, improving operations and promoting workforce development opportunities.

3D
Strengthening the Evidence Base for Rural Health
Old Town AB
Michael Meit, MA, MPH, ETSU/NORC Rural Health Research Center, Deputy Director
Shena Popat, MHA, NORC Walsh Research Center, Senior Research Scientist
Lisa Davis, MHA, Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health, Director and Outreach Associate Professor of Health Policy and Administration

Expanding the rural health evidence base is essential for improving outcomes, yet many programs are developed and tested in urban contexts. This session explores the benefits, challenges, and key considerations for piloting and evaluating health-related programs in rural settings to generate relevant, actionable insights for rural communities.

RHIS – Operations Track
Prepared for the Unexpected: OB Emergencies in Rural EDs

Coronado D

Jacquelyn Alvarado, DNP, APRN, CNM, FACN, Texas A&M Rural and Community Health Institute, Director, Rural Maternal Health

Rural Emergency Departments without obstetric services face unique challenges in maternal emergencies. This session presents a simulation-based training model that builds team readiness, improves maternal safety, and equips rural providers with low-cost, scalable tools to stabilize patients before transfer, reducing morbidity and mortality in underserved communities.

RHIS – APM / VBC

Designing and Implementing a Colorado Rural Hospital Strategy

Coronado E

Lauren Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, MHCDS, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Farley Health Policy Center, State Policy Director

Liza Creel, PhD, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Farley Health Policy Center, Associate Professor

Colorado's rural and frontier hospitals face challenges with financial stability while ensuring access to needed care for rural residents. This session will describe a study that assessed challenges rural hospitals face in providing core services to their communities and identified state-level policy solutions to strengthen these critical health care institutions.

3G

Contributed Research Papers – Maternal Health

Coronado B

- **Maternal Care Designation and Utilization of prenatal care**
  Songyuan Deng, PhD, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Associate Scientist
- **Financial Challenges of Providing Rural Obstetric Services**
  Julia Interrante, PhD, University of Minnesota, Researcher/Statistical Lead
- **Texas Rural-Urban Reimbursement Disparities for Maternal Delivery**
  Huiying Wang, PhD, Texas A&M University, Assistant Research Scientist
- **Rural Maternal Health Outcomes Before and After Obstetric Unit Closures: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Access, Equity, and Workforce Impact**
  Sarvesh Mohan, Cornwall Hospital, Clinical Manager

<u>Thursday, May 21, 2026</u>

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Constituency Group Meetings and Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
Concurrent Sessions

4A
Trends in Medication Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder
Balboa ABC
Holly Andrilla, MS, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Deputy Director & Research Scientist Principal
Janessa Graves, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Director
Sara Woolcock, MPH, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Research Scientist

There is ongoing concern nationally about the opioid crisis. We will present findings on the availability and receipt of medication treatment for opioid use disorder (MOUD) nationally. We will present findings on the change in the receipt of MOUD in rural communities with and without RCORP funding and urban counties.

4B
Remote Possibilities: Collective Defense for Rural Communities/Google
Gaslamp AB
Sarah Morales, Google, Senior Program Manager
Bill Reid, Google, Security Advisor

Threats to rural healthcare are threats to the entire community. This session explores the shared cyber risks across healthcare, water, electricity, and local governments. Learn how an attack on one organization poses a collective risk and how healthcare providers can lead the creation of a community-wide collective defense.

4C
Breaking Silos: Coordinating Rural School Mental Health Care
Gaslamp CD
Amanda North, The Center for Rural Health Innovation, Executive Director

Rural schools face severe mental health workforce shortages, fragmented care, and Medicaid billing barriers. This session shares results from a pilot integrating the Whole Child framework with the Collaborative Care Model to improve cross-agency collaboration, streamline services, and expand equitable school-based mental health care for rural North Carolina students.

School-Based Behavioral Telehealth for Rural Access

Claire MacGeorge, MD, MSCR, Medical University of South Carolina, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Medical Director of School-based Health
Caitlin Koob, PhD, MS, OTR/L, Medical University of South Carolina, Research Associate
Edrin Williams, DHA, Medical University of South Carolina, Center for Telehealth, Executive Director, Grants and Research

School-based behavioral telehealth provides a unique opportunity to improve access to mental health care for children living in rural areas. Telehealth is increasingly being utilized to overcome rural-specific distance and resource barriers. Best practices for implementing telehealth in schools to improve access and reduce health disparities will be described.

4D
Community Health: From Theory to Practice
Old Town AB
Paul Moore, D.Ph., Sr. Health Policy Advisor (retired), Federal Office of Rural Health Policy.
Brock Slabach, MPH, COO, National Rural Health Association

Improving rural community health means addressing social determinants beyond healthcare facilities. Effective collaboration with local partners is vital for strategies that enhance overall well-being. This session will review trends in community-based care accountability, outline key areas for collaboration, and introduce an educational approach to prepare professionals for complex health challenges.

4E
Future-Ready: How Educational Institutions are Powering the Workforce
La Jolla AB
Cassandra Pope, SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare, Program Manager
Kevin Bennett, PhD, SC Center for Rural and Primary Heatlhcare, Director
Courtney Catledge, DNP, University of South Carolina-Lancaster, Regional Palmetto College Dean

Discover how colleges and universities such as the University of South Carolina-Lancaster foster programs that drive workforce development to meet evolving industry needs, highlighting strategies that expand access, boost economic mobility, and create career pathways, specifically for rural populations, ensuring that all communities are prepared for the future of work.

RHIS – Operations Track
Examining hospital and service line changes and finances
Coronado D

Casey Balio, PhD, East Tennessee State University Center for Rural Health and Research & ETSU/NORC Rural Health Research Center
Mark Holmes, PhD, University of North Carolina Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, Director
Brian Whitacre, PhD, Oklahoma State University, Professor and Neustadt Chair

Rural hospitals face unique operational and financial challenges, which have implications for changes in service lines offerings, vulnerability, and closure. This session will describe the current state and recent evidence on rural hospital and service line openings, closings, and finances, including spatial analyses and reflections from a rural hospital administrator.

RHIS – APM / VBC
Quality as a VBC Readiness Strategy
Coronado E
Sarah Brinkman, Stratis Health, Senior Program Manager
Cari Spillman, Blue Mountain Hospital, Chief Quality Officer

Organizational capacity for quality improvement is a critical component for moving towards value-based care. Two rural hospitals that participated in the Rural Healthcare Provider Transition Project will share strategies and lessons learned through a focused initiative to increase capacity and infrastructure for quality across all aspects of their organizations.

4G
Contributed Research Papers – Rural Workforce/Education
Coronado B

- **Roadmap for Strengthening Rural Physician Workforce Through State GME**
  Lori Rodefeld, University of North Carolina, Deputy Director
- **Rural Road to Medicine: Inspiring Rural Texan Students**
  Hannah Whittaker, Texas A&M University College of Medicine, Student
- **Rethinking Rurality in Graduate Medical Education**
  Emily M. Hawes, PharmD, University of North Carolina at Chapel hill, Sheps Center for Health Services Research, Professor
- **Producing rural physicians: 20 year strategies, outcomes, cost**
  Mark Deutchman, MD, University of Colorado, Associate Dean for Rural Health

10:15 – 10:45 a.m.
Poster Session/Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions

5A
Creative and Child-centered Conversations About Social Media
Balboa ABC
Ashley Horne, MA, American Academy of Pediatrics, Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health, Program Manager
Lindsey Young, American Academy of Pediatrics, Youth Advisory Panel Member Cori Cross, MD, FAAP, Pediatrician

Join the American Academy of Pediatrics Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health to learn about the Center's child-centered framework for understanding youth social media use, conversation starters to engage youth, and how to connect with youth and families around social media and mental health.

Integrating Pediatric Obesity and Mental Health in Rural Care
Rosalinda Saucedo, MS, CHES, American Academy of Pediatrics, Program Manager, Rural Health
Julia Matakis, MPH, American Academy of Pediatrics, Senior Manager, Mental Health Programs
Oyin Oloniniyi, MPH, American Academy of Pediatrics, Program Manager, ECHO Initiatives
Erika Davis, PhD, MPH, American Academy of Pediatrics, Manager, Program Evaluation

AAP will share implementation insights on pediatric ECHO programs that integrate obesity and mental health care in rural settings. This session highlights how AAP National Rural Adolescent and Child Health ECHO Training Center builds workforce capacity, supports trauma-informed care, and equips clinicians to deliver comprehensive, whole-child services in underserved communities.

5B
Enhancing Team-Based Care & ACO Success through Medicare Wellness Visits
Gaslamp AB
Reyann Davis, Texas A&M Rural and Community Health Institute, Director, Value-Based Care
Paul Aslin, MHA, Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals Clinically Integrated Network, Executive Director
Melissa Matlock, Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals Clinically Integrated Network, Population Health and Quality Analyst
Cami Wade, RN, Texas A&M Rural and Community Health Institute, RN Clinical Care Coordinator

Krystal Stuart, MA, Texas A&M Rural and Community Health Institute, Care Coordinator Associate

The Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals (TORCH) Clinically Integrated Network and Texas A&M have partnered together providing care coordination as an extension of rural clinics workforce. This panel will explore tools to enhance care coordination, streamline workflows, and advance value-based care, focusing on lessons learned and future opportunities.

5C
Reframing the Narrative: Strengths of Rural Communities
Gaslamp CD
Catherine Smith, LAPSW, The Healing Trust, Program Partner
Jacy Warrell, MPA, Rural Health Association of Tennessee, Chief Executive Officer

Rural communities are often discussed through a lens of scarcity which overlooks the strengths rural communities possess – generational knowledge, cohesion, and streamlined decision-making. We'll explore an abundance mindset which creates effective, community-driven programming, and design initiatives that build on the inherent strengths of rural communities.

5D
Food Insecurity and Chronic Disease in the United States
La Jolla AB
Emma Boswell, MPH, University of South Carolina Rural Health Research Center
Peiyin Hung, PhD, University of South Carolina Rural Health Research Center, Co-Director of the University of South Carolina Rural Health Research Center, Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina Department of Health Services Policy & Management
Elizabeth Crouch, PhD, University of South Carolina Rural Health Research Center, Co-Director of the University of South Carolina Rural Health Research Center, Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina Department of Health Services Policy & Management
Gabriel Benavidez, MPH, PhD, Baylor University Department of Public Health, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology

Food access is essential to health; yet, rural communities face persistent barriers. Limited chronic disease and food security data hinder actionable solutions. This session will discuss updated data on food access, food security, and strategies to identify high-need rural areas to guide targeted public health resource allocation.

Improving Chronic Disease Integrating CHWs and Central Kitchens

Deb Koester, PhD, DNP, Marshall Univ, Assistant Professor, Director of Community Health
Jamie Jeffrey, MD, FAAP, HealthyKids Wellness and Weight Management program and KEYS 4 HealthyKids, CAMC Weight Loss Center, Medical Director
Kim Tieman, MSW, ACSW, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, Vice President and Program Director for Health

Chronic disease outcomes are improved through integrated approaches addressing clinical and social determinants in rural communities. This strategy combines community health workers with a Central Kitchen model, using farm-to-table meals and principles. It presents clinical and strategic dimensions of using a Central Kitchen to address chronic disease.

5E
Rural Clinical Training: Trends, Challenges and Solutions
La Jolla AB
Holly Andrilla, MS, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Deputy Director & Research Scientist Principal
Randy Longenecker, MD, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center
Janessa Graves, PhD, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Director
Natalia Oster, PhD, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Research Scientist

Competition for rural clinical training sites has been identified as a barrier preventing NP and PA programs from providing rural training to their students. Medical schools and residencies also struggle to find preceptors and teaching sites. We will share findings on trends, barriers and solutions to sustain rural clinical training.

RHIS - Operations
Real-World AI Strategies Driving Results in Rural Hospitals
Coronado D
Max Saunders, Avo, Growth and Marketing Manager
Yair Saperstein, MD MPH, Avo, CEO & Co-Founder Pat Songer, Cascade Medical, Chief Operating Officer & Chief of EMS

Join Dr. Yair Saperstein and Pat Songer, COO/Chief of EMS at Cascade Medical, as they share affordable AI strategies—like ambient scribing—that cut post-visit documentation time by 17%, reduce chart review time by 87%, and improve medication dosing compliance by 35%, easing provider burden, driving better care, maximizing reimbursement.

RHIS - APM/VCM

Alternative Payment Models and Value-Based Care: Making the Economics Work for Rural Hospitals
Coronado E
Janice Walters, Rural Health Redesign Center, CEO

5G
Contributed Research Papers
Coronado B

- **Lung Cancer Screening Eligibility and Adherence by Rurality**
  Brianna Holston, Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine, Research Assistant II
- **Cervical Cancer Screening for Rural Women with Self-Collection**
  Elizabeth VonderHaar, MD, Teal Medical
- **National dialysis availability, quality, and ownership by rurality**
  Casey P Balio, PhD, East Tennessee State University Center for Rural Health and Research, Research Assistant Professor
- **Differential Rural-Urban NICU Access in North Carolina, 2009-2021**
  Susie Gurzenda, NC Rural Health Research Program, Graduate Research Assistant

12:00 – 1:45 p.m.
Rural Health Awards Luncheon
Seaport D-H
Join NRHA for a tribute to the 2026 Rural Health Award winners.

2:00-2:20 p.m.
CDC office of Rural Heath Update
Seaport ABC
Diane Hall, PhD, CDC-Office of Rural Health, Director
This session will provide updates regarding key federal activities that help improve access to quality health care in rural communities.

2:20 – 3:30 p.m.
Terry Reilly Lecture
Seaport ABC
Sarah Jane Tribble, KFF Health News, Chief Rural Correspondent

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.
Poster Session/Break

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

6A

A Snapshot of US Children's Health by Rurality

Balboa ABC

Cassie Odahowski, PhD, University of South Carolina Rural Health Research Center, Research Assistant Professor
Elizabeth Crouch, PhD, University of South Carolina Rural Health Research Center, Director and Associate Professor
Joni Nelson, PhD, James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina, Associate Professor and Division Chief
Nicholas Yell, PhD, University of South Carolina Rural Health Research Center, Postdoctoral Research Associate

Understanding factors impacting childhood health is essential to preventing negative health outcomes. This session will provide a snapshot of US children's health by rurality, examining 1) all-cause mortality and leading causes of death, 2) trends of physical, mental, and oral health outcomes, and 3) environmental factors impacting rural children.

6B

Fighting Burnout with Bytes: Using Generative AI

Gaslamp AB

Sarah Morales, Google, Senior Program Manager Bill Reid, Security Advisor
Madeline DuPlessis, Optura AI, Director of Enterprise Sales
Bill Reid, Google, Security Advisor

The rural workforce crisis is fueled by administrative overload. This session explores how generative Artificial Intelligence can drastically reduce documentation and paperwork. Learn how to deploy this innovative technology to improve clinician satisfaction and build a resilient, long-term workforce, keeping providers caring for their rural communities.

6C

Wearables, Apps, and Virtual-Reality for Rural Veterans' Mental-Health

Gaslamp CD

Hilary Touchett, PhD, RN, Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Center, Research Health Scientist
Julianna Hogan, PhD, Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Center, Clinical Psychologist
Jessica Walsh, PhD, Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Center, Technology Innovations Coordinator
Shannon Sisco, PhD, Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Center, Whole Health Clinical Director

Panelists discuss innovations used to supplement care provided by rural VAs and how these programs can be implemented among other rural mental health programs. Topics include remotely delivered online peer support groups, wearables for sleep and stress, virtual reality home-based pain treatment, and virtual reality for mindfulness and relaxation.

Strategies for Implementing Telehealth Programs across Care Contexts
Jennifer Freytag, PhD, Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Science Specialist
Stephanie Day, PhD, Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Services Researcher
Giselle Day, PhD, Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Science Specialist
Hilary Touchett, PhD, Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Services Researcher

Implementing telehealth programs presents unique challenges for every rural clinic. This panel will present successful implementation strategies applied at Veterans Administration (VA) rural mental health clinics. Panelists will use examples to initiate an audience-led conversation on tailoring strategies to meet needs of provider and patient populations within and outside VA.

6D
Sustaining Obstetrical Regionalized Levels of Care: What Will It Take?
Old Town AB
Karen Weis, RNC, University of Kansas Medical Center, Professor/Christine A. Hartley Rural Nursing Professorship
David Jordan, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, President & CEO of United Methodist Health Ministry Fund

Across the U.S., there are growing maternity care deserts. Predominantly rural states struggle to maintain regionalized models of care. Access to inpatient and outpatient maternal care for 105 Kansas counties were assessed. A panel will discuss the impact of hospital closures and approaches for sustaining regionalized levels of care.

State-led Innovations to improve rural maternal health
Whitney Wiggins, Health Resource and Service Administration, Public Health Analyst

HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau, State Maternal Health Innovation program's purpose is to reduce maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity. This session shows the impact of State led Maternal Health Task Force innovative programs addressing skilled workforce, direct clinical care, enhanced data quality, and community engagement in rural areas.

6E

Bridging Gaps: Community Health Workers Transform Rural Health

La Jolla AB

Michaela Amburgey, MPH, UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health, Rural Project Manager
William Baker, BA, RN, UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health, Director

This presentation explores the critical role of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in rural healthcare teams, highlighting the long-standing Kentucky Homeplace CHW program as a proven, cost-effective model. Utilizing program data and published research, we demonstrate how CHWs improve chronic disease outcomes, reduce healthcare usage, and bridge social and healthcare gaps.

Growing Community Health Workforce: Networks Make the Difference!

Andy Lowe, New England Rural Health Association, Executive Director
Aisling Ryan-Abbott, DNP, FNP-C, New England Rural Health Association, Clinical Education and Workforce Consultant
Kiara Badillo, New England Rural Health Association, Public Health & Education Consultant

Learn how an innovative program trained over 150 community health workers in rural counties across Massachusetts. A collaborative network of AHECs, community colleges, health centers, and community partners reaches into immigrant communities to recruit and train people to start them on the path to careers in the rural healthcare workforce.

RHIS - Operations

When Patients Leave: How CAHs Respond to Outmigration

Coronado D

Matthew Bancroft, MPH, National Rural Health Resource, Business Development Specialist
Jamie Cyprian, MPH, National Rural Health Resource Center, Program Manager TASC/SHIP
Tracy Morton, MPH, National Rural Health Resource Center, Director, Population Health

Rural hospital leaders share real-world strategies to address outmigration, improve service alignment, and recapture market share. Presenters will highlight tools, data, and lessons learned to help Critical Access Hospitals strengthen financial stability and meet local health needs. Session includes practical examples, planning resources, and current trends in patient migration.

RHIS - APM/VCM

Operational and Regulatory Impacts of the OBBB and more.

Coronado E

Brian Bertsch, Eide Bailly, Principal
Tracie Rabine, Eide Bailly LLP, Director

The OBBB and other regulatory updates continue to change the operational landscape for healthcare providers. This session will discuss the major changes and the impact to providers. It will also include a discussion of how we see facilities reacting, strategies to consider, discussion points for Congressional leaders, and more.

6G
Contributed Research Papers - Geographical Analyses
Coronado B

1. **Geographic Disparities in Long-Term Care for Aging Populations**
   Yvonne Jonk, PhD, Maine Rural Health Research Center, Director, University of Southern Maine, Research Professor
2. **System-level Effects of Collaborative Health Communities**
   Audrey Price, Georgia Health Policy Center, Georgia State University, Research Associate
3. **Geographic Variation in Health Care Spending Across Rurality**
   Janessa Graves PhD, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, University of Washington, Director, Associate Professor
4. **Community Perspectives on Aging Across Tennessee**
   Kayla Alvis, PhD, East Tennessee State University, Research Assistant Professor

Friday, May 22, 2026

7:30-8:30 a.m.
Breakfast
Seaport Foyer

8:00-9:30 a.m.
Washington Update
Seaport ABC
Carrie Cochran-McClain, National Rural Health Association, 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
MMIW: Addressing Ongoing Disparities and Injustice Today
Balboa ABC
Mary-Katherine McNatt, DrPH, MPH, A.T. Still University, Professor

7B
Expanding Access: Integrating Specialty Services into Rural Health Clinics
Gaslamp AB
Ellen Garlick, Forvis Mazars, Senior Manager

This presentation will focus on integrating specialists into Rural Health Clinics (RHCs). We will also cover opportunities for new multi-specialty RHCs. We will discuss regulatory changes, opportunities for RHCs, and considerations for adding specialists to improve healthcare services and reimbursement.

Driving Hospital Sustainability through RHCs
Gregory Wolf, Wintergreen, Principal

With the passing of the OBBB, hospitals now more than ever must identify and leverage revenue-generating opportunities to secure operations. This presentation will focus on specific strategies hospitals, particularly CAHs, can use to drive and sustain vital services within rural markets.

7C
Impacts of Transportation Access on Hawai‘i’s Rural Health
Gaslamp CD
John Desfor, MPH, University of Hawaii Rural Health Research and Policy Center, Policy and Data Analyst

Through interviews with 40 community stakeholders, the University of Hawaii Rural Health Research and Policy Center found that lack of access to transportation in rural Hawai‘i significantly impacts healthcare access and utilization. Policy options to address challenges were co-designed with the community for consideration by policymakers.

7D

The Rural Route to Student Mental Health

Old Town AB

Gavin O'Neil, LCSW, Memorial Medical Clinics, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

This session highlights how a Rural Health Clinic-led Mobile Behavioral Health Unit partnered with seven rural schools to expand access for youth. Presenters will share strategies to overcome workforce shortages, billing barriers, and stigma while delivering psychiatric and counseling services directly to underserved students in their daily school environment.

Integrated Comprehensive Care Collective for Rural Health

Jennifer Hammons, PharmD, DrPH, The Health Wagon, St. Mary's Faith Pharmacy, Director of Pharmacy Services and Public Health Initiatives

Paula Hill-Collins, DNP, FNP-BC. PCPNP, The Health Wagon, Vice-President/Chief Clinical Director

Teresa Tyson, DNP, MSN, FNP-BC, FA, The Health Wagon, President/ CEO

Discover how the Integrated Comprehensive Care Collective model unites medical, dental, vision, mental health, pharmacy, and veterinary care to transform rural health. Learn how mobile units, telehealth, and community partnerships break barriers, improve chronic disease management, and strengthen public health by addressing the unique needs of underserved populations.

7G

Contributed Research Papers – Rural Hospitals

Coronado B

- **The Financial Impact of Medicare Advantage on Rural Hospitals**
  Annie Klomhaus, Vector Health AI, CEO, Co-Founder
- **The Early Experience of Rural Emergency Hospitals**
  Aditya Pillutla, UNC Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, Research Assistant
- **Rural, Poorer Populations and Adverse Medicare Payment Adjustments**
  Mary Smith, PhD, Mississippi State University, Assistant Professor
- **Rural Emergency Hospitals and Telehealth: Mixed-Methods Analysis**
  Jillian Harvey, PhD, Medical University of South Carolina, Professor

11:00 a.m.

Conference Adjourns

2026 Accepted Poster List

Mortality Risks Associated with Living in Ambulance Deserts
Yvonne Jonk, PhD, Research Professor, University of Southern Maine
Heidi O'Connor, MS, Sr Data Analyst, University of Southern Maine

Farmers cultivating resourcefulness: A qualitative study
Jeanne Ward, PhD, RN, MPA, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Indiana University
Melissa Perkins, Research Project Specialist, University of Southern California
John Blosnich, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor, University of Southern California

Tele-Collaborative Outreach to Rural Patients with Chronic Pain
Travis Lovejoy, PhD, MPH, Clinical Director, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, VHA Office of Rural Health, Portland, OR
Natassja Pal, BS, Program Manager, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, OR
Sarah Ono, PhD, Operations Director, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, VHA Office of Rural Health, Portland, OR
Una Makris, MD, Chief of Rheumatology, VA San Diego Health Care System, San Diego, CA
Amanda Mixon, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN
Erin Krebs, MD, MPH, Core Investigator, Center for Care Delivery and Outcomes Research, VA Minneapolis Health Care System, Minneapolis, MN
Steven Dobscha, MD, Director, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, OR
Melinda Davis, PhD, Director, Oregon Rural Practice-Based Research Network, Portland, OR
Benjamin Morasco, PhD, Core Investigator, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, OR

Identifying Gaps in Rural Farm Community-Based Healthcare
Olivia Passe, BS, Wake Forest School of Medicine
Dawn Caviness, MD, BSN, Associate Professor of Family Medicine Cabarrus Family Medicine Residency Program, Wake Forest School of Medicine

Bridging the Rural Digital Health Divide
Jasrina Kaushal, BS, Medical Student, American Medical Student Association
Sohawm Sengupta, BS, Medical Student, American Medical Student Association

Rural-Urban Differences among Older Adults: Evidence From 2019-2023
Oluyomi Oloruntoba, DrPH, BDS, MPH, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Southwest Rural Research Center, School of Public Health, Texas A&M University
Marvellous Akinlotan, BDS, PhD, Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of Health Services Research, Department of Pediatric Dentistry, College of Dentistry, Texas A&M University

Hye Jin Park, PhD, MPH, Research Associate, School of Dentistry Office of Research, University of Utah
Caleb Ochimana, MPH, PhD Student, Department of Health Policy and Management, Texas A&M University
Nima Khodakarami, PhD, MSc, MBA, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy and Administration, Pennsylvania State University
Gogoal Falia, MBBS, MBA, PhD Candidate, Department of Health Policy and Management, Texas A&M University
Alva O. Ferdinand, JD, DrPH, Director, Southwest Rural Health Research Center, School of Public Health, Texas A&M University

Rural-Urban Differences in Health Provider Physical Activity Advising
Brianna Holston, B.S., Research Assistant II, University of Southern Maine
Erika Ziller, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Vermont

Medicaid Mental and Behavioral Health Hospitalizations Following ARPA
Gogoal Falia, PhD(c), MBBS, MBA, CPH, Doctoral Candidate, Southwest Rural Health Research Center, Texas A&M University

Distribution of Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants
Aakriti Shrestha, PhD, MPH
Hye Jin Park, PhD, MPH, RN
Emesomhi Eboreime, MPH
Caleb Ochinana, B.Pharm, MPH, MBA
Oluyomi Oloruntoba, DrPH, BDS, MPH
Alva O. Ferdinand, DrPH, JD

Structural Language Barriers in Rural Veteran Virtual Care
Victoria Ngo, PhD, Advanced Fellow in Geriatrics, Department of Veterans Affairs
Da Jung Chang, PhD, Advanced Fellow in Geriatrics, Department of Veterans Affairs
Ryan Holliday, PhD, Clinical Research Psychologist, Department of Veterans Affairs
Shiloh Jordan, PhD, Director of Training for Psychology, Department of Veterans Affairs
Lindsey Monteith, PhD, Clinical Research Psychologist, Department of Veterans Affairs
Nainwant Singh, MD, Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development, Department of Veterans Affairs
Emma Quach, PhD, Research Health Scientist, Department of Veterans Affairs
Stephanie L. Shimada, PhD, Research Health Scientist, Department of Veterans Affairs
Mark Zocchi, PhD, Health Science Specialist, Department of Veterans Affairs
Shibei Zhao, MPH, Statistician, Department of Veterans Affairs
Pengsheng Ni, MD, Research Associate Professor, Boston University
Linda Am, MPH, Health Science Specialist, Department of Veterans Affairs
Camilla B. Pimentel, PhD, Research Health Scientist, Department of Veterans Affairs

Rural Dementia Healthcare: Military Service, Mental Health, Comorbidity

Traben Pleasant, PhD, Qualitative Analyst, VHA Office of Rural Health - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, Oregon; Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, Oregon; Layton Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Center, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon
Brooke Jespersen, PhD, Post-Doctoral Fellow, VHA Office of Rural Health - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, Oregon; Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, Oregon
Rachel Wall, MS, Health Services Researcher, VHA Office of Rural Health - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, Oregon; Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, Oregon; Layton Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Center, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon
Elizabeth Hulen, PhD, Health Science Specialist, VHA Office of Rural Health - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, Oregon; Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, Oregon
Allison O'Neill, MPH, Data Analyst, VHA Office of Rural Health - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, Oregon; Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, Oregon
Loretta Shields, PhD, D.Min, Bio-Statistician, VHA Office of Rural Health - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, Oregon; Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, Oregon
Diana J. Govier, PhD, MPH, Core Investigator, VHA Office of Rural Health - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, Oregon; Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, Oregon; Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon
Ayushi Gulati, MPH, Center Coordinator, VHA Office of Rural Health - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, Oregon
Travis I. Lovejoy, PhD, MPH, Clinical Director, VHA Office of Rural Health - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, Oregon; Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, Oregon
Sarah S. Ono, PhD, Operations Director, VHA Office of Rural Health - Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Portland, Oregon; Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Portland, Oregon

Counselors Assisting Veterans to Engage in Services (CAVES)
Angie Waliski, PhD, LPC-S, NCC, Research Scientist, Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System (CAVHS), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Monica Matthieu, PhD, LCSW, CAVHS, VA, Saint Louis University, School of Social Work
Laura Watlington, LCSW, Suicide Prevention Program, CAVHS, VA
Michael Jaques, CAVHS, VA
Leonard Burgest, CAVHS, VA

Rural Provider and Community Perspectives on Tennessee Health
Tyra Girdwood, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC)

Satya Surbhi, PhD, Associate Professor, UTHSC
Avinash Pakker, Data Analyst, UTHSC
Matt Harris, PhD, Professor, UT Knoxville
Sultan Mahmud, PhD, Data Engineer, UTHSC
Jim Bailey, MD, Professor, UTHSC
Wendy Likes, PhD, DNSc, APRN, Dean, UTHSC

Interventionalists' Experiences Remotely Addressing Cancer Pain
Sarah A. Minteer, PhD, Assistant Professor of Health Services Research, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Andrea L. Cheville, MD, Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Navigating Rehabilitation Referrals for Rural Veterans
Mi Jung Lee, PhD, Assistant Professor, VRHRC-GNV and University of Florida
Consuelo Kreider, PhD, Associate Professor, VRHRC-GNV and University of Florida
Jaewon Kang, PhD, Assistant Professor, VRHRC-GNV and Colorado State University
Amber Armstead, PhD, Associate Professor, VRHRC-GNV and Medical University of South Carolina
Kimberly Findley, RN, VRHRC-GNV
Keith Myers, DPT, Director, VRHRC-GNV

Longitudinal Workforce Outcomes of a Rural-Focused Medical School Preadmissions Pathway
Jana Lee, MS, Rural Scholars Program Director, University of Missouri School of Medicine
Whitney LeFevre, MD, Assistant Dean for Rural Health, University of Missouri School of Medicine

Rural Community Health Workers' Early Language Education Videos
Caitlin Raaz, PhD, CCC-SLP, Associate Professor, University of Northern Colorado

Rooted in Rural Care: Expanding Alabama's Health Workforce
Meghan Rivera, EdD, MPH, MHA, Assistant Director of Rural Programs, The University of Alabama
Antonio Gardner, PhD, MS, MCHES, Director of Education and Evaluation for Rural Programs, The University of Alabama
Drake Lavender, MD, Director of Rural Programs, The University of Alabama
Jackie Luker, MD, Associate Director of Rural Programs, The University of Alabama
Candace Lacey, MS, Rural Programs Coordinator, The University of Alabama
Cynthia Moore, BS, Rural Programs Coordinator, The University of Alabama

Preferred Physician Recruitment Incentives in Rural VA Facilities
Shannon Kenyon, PhD, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
Aisha Khan, PhD, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Patrick O'Mahen, PhD, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
Vivian Ramont, MPH, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
Sylvia Hysong, PhD, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center

Missouri Rural Drowning Risk Analysis for 2020-2025 – For Poster Session
Nima Lal, MPH, Student, Missouri State University
Molly Lancaster, PhD MCHES, Assistant Professor, Missouri State University

Geospatial Analysis of Rural Geriatric Care Gaps
Sara Elgayar, MS, Birmingham VA Medical System, Birmingham, AL
Catherine Dawson, MD, New England Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), Bedford VA Medical Center, Bedford, Massachusetts; University Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
Eileen Dryden, PhD, Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research(CHOIR), Bedford VA Medical Center, Bedford, Massachusetts, USA, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, UMass Chan Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
William Hung, MD, Bronx Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), James J. Peters VA Medical Center, Bronx, New York, USA, Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine, New York City, New York, USA
Lauren Moo, MD, New England Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), Bedford VA Medical Center, Bedford, Massachusetts, USA, Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research (CHOIR), Bedford VA Medical Center, Bedford, Massachusetts, USA, Department of Neurology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
Margaret Ding, MS, Bronx Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), James J. Peters VA Medical Center, Bronx, New York, USA
Emily Franzosa, DrPH, Bronx Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), James J. Peters VA Medical Center, Bronx, New York, USA, Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine, New York City, New York, USA

Five Years of STRETCH-OB Residency Track
Tsai Ling Liao, MD, Associate Director Family Medicine Residency Program
Emily Orr, MA, Research Associate, Department of Family and Community Medicine
Manorama Khare, PhD, MS, Research Professor, Director Division of Health Research and Evaluation
Joseph Garry, MD, FAAFP, FACSM, Professor and Head, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford

County-Level Variation in Distance to Pharmacy Services Among Tennessee Medicaid Enrollees

Satya Surbhi, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), Memphis
Aravind Dhanabal, MS, Data Analyst, UTHSC; Tyra Girdwood, PhD, RN, UTHSC
Md Sultan Mahmood, PhD, UTHSC
Matt Harris, PhD, UT Knoxville; James E. Bailey, MD, MPH, UTHSC
Wendy Likes, PhD, UTHSC

Rural-Urban Differences in Colorectal Cancer Screening among US Adults by Eligibility Status
Sarah A Nowak, PhD, Associate Professor
Brianna Holston, Research Assistant
Erika Ziller, PhD, Professor, Director, Northeast Rural Health Research Center

Georgia Apex: Sustainable Mental Health for Rural Schools
Lacey Howcroft, MPH, CHES, Research Associate II at the Georgia Health Policy Center at Georgia State University
Jeniece Cordova, MSW, MPH, Research Associate II at the Georgia Health Policy Center at Georgia State University
Dr. Danielle Alexander, Ed.D., LPC, Program Manager at the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.

Telehealth experiences among AI/AN Veterans: A qualitative evaluation
Linda Am, MPH, Center for Healthcare Optimization and Implementation Research (CHOIR), Department of Veterans Affairs, Bedford, MA
Mario Venegas, PhD, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness, and Safety (IQuESt). Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, Houston, TX, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
Camilla Pimentel, PhD, Center for Healthcare Optimization and Implementation Research (CHOIR), Department of Veterans Affairs, Bedford, MA, New England Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), Department of Veterans Affairs, Bedford, MA, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA
Victoria Ngo, PhD, New England Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), Department of Veterans Affairs, Bedford, MA
Maria Venegas, PhD, Center for Healthcare Optimization and Implementation Research (CHOIR), Department of Veterans Affairs, Bedford, MA, New England Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), Department of Veterans Affairs, Bedford, MA, Boston University School of Public Health, Boston MA

Rural–Urban Differences in Medicare Inpatient Discharges for Behavioral Health Conditions, 2019-2023
Hye Jin PARK, PhD, MPH
Oluyomi Oloruntoba, DrPH, BDS, MPH
Gogoal Falia, MBBS, MBA, CPH
Caleb Agboni Yunusa Ochimana, B.Pharm, MBA, MPH
Marvellous Akinlotan, PhD, BDS, MPH
Alva O. Ferdinand, DrPH, JD

Provider-to-Provider Telehealth Use for Rural Obstetric Practitioners: Scoping Review

Chloe Ford, MSc, Research Program Coordinator, Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine
Holly Hudson, MLIS, Assistant Professor and Regional Health Sciences Librarian. University of Illinois Chicago
David Pluta, MPH, MSN
University of Chicago Medicine
Kristine Zimmermann, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford and University of Illinois Chicago
Jesseca Pirkle, MD, MPH, Family Medicine Resident, University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford
Manorama Khare, PhD, MS, Research Professor, University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford
Joseph Garry, MD, FAAFP, FACSM, Professor of Clinical Family Medicine and Head, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford

Policy Variation in Medicaid Children's Dental Coverage - For Poster Session

Taryn Farrell, MPH1,2
Cassie Odahowski, PhD1
Emma Boswell MPH1,2
Peiyin Hung PhD1,2
Elizabeth Crouch PhD1,2
1.University of South Carolina Rural Health Research Center, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina (220 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 204, Columbia, SC 29201) 2.Health Services Policy & Management, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina (921 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201)

Healthcare Access: Rural Veterans with Serious Mental Illness

Alexandra B. Caloudas, PhD, Research Health Scientist
Amber B. Amspoker, PhD, Health Science Specialist
Ashley Smith, MA, Health Science Specialist
Liang Chen, MD, MS, Senior Biostatistician
Amy K. Cuellar, PhD, ABSMIP, Psychologist
Giselle Day, PhD, MPH, Health Science Specialist
Alexandra Zingg, PhD, MPH, MS, Postdoctoral Fellow
Julianna Hogan, PhD, Research Health Scientist
Jan A. Lindsay, PhD, Co-Director South Central Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center
All authors are affiliated with Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Center.

Housing Insecurity Among Rural Veterans: a Cross-Sectional Analysis

Olivia C. Reynolds, M.P.H., Research Assistant, VA Portland Healthcare System
Kathleen F. Carlson, M.S., Ph.D., Core Investigator, VA Portland Healthcare System
Sarah A. Shull, Ph.D., Research Data Analyst, VA Portland Healthcare System

Jack Tsai, Ph.D., Research Director, National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans
Jessica J. Wyse, Ph.D., M.P.P., Core Investigator, VA Portland Healthcare System

Rural-Urban Disparities in Hospitalization and Emergency Department Visits Among Adults with Mental Health Challenges in the United States
Peiyin Hung, PhD
Taryn Farrell, MPH
Emma Boswell, MPH
Haoyuan Gao, MPH
Jiajia Zhang, PhD
Elizabeth Crouch, PhD
All authors from University of South Carolina Rural Health Research Center.

Pharmacist-Initiated Hormonal Contraception in North Carolina
Mollie Scott, Pharm.D., BCACP, CPP, FASHP, FNCAP
Amanda Savage,Pharm.D.
Macary Marciniak, Pharm.D., BCACP, FAPhA

National trends in rural Veterans' receipt of contraception
Siobhan Mahorter, MPH, Research Health Science Specialist (1)
Deirdre Quinn, PhD, MSc, MLitt, Investigator (1,2)
Maria Mor, PhD3, Research Health Science Specialist (1,2)
Hongwei Zhang, MS, Research Health Science Specialist (1)
Martha Michel, PhD, MS, Research Health Science Specialist (1)
Andrew Tjader, BS5, Research Health Science Specialist (1)
Shannon Mitchell, MPH, MSW, Research Health Science Specialist (1)
Amanda Johnson, MD, FACOG, Director of Reproductive Health (1)
Elizabeth Patton, MD MPhil MSc, Deputy Director of Reproductive Health (1)
Sonya Borrero, MD, MS, Investigator (1,2) Lisa Callegari, MD, MPH, Investigator (1,3)
(1)US Veterans Health Administration, (2)University of Pittsburgh, (3) University of Washington

Rural Pharmacy Practice: Drivers, Barriers, and Educational Influences
Megan Undeberg, PharmD, Clinical Professor, Washington State University College of Pharmacy
Alice Hemenway, PharmD, Clinical Associate Professor, University of Illinois Chicago Retzky College of Pharmacy
Allison Schriever, PharmD Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Illinois Chicago Retzky College of Pharmacy
Heidi Olson, PharmD, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Illinois Chicago Retzky College of Pharmacy;

Rural Veterans and Perceived Quality of VA-Purchased Care
Brooke Jespersen, PhD (Office of Academic Affiliations Advanced Fellow, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System)

Elizabeth Hulen, PhD (Administrative Officer, VHA Office of Rural Health Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Portland)
Diana Govier, PhD, MPH (Core Investigator, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VHA Office of Rural Health Veterans Health Resource Center – Portland)

Rural Readiness of Behavioral Health Training Programs
Natalia Oster, PhD; Research Scientist, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, University of Washington
C. Holly A. Andrilla, MS; Deputy Director, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, University of Washington
Janessa Graves, PhD; Director, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, University of Washington

Community Care Service Referrals for Older Rural Veterans
Chalise Carlson, MA, Data Analyst, VA Palo Alto Healthcare System GRECC, Palo Alto CA, VHA Office of Rural Health, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Salt Lake City, UT
Carter H. Davis, PhD, Advanced Fellow in Geriatrics, VA Palo Alto Healthcare System Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), Palo Alto, CA
Lynsay Paiko, PhD, Advanced Fellow in Geriatrics, VA Palo Alto Healthcare System Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), Palo Alto, CA
Zachary Burningham, PhD, Research Scientist, VHA Office of Rural Health, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Salt Lake City, UT
Christine E. Gould, PhD, ABPP, Research Psychologist and Project Director, VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center, Palo Alto, CA, Stanford University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Palo Alto, CA, VHA Office of Rural Health, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Salt Lake City, UT

Accelerating Impact: Updated Rural HPV Cancer Prevention Priorities
Nicole Williams, MPH, Program Coordinator, HPV Cancer Prevention Program, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Julia Brown, MPH, Program Manager, HPV Cancer Prevention Program, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Andrea Stubbs, MPA, PhD, Administrative Director, HPV Cancer Prevention Program, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Heather Brandt, PhD, Director, HPV Cancer Prevention Program, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Tackling the "Tyranny of Distance" through Tele-Geriatrics Services
Christine E. Gould, PhD, Research Psychologist, VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Salt Lake City
Lynsay Paiko, PhD, Advanced Fellow in Geriatrics, VA Palo Alto Health Care System
Marisa-Francesca Lindsey, BS, Project Coordinator, VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Salt Lake City
Marika B. Humber, PhD, Qualitative Analyst, VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Salt Lake City

Leah M. Haverhals, PhD, MA, Implementation Scientist, Seattle-Denver Center for Innovation, Eastern Colorado Health Care System

Patterns of Veteran Suicidal Self-Directed Violence in Oregon– For Poster Session
Jason I. Chen
Mary J. Bollinger
Rachel A. Phillips

Geographic variation in breast cancer screening among rural- compared to urban-residing women Veterans
Sarah Vlajic, MS (Biostatistician VA Portland Health Care System)
Sarah Shull, PhD (Data Analyst, VA Portland Health Care System)
Elizabeth R. Hooker, MS, MPH (Biostatistician, VA Portland Health Care System)
Leah L. Zullig, PhD, MPH (Investigator, Durham VA Health Care System)
Jenny Krause, MD (San Fracisco VA Health Care System)
Sarah Ono PhD (Operations Director, VHA Office of Rural Health Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Portland)
Samuel T. Edwards, MD, MPH (Investigator and Staff Physician, VA Portland Health Care System)

Growing and Connecting: Rural Oregon Veteran Suicide Prevention
Summer Newell, PhD, MPH, Health Services Researcher, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System
Kyla Tompkins, MA, Research Associate, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System
Jason I. Chen, PhD, Core Investigator, Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care, VA Portland Health Care System, Department of Psychiatry, Oregon Health & Science University, Oregon Health and Science University-Portland State University School of Public Health

Unequal Prescriptions: Assessing Disparities in Medication Use in Rural Communities
Adrian Aguilar, PharmD Candidate; University of Arizona

Opioid misuse and remediation in rural North Carolina
Annie Preaux, PhD, MPH (Assistant Professor of Public Health, Appalachian State University)
Martie Thompson, PhD (Blue Cross Endowed Professor of Public Health, Appalachian State University)
Christine Quattro, PhD (Assistant Professor of Geography and Planning, Appalachian State University)
Ben Alexander-Eitzman, PhD, MSW (Associate Professor of Social Work, Appalachian State University)
Maggie Sugg, PhD (Associate Professor of Geography and Planning, Appalachian State University)

Rural-urban adult mental health across birth cohorts

Anna Shetler, PhD - Postdoctoral Associate - University of Minnesota
Carrie Henning-Smith, PhD, MPH, MSW - Associate Professor - University of Minnesota
CeRon Ford, MPH - PhD Candidate - University of Minnesota
Katie Rydberg, MPH - Program Manager - University of Minnesota
Mariana Tuttle, MPH - Research Fellow - University of Minnesota
Alva O. Ferdinand, DrPH, JD

Rural colorectal cancer incidence rates by state
Emily E. Adam, MS, Epidemiologist, CDC Division of Cancer Prevention and Control (all)
Jennifer E. Boehm, MPH, Public Health Advisor
Simone Gray, PhD, Statistician
S. Jane Henley, MSPH, Epidemiologist
Christine M. Kava, PhD, MA, Epidemiologist
Elizabeth A. Rohan, PhD, MSW, Health Scientist
Susan Sabatino, MD, MPH, Medical Officer
Julie S. Townsend, MS, Epidemiologist

'Bridge over Troubled Waters': Strengthening Rural Healthcare through Community
Karla L. Miller, MD, Staff Rheumatologist and Associate Professor of Medicine at VA Salt Lake City Health Care and University of Utah SOM
Jennifer Hale-Gallardo (co-first author), PhD, Health Service Research Specialist, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-SLC

Rural Emergency Hospitals and Telehealth: Perspectives and Analysis
Marc Heincelman, MD, MPH, SFHM,Associate Professor of Medicine Associate Dean for Career Advising, College of Medicine Director, Division of Hospital Medicine Medical University of South Carolina
Yotam Papo, MD
Jillian Harvey, PhD
Dunc Williams, PhD

Bringing Geriatric Care Evaluation to Rural Areas: The GRECC Connect Project
Shatice Murray
Ina Engel
Kathleen Hoenig
Lauren Moo
Eileen Dryden
Steve Barczi
Michelle Rossi
The GRECC Connect team

Development of Veteran Health on Native Lands Dashboard
Carol E. Kaufman, PhD [1,2]
Cynthia W. Goss, MA [1,2]

Kathy Marchant-Miros, MPH, RN [3]
Katherine G. Bay, PhD, MPH [4]
Rene L. Begay, MPH [1,2]
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Missed Skin Cancer Diagnoses in Rural Primary Care

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"A Disjointed System": Rural Older Veteran Care Coordination

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An Analysis of the Rural Health Experience: An Innovative Healthcare Pathway Program

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Beyond the Ivory Tower: Expanding Rural Specialty Expertise

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Continued Declines Across States in Hospital-Based Obstetric Services
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Preventing Unintentional Firearm Injuries: Veteran Perspectives

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Measuring Obstetric Care Access with Different 'Rural' Definitions
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Rural Areas Trail Behind in Medicaid's Shift Toward Home- and Community-based Services
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Rural-Urban Differences in FEMA National Risk Index Scores
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Patient Portal Enrollment in a Rural Health Center
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Overcoming the Top Barriers to Rural CHW Reimbursement
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Built for the Backroads: Postgraduate Outcomes of RVUCOM's Rural & Wilderness Medicine Track
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Firearm Injury Prevention with Rural Veterans: Multi-stakeholder evaluation
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Impact of Virtual Nursing on Care Delivery in Rural Hospitals
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Pathway to Increase the Healthcare Workforce in Underserved Areas
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Veteran Perceptions of Low-Earth Orbit Satellite Internet
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The Power of Partnerships in Sustaining Behavioral Healthcare Access Programs: Lessons Learned from Technical Assistance Activities

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Compliance Evaluation of Autonomous Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Licensure Requirements in Florida

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U.S. Rural and Non-Rural Kidney Transplant Patients: Role of Telemedicine

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Trends in specialty consultations for diabetic foot ulcer

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Shaping Future Nurses Through Rural Clinical Immersion

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Outcomes of a Rural Hospital Tele-Hospitalist Model

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Rural-Urban Veteran Differences in Dementia Specialty Care Utilization

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Expanding Rural Access Through Satellite-Enabled Mobile Telehealth: A Nurse-Practitioner-Led Model Using Starlink and TytoCare in Central Appalachia
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Strengthening Rural Healthcare Delivery Through Administrative Support Education
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Responding to Extremely High Rates of Perinatal Depression in Rural Maine: Innovative Ways to Address the Crisis
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Strengthening Rural VA Teams Through the AIM-HI Initiative
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Scoping Review of Telehealth Interventions for Mental Health in Rural Communities
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Chronic Kidney Disease Knowledge Among Rural Ugandan Diabetics

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Underrepresentation of Rural Populations in Cancer-related Clinical Trials

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