



**National Rural
Health Association**
47th Annual Rural Health Conference
9th Rural Hospital Innovation Summit
May 7-10, 2024 – New Orleans, LA
Agenda

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

5 – 7 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Welcome

Location TBD

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

7 – 8 a.m.

Breakfast

Room TBD

8 – 9:30 a.m.

Opening Session & Keynote - Doing Weird Stuff and Why it's Good for Us

Room TBD

Beau Miles, YouTuber, educator, author, and outdoorsman

Beau Miles, author of *The Backyard Adventurer*, YouTuber, wants to grow better pumpkins. In the meantime, he runs around the place, paddles here and there, and makes things from other people's junk. His PhD on expeditionary sea kayaking is a great door stop, and his two small girls are, he hates to admit it, the hardest adventure he's ever had. This talk is about the often untapped brilliance in oddity, stuff, curiosity and the endless potential of personal adventure.

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

1A

Intimate Partner Violence, Pregnancy, and Disparities among Rural Women

Room TBD

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

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

*Susan Thomas, MS Ed, BME, A.T. Still University College of Graduate Health Studies Instructional
Designer & Adjunct Faculty*

Aaron Thomas, LPN, Complete Family Medicine Licensed Practical Nurse

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

1B

JAHF Session

Room TBD

1C

Area Deprivation Index in Rural Policy and Research

Room TBD

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

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

Alexa McKinley, JD, National Rural Health Association Regulatory Affairs Manager

Amy Kind, MD, PhD, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Associate

Dean for Social Health Sciences and Programs Executive Director & UW Center for Health

Disparities Research (CHDR) Professor, Department of Medicine Division of Geriatrics Wisconsin

Partnership Program Director

The Area Deprivation Index (ADI) is a neighborhood-level measure of socioeconomic disadvantage which is being used by various entities (including Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) to align resources with need. This session will describe the potential implications of using the ADI specifically in research and policy for rural communities.

1D

Addressing complex health and Social Needs of Populations in the Delta Region - FORHP

Room TBD

1E

Project ECHO: Responding to Children's Mental Health Crisis

Room TBD

Julia Matakis, MPH, American Academy of Pediatrics Mental Health Programs Senior Manager

Rosalinda Saucedo, MS, CHES, American Academy of Pediatrics Rural Health Program Manager

Oyin Oloniniyi, MPH, American Academy of Pediatrics ECHO Initiatives Program Manager

Mental health care is essential for overall children's health. The AAP uses ECHO virtual learning communities to enhance pediatric clinicians' capacity to address mental health concerns in

practice. We will share how the ECHO model has been used, lessons learned and offer innovative strategies for using ECHO in rural/frontier communities.

1F

Ambulances and Emergency Responders in Rural America - FORHP

Room TBD

RHIS – Operations Track

Rural Leader Burnout: Prevalence, Cause, & Implications

Room TBD

Bill Auxier, PhD, Center for Rural Health Leadership President & CEO

Erin Sullivan, PhD, Suffolk University Sawyer Business School Associate Professor of Healthcare Administration

Benjamin Anderson, MBA, MHCDS, Colorado Hospital Association Vice President of Rural Health and Hospitals

John Henderson, Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals CEO

Burnout among healthcare leaders who face workforce shortages and higher workloads remains unknown and under investigated. New data will be shared specific to the prevalence of burnout in rural healthcare leaders, their intent to leave their role, and what leaders perceive as the major causes of their burnout.

RHIS – Innovations Track

GME Financing in Rural Hospitals

Room TBD

Emily Hawes, PharmD, BCPS, CPP, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Department of Family Medicine Professor and THCPD Technical Assistance Centers Deputy Director

George Holmes, PhD, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health Professor and University of North Carolina Sheps Center for Health Services Research Director

Mukesh Adhikari, MPH, University of North Carolina Sheps Center for Health Services Research Graduate Research Assistant

Lori Rodefeld, MS, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative Director of Rural GME Development and THCPD Technical Assistance Centers Director of GME Development

Financial implications of residency programs are complicated and may be difficult for rural hospitals like Sole Community Hospitals and Medicare-Dependent Hospitals considering graduate medical education expansion to estimate. This session will describe how Medicare payment methodology correlates to the existence, size, and expansion of residency training at rural hospitals.

1G

Contributed Research Papers

Room TBD

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Poster Session/Break

Room TBD

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Plenary Session – HRSA Rural Health Update

Room TBD

Tom Morris, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Associate Administrator

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

Room TBD

1:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Student Track Session/Student Constituency Group Meeting

Room TBD

2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

2A

American Heart Association Session

Room TBD

2B

Increasing Access for Rural Individuals Impacted by Disabilities

Room TBD

Keisha Wells, University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health Rural Project Senior Manager

Patrick Kitzman, PhD, MSPT, University of Kentucky Director of Appalachian Center for Assistive Technology

Frances Feltner, DNP, MSN, RN, FAAN, UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health Director

The new Appalachian Center for Assistive Technology at the UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health is a regional hub that brings together community-based programs to provide assistive technology, workforce training, loan locker, maker space and refurbishing to rural individuals impacted with disabilities.

2C

Increasing Rural Health Capital through Multi-Sector Partnerships

Room TBD

Kristin Juliar, MA, National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) Rural Health Capital Resources Consultant

Karen Cheeseman, MA, Mackinac Straits Health System President & CEO

Christine McPherson, MBA, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Executive Director

Ashley Hernandez, MA, Build Healthy Places Network Research and Product Manager

Build Healthy Places Network, utilizing their Playbook for multi-sector rural health partnerships and investment, and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health will describe how to build equitable, strategic partnerships to increase access to capital for rural health, featuring case studies and practical strategies for successful community projects.

2D

Rural Maternal Health Disparities During 2018-2022

Room TBD

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

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

Cassie Odahowski, PhD, University of South Carolina Rural and Minority Health Research Center Research Associate

This presentation provides an overview of rural and racial disparities in contraindicated cesarean deliveries, telehealth-driven breastfeeding support services, and postpartum hospitalizations involving mental illness or substance use disorder among birthing people in South Carolina over recent years. Results will highlight areas for future intervention to improve rural maternal health outcomes.

2E

State Strategies to Bolster the Rural Physician Workforce

Room TBD

Lori Rodefeld, MS, RRPD / WCRGME Director of GME Development

Erin Fraher, PhD, MPP, UNC Chapel Hill Department of Family Medicine Associate Professor

Charlie Alfero, MA, RRPD Technical Assistance Center Advisor & Charlie Alfero Consulting Consultant

Emily Hawes, PharmD, BCPS, CPP, UNC Chapel Hill Department of Family Medicine Professor

As rural hospitals face increasing physician shortages, states have implemented strategies to grow their own supply of doctors. Funding and support of graduate medical education (GME) are often barriers to developing and sustaining rural residency training. The session will provide an overview of trends and opportunities in state GME development.

2F

FORHP Policy Update

Room TBD

RHIS – Operations Track

National CAH Quality Inventory and Assessment: Pilot Results

Room TBD

Megan Lahr, MPH, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center Flex Monitoring Team Senior Research Fellow

Sarah Brinkman, MBA, MA, CPHQ, Stratis Health Program Manager

Madeleine Pick, MPH, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center Flex Monitoring Team Research Fellow

The National Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Quality Inventory and Assessment, supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, was developed to gather standard information about CAH quality infrastructure, service lines, and related quality measures. This session will describe results from the national pilot assessment and explore related implications.

RHIS – Innovations Track

Emerging Issue

TBD

2G

Contributed Research Papers

Room TBD

3:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Poster Session/Break

Room TBD

4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

3A

Opioid Use Disorder: Treatment and Policy Change Impact

Room TBD

*Holly Andrilla, MS, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center Deputy Director & Research Scientist
Principal*

Davis Patterson, PhD, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center Director

This session will discuss new research findings on opioid use disorder treatment for rural patients with Medicaid or commercial insurance, including changes in prescribing practices since removal of the requirement for prescribers to have a Drug Enforcement Administration X-waiver. We will discuss policy and practice implications with session attendees.

Trainings for Diagnosing and Treating Opioid Use Disorder

Room TBD

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

Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) are associated with reduced overdose and overall mortality. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention developed online trainings to support clinicians, including those in rural healthcare settings, with diagnosing OUD and treatment with MOUD. The trainings are available on-demand to clinicians across the country.

3B

The latest on Rural Health Clinics

Room TBD

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

This session will discuss the most up to date issues concerning Rural Health Clinic compliance. We'll discuss the most common deficiencies seen this past year with tips on how to avoid them in the future. We'll talk about practical ways you can keep your clinic survey ready at all times.

3C

Tackling the Social Drivers of Health in Rural Communities

Room TBD

Surabhi Dabir, USDA Rural Development Senior Policy Advisor

Kellie Kubena, USDA Rural Health Liaison

This session dissects some of the unique challenges and often-overlooked factors shaping health outcomes in rural communities. USDA understands the urgent need to address the root causes that impact health, such as housing, clean drinking water, and healthy food. USDA's many programs can help address health disparities in rural communities.

3D

Implications of Data Quality on Rural Health

Room TBD

Kevin Bennett, PhD, University of South Carolina School of Medicine Professor and Department Chair

Songyuan Deng, PhD, MBA, University of South Carolina School of Medicine Associate Scientist

Qian Huang, PhD, MA, MPA, East Tennessee State University Research Assistant Professor

It is important to understand the practical implications of data quality to better inform practice and interventions. Limitations include inconsistent and contradictory definitions of rural, improper coding of variables, and ambiguous formulations of concepts. These can lead to unsubstantiated assumptions or inappropriate policy or healthcare decisions.

3E

Expansion of the Community Health Worker Workforce

Room TBD

Cody Mullen, PhD, Purdue University Clinical Associate Professor

Randolph Hubach, Purdue University Associate Professor

Community Health Workers (CHW) are an entry-level public health workforce member to support communities where they are at. This session will discuss the role of a CHW in the community and healthcare setting, initial and advance training required to become a CHW, and billing strategies to support a CHW program.

Examining CHW Employment Characteristics in Four States

Room TBD

Heather Clark, DrPH, Texas A&M University School of Public Health Assistant Research Professor

Aditi Tomar, PhD, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Public Health Post Doctoral Research Associate

Jane Bolin, PhD, JD, BSN, Texas A&M College of Nursing Regents Professor Emerita

Gabriela Boscan, MPH, National Rural Health Association Senior Director of Program Development

This session presents an overview of the rural community health worker (CHW) employment characteristics funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. Employment data from the four included states/regions will be presented. Data collected includes, but is not limited to, titles, roles and responsibilities, and expectation of knowledge/work topics.

3F

CDC Rural Health Update - FORHP

Room TBD

RHIS – Operations Track

Rural Hospital CEO Recruitment and Retention Community Apgar

Room TBD

*David Schmitz, MD, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences
Professor & Chair*

Stacy Kusler, University of North Dakota Center for Rural Health Workforce Specialist

*Ed Baker, PhD, Boise State University Professor and Boise State University Center for Health
Policy Director*

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

RHIS – Innovations Track

Value-Based Care: Improving Outcomes, Managing Populations

Room TBD

Stacy Fitzpatrick, BS, MyMichigan Medical Center Sault Manager of Patient Clinics Primary Care

*Stephanie Pins, MSA, CPHQ, MyMichigan Medical Center Sault Director of Quality, Risk, and
Compliance*

Aaron Valerio, MHA, Signify Health Regional Vice President

This session will discuss first-hand experiences about leveraging team-based care and accountable care organization participation to improve quality, financial outcomes and address health equity needs. This session shares how providers leverage their accountable care organization participation to implement population health initiatives, improve patient care, and successfully prepare for downside risk.

3G

Contributed Research Papers

Room TBD

Thursday, May 9, 2024

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Constituency Group Meetings and Continental Breakfast

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

FQHC/RHC CG Meeting **Room**

Research & Education CG Meeting **Room**

State Association Council **Room**

Statewide Health Resources CG Meeting **Room**

Hospital CG Meeting **Room**

Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Policy Issue Group **Room**

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

4A

Increase Capacity to Address Children’s Mental Health in Rural Practices

Room TBD

Julia Matakis, MPH, American Academy of Pediatrics Mental Health Programs Senior Manager

The AAP delivers technical assistance, training, and support to clinicians providing pediatric primary care to close gaps in knowledge, confidence or skills needed to respond to the mental/behavioral health concerns they see. Specific examples, lessons learned, and the impact on pediatric mental health practice in rural/frontier communities will be discussed.

4B

The Importance of Exploring Intersectionality in Rural Research

Room TBD

The panel, consisting of All of Us Research Program partners, will discuss intersectionality in rural communities, focusing on the experience of being a Veteran and living in rural or being in the LGBTQIA+ community and living in rural. Partners will explore the importance of authentic data collection and reveal how data on intersectionality is contributing to the Research Program.

4C

AgriStress Helpline: 24/7 Suicide Crisis Support for Agricultural Communities

Room TBD

Tara Haskins, DNP, RN, AHN-BC, AgriSafe Total Farmer Health Director

AgriSafe’s AgriStress Helpline launched in four states in 2022. This customized line was developed to provide suicide crisis care and connection to mental health and agricultural resources for the agricultural community. This session will share the development journey, services, and progress of the only 24/7 suicide crisis line for agriculture.

FarmResponse for Healthcare Professionals: Improving Healthcare Delivery

Room TBD

Tara Haskins, DNP, RN, AHN-BC, AgriSafe, Total Farmer Health Director

Cheryl Beseler, PhD, University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health Department of Environmental, Agricultural and Occupational Health Associate Professor

AgriSafe's FarmResponse is an on-demand course for healthcare professionals through AgriSafe's Learning Lab. Based on the Total Farmer Health model, FarmResponse provides an understanding of farming culture and work on mental well-being and health-seeking behaviors. This session will present evaluation data of over 500 FarmResponse learners and future FarmResponse initiatives.

4D

Planning for the Future of Rural Aging

Room TBD

Qian Huang, PhD, MA, MPA, East Tennessee State University Research Assistant Professor
Priscilla Rogers, PhD, MA, American Foundation for the Blind Special Advisor on Aging and Vision Loss

Amy Hoffmaster, MSPH, Center for Health Care Strategies Senior Program Officer
Hanna Arn, MA, Division of TennCare System Transformation Assistant Director

Explore innovative solutions and collaborative strategies to address the unique challenges faced by older adults in rural communities as we work to create a thriving rural aging landscape. Crucial to these endeavors is a comprehensive statewide multi-sector plan for aging.

4E

Nurse Preceptor Development: A Key Component in Rural Retention

Room TBD

Jessica Ociepka, MSN, RN-BC, University of Iowa College of Nursing Online Nurse Residency Program Coordinator

Jessica Grote, DNP, RN, NPD-BC, University of Iowa College of Nursing Online Nurse Residency Program Coordinator

The need for providing a dedicated support person to the new graduate nurse is emphasized throughout the literature. Preceptor development provides an opportunity for engagement and professional growth as well as an opportunity to role model desired behaviors. The importance of preceptor development is imperative to retention in rural facilities.

4F

Rural 101: Applications and Implications of Defining "Rural" - FORHP

Room TBD

RHIS – Operations Track

USDA/NRHA Hospital TA Project

Room TBD

RHIS – Innovations Track

The Future of Rural: Sustainability Through Innovation

Room TBD

Bethany Adams, MHA, FACHE, MT, National Rural Health Resource Center Director

Suzanne Snyder, MSW, Health Resources and Services Administration Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Hospital State Division Public Health Analyst

Steve Pautler, MHA, BSN, FACHE, Ste, Genevieve County Memorial Hospital CEO

Through the Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program, hospitals have succeeded in improving their financial and operational efficiencies and enhancing their coordination of care to strengthen their healthcare system. This session will delve into critical access hospital financial performance and the linkage between finances, community engagement, and service delivery.

4G

Contributed Research Papers

Room TBD

10:15 – 10:45 a.m.

Poster Session/Break

Room TBD

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

5A

Physical, Behavioral, and Oral Health of Rural Children

Room TBD

Elizabeth Crouch, PhD, Rural and Minority Health Research Center Director & Associate Professor

Demetrius Abshire, PhD, University of South Carolina Associate Professor

Joni Nelson, PhD, Medical University of South Carolina Associate Professor & Division Chief

Rural children and adolescents face health care and socioenvironmental challenges that increase risk for poor health outcomes. A comprehensive examination of health inequities between rural and urban children and adolescents has been limited. This session examines rural- urban differences in physical, behavioral, and oral health by researchers and practitioners.

Community Characteristics and Dentist Availability: A Novel Use of CSVI

Room TBD

*Joni Nelson, PhD, Medical University of South Carolina Associate Professor & Division Chief
Gabriel Benavidez, PhD, Baylor University Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences
Assistant Professor*

*Elizabeth Crouch, PhD, Rural and Minority Health Research Center Director & Associate
Professor*

*Amy Martin, DrPH, Medical University of South Carolina Department of Biomedical and
Community Health Sciences College of Dental Medicine Professor & Chair*

In 2018, only 11% of dentists worked in rural communities. There has been limited research on how community level factors may affect dental care utilization among adults. The session will examine the association between CDC's community social vulnerability index (CSVI) and availability of dentists based on HPSA designations in 2018.

5B

State Level Strategies to Advance Value-Based Care

Room TBD

Clint Mackinney, MD, MS, University of Iowa Clinical Associate Professor

Jennifer Lundblad, PhD, MBA, Stratis Health President & CEO

The Rural Health Value team will present strategies to advance rural value-based care at a state level including lessons learned from North Dakota and Pennsylvania. Strategies include environmental analysis, rural hospital transformation plans, value-based care assessment, state-wide education, financial analyses, state policy partner conversations, and community engagement.

The BIG Shift: Value-Based Healthcare

Room TBD

*LaShandal Pettaway-Brown, MHA, MBA, PCMH-CCE, South Carolina Office of Rural Health
Practice Transformation Consultant*

*Lindsay Williams, RHIT, CCA, PCMH-CCE, South Carolina Office Of Rural Health Practice
Transformation Consultant*

To upsurge the movement to value-based care the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services created several different reimbursement models to support the effort. As the pressure gets heavier from both public and private payers to participate in alternative payment models the question is: Are rural health practices ready?

5C

Improving Care for Rural Native Veterans: Lessons Learned

Room TBD

*Stephanie Day, PhD, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center Baylor College of Medicine
Research Psychologist & Assistant Professor*
Jennifer Freytag, PhD, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center Research Health Scientist
*Kristen Frosio, PhD, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center Baylor College of Medicine Research
Psychologist & Assistant Professor*
Cynthia Goss, MA, Veterans Rural Health Resource Center-Salt Lake City Population Specialist

New VA programs aim to improve healthcare and services for Native Veterans by providing care tailored to Native culture. We discuss lessons learned while collaborating with VA Tribal outreach and community partners to create programs that use digital resources and care coordination to improve access for rural Native Veterans.

5D

Deconstructing how to Identify Rural Community Healthcare Needs Room TBD

Kevin Bennett, PhD, Center for Rural & Primary Healthcare Director
Mark Holmes, PhD, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research Professor & Director
*Kacey Eichelberger, University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville & Prisma Health-
Upstate Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology*

Although rural residents deserve the same healthcare as urban residents, the financial realities of the last decade threaten health equality in rural communities. This “blue-sky” session will be an open, participatory, thoughtful discussion about alternative models of delivery, payment, and partnerships to better serve our rural communities.

5E

Strengthening Access to Specialty Care in Rural Communities Room TBD

*Davis Patterson, PhD, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center Director and Research Associate
Professor*
*David Evans, MD, Department of Family Medicine at the University of Washington School of
Medicine Rosenblatt Family Endowed Professor of Rural Health*
*Nathan L. Maris, MD, Yale University School of Medicine Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Resident
Physician*

Rural communities struggle to access care for common conditions such as cancer, heart disease, pulmonary disease, and stroke. Learn about new research findings on the availability of rural cardiologists, neurologists, oncologists, and pulmonologists, and engage in a discussion of strategies to support patient access to these vital specialty services.

5F

Medicare Advantage Growth Rural Healthcare Impact

Room TBD

Carrie Shaver, DHA, FACHE, Texas Tech University Assistant Professor of Health Management and Leadership

Lisa Rantz, Hawaii State Rural Health Association President

Kevin Lambing, MBA, T.L.L. Temple Foundation Senior Program Officer

While Medicare Advantage (MA) aims to provide additional benefits and potentially lower costs for beneficiaries, concerns have emerged regarding reduced rural beneficiary access to medical and behavioral healthcare, potential impact on the quality of services provided, and the viability of rural healthcare providers within the MA framework.

RHIS – Operations Track

Mobile Simulation Improving Maternal Care in Rural Hospitals

Room TBD

Jill Henkle, RNC-OB, Iowa Statewide Obstetrics Mobile Simulation Team Travel Team

Kokila Thenuwara, MBBS, MD, MME, MHCDS, University of Iowa Obstetric Anesthesiologist

Creating a mobile simulation program for maintaining obstetric skills to rural hospitals with and without birthing services, discuss the planning, building, challenges and successes while building our program, such that other rural state leaders may replicate it. We will provide data, outcomes, and testimonials from our site visits.

RHIS – Innovations Track

The REH Journey – Experiences and Lessons Learned

Room TBD

Ralph Llewellyn, Eide Bailly, LLP Partner

The Rural Emergency Hospital Program is a new program available to rural hospitals. As is often the case, new programs can be confusing and create challenges. This session will explore the REH program with an emphasize on the opportunities and challenges being discovered in the implementation process.

5G

Contributed Research Papers

Room TBD

12:00 – 1:45 p.m.

Rural Health Awards Luncheon

Room TBD

Join NRHA for a tribute to the 2024 Rural Health Award winners.

1:45 – 3:15 p.m.
Terry Reilly Lecture
TBD

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.
Poster Session/Break
Room TBD

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions

6A
Advancing Rural Behavioral Health through Telehealth-enabled Collaborative Care
Room TBD

Ryan Kruis, MSW, Medical University of South Carolina Center for Telehealth Director of Grants & Research

Primary care is the most common setting for rural behavioral health (BH) services. The psychiatric collaborative care model holds great promise for rural BH, but uptake has proved challenging. This session will provide an overview of the model and showcase its successful deployment in rural South Carolina using telehealth.

6B
High-Value Retention Strategies for Rural Healthcare Professionals
Room TBD

Mykell Barnacle, North Dakota State University Associate Professor of Practice

Rural settings provide a unique practice experience for new health professionals. Implementing high-value strategies that provide transitional support do not need to be expensive or burdensome for healthcare systems. Administrators can create intentional experiences that bolster clinical readiness as well as soft skills that are needed for successful rural practice.

Retention: Today's Top Priority
Room TBD

SuLynn Mester, DNP, MSN, RHCNOC, RN, University of Texas Arlington Clinical Assistance Professor Center for Rural Health and Nursing
Bill Auxier, PhD, Center for Rural Health Leadership President & CEO

This is a challenging time for rural health leaders. Recruitment and retention have always been an issue in rural health and current workforce shortages have made recruitment and retention

top priorities of rural health leaders today. Learn what effective strategies are being implemented based on research and real-world experience.

6C

Recourse for Rural Health Equity

Room TBD

Carrie Howard, MA, CPHQ, CPPS, Stratis Health Program Manager

Sarah Brinkman, MA, MBA, CPHQ, Stratis Health Program Manager

re-course (NOUN): “a source of help in a difficult situation” - Facilitated by Stratis Health, key lessons from rural health equity learning collaboratives that leveraged strategies including evidence-based resources, peer discussions, an organizational self-assessment, and action planning to embed equity into organizational culture and reduce health disparities in rural communities.

6D

Community Health Workers’ Response to Eastern Kentucky Flooding

Room TBD

Michaela Amburgey, CCHW, Kentucky Homeplace Rural Project Manager

William Baker, BARN, Kentucky Homeplace Director

Carole Frazier, CCHW, Kentucky Homeplace Certified Community Health Worker

The Kentucky Homeplace service area was devastated by record flooding in July 2022. Our Community Health Workers (CHWs) were able to provide immediate and ongoing assistance to the affected communities. CHWs filled a unique role during this time by linking victims to much-needed assistance through trusted partnerships with community organizations.

Listening Sessions for Rural and Frontier Emergency Response

Room TBD

*Christen Minnick, MPH, East Tennessee State University Center for Rural Health Research
Director of Operations*

*Michael Meit, MA, MPH, East Tennessee State University Center for Rural Health Research
Director*

Luciana Rocha, MPH, NORC at the University of Chicago Research Scientist

Health departments serving rural and frontier jurisdictions have unique emergency response needs that were highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. To support and strengthen the rural public health workforce to mitigate future response events, a series of regional listening sessions resulted in tailored training and response recommendations for these communities.

6E

Cultivating Rural Health: Leveraging Pharmacists to Bridge Primary Care

Room TBD

Megan Undeberg, PharmD, Washington State University Associate Professor & Director of Rural Health Curriculum

Stephanie Kiser, RPh, Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) Director for Interprofessional Education and Practice & Professor of the Practice and Director of Rural Health
Elizabeth Hall-Lipsy, JD, MPH, University of Arizona R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs and Assessment & Associate Professor of Practice & Health Disparities Professional Certificate/RHPP Director

Heidi Olson, PharmD, University of Illinois-Chicago Clinical Assistant Professor & Clinical Pharmacist & Director of Rural Pharmacy Education (RPHARM) Program

Pharmacists are key members of the primary care workforce. Serving as a point of contact in the heart of rural communities, pharmacists support patient-provider access to healthcare. This session shares how five rural pharmacy programs are training pharmacists to bridge rural health care needs.

6F

Where Things Stand: Medicaid/CHIP Unwinding Community Interventions - FORHP

Room TBD

RHIS – Operations Track

Rural Health Clinic Strategies for Rural Hospitals

Room TBD

John Gale, MS, Maine Rural Health Research Center Senior Research Associate and Director of Policy Engagement

Development of a Rural Health Clinic (RHC) strategy can position rural hospitals to succeed in the value-focused healthcare marketplace by emphasizing high-value primary care, chronic care management, wellness, prevention, behavioral health, and population health services. This session describes how rural hospitals can implement a comprehensive RHC strategic plan.

RHIS – Innovations Track

OAT

Room TBD

6G

Contributed Research Papers

Room TBD

Friday, May 10, 2024

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

USDA's Office of Rural Development Update

Room TBD

Joaquin Altoro, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Rural Housing Service Administrator

8:30-9:30 a.m.

Washington Update

Room TBD

Carrie Cochran-McClain, NRHA Chief Policy Officer

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

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Break

9:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

7A

Expanding Access to Pulmonary Rehabilitation in High-Mortality Communities

Room TBD

Rachel Moscato, MPH, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Hospital State Division Director

Joann Emge, Sparta Community Hospital Chief Executive Officer

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

Tabitha Stone, National Rural Health Resource Center Program Coordinator II

FORHP initiated a project to enhance rural access to pulmonary rehabilitation services, addressing high COPD mortality rates. The Project, led by The National Rural Health Resource Center, provided technical assistance, funding, and resources to selected hospitals. The aim was to establish PR programs, reduce COPD-related complications and improve rural health.

7C

Community-Based Nontraditional Access Points for Telehealth

Room TBD

Megan Weis, DrPH, MPH, MCHES, South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare Director of Connecting Communities

Pamela DeGuzman, PhD, RN, UVA Health Nurse Scientist

Kevin Lambing, MBA, T.L.L. Temple Foundation Senior Program Officer for Health

Telehealth provides increased access to healthcare, but challenges exist for people living in rural communities. This panel discussion will discuss examples, successes, and challenges to improving health outcomes for people living in rural areas through non-traditional access points to telehealth, including partnering with community-based organizations and using mobile health units.

Transforming Prehospital EMS Care Through Telemedicine

Room TBD

Tyler Price, MD, FAAEM, Avel eCare Medical Director of Emergency

John Gruber, NREMT-P, Avel eCare EMS Operations Manager

Rural ambulance services are struggling to find volunteers and maintain service. In a groundbreaking approach, telemedicine is now supporting Emergency Medical Services professionals across South Dakota. Learn more about this program and how it impacted a volunteer emergency medical technician and his patient who was trampled by a bison.

7D

Public Health Challenges During COVID-19: Insights from South Central Appalachia

Room TBD

Samuel Pettyjohn, DrPH, MPH, East Tennessee State University Assistant Professor

Amy Wahlquist, MS, East Tennessee State University Associate Professor

Hadii Mamadu, PhD, MPA, East Tennessee State University Professor

This session presents insights from studies conducted in South Central Appalachia, shedding light on COVID-19's impact on health disparities and vaccine hesitancy concerns within the different parts of the community. Our findings emphasize the urgent need for tailored interventions, accessible support services, and collaborative efforts by public health practitioners.

Lessons Learned from Rural Door-to-Door COVID Vaccination

Room TBD

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

Wayne Noble, University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health Research Protocol Manager

For 18 months, the University of Kentucky North Fork Valley Community Health Center conducted a door-to-door vaccination campaign that successfully increased COVID-19 vaccination rates to some of the best in the state of Kentucky. This presentation will discuss the methods, barriers and lessons learned from this effort.

7E

Learnings from the Rural Workforce Training Network Program

Room TBD

Carla Freeman, MA, MBA, Georgia Health Policy Center Senior Research Associate

Patricia Burbano, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Public Health Analyst

The Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network grant program seeks to expand public health capacity by supporting health care job development, training, and placement in rural communities. The program provides rural health care networks support to develop training and certification programs to build the public health workforce in four tracks.

7F

Innovative Approaches to Reducing Behavioral and Mental Health Stigma in Rural Areas - FORHP

Room TBD

RHIS – Operations Track

Jackson Parish Hospital: A Rags to Riches Story

Room TBD

Patty Harper, RHIA, CHC, InQuiseek Consulting Consultant

John Morgan, MBA, RN, Jackson Parish Hospital Chief Executive Officer

Jason Thomas, PhD, Jackson Parish Hospital Chief Operations Officer & Chief Information Officer

Jeff Harper, InQuiseek Consulting Principal Consultant

This session will discuss and illustrate the success story of Jackson Parish Hospital including how this rural Louisiana hospital incorporated technology and innovation in its result-oriented, multi-dimensional strategy to transform this Louisiana critical access hospital from top to bottom to a rags to riches story over the last 6 years.

RHIS – Innovations Track

TBA

7G

Contributed Research Papers

Room TBD

11:00 a.m.

End of Annual Conference