

NRHA Rural Health Clinic & Critical Access Hospital Conferences 2025 • Sept. 23-26, Kansas City, Mo.

All general sessions take place in the Chicago Ballroom unless otherwise indicated • Subject to change • Updated 7-23-25

Rural Health Clinic Conference			
Tuesday, September 23			
1 – 1:15 pm	Welcome (15 m)		
1:15 – 2:30 pm	Plenary 1 – Keynote Session - (75 min) The RHC Landscape Post OBBBA <i>Sarah Hohman, National Association of Rural Health Clinics, Government affairs director</i>		
2:30 – 3:30 pm	Plenary 2 (60 m) Mastering RHC Reimbursement: Updates, Cost Reporting & Strategic Compliance <i>Julie Quinn, Health Services Associates, Principal, compliance and cost reporting vice president</i>		
3:30 – 3:45 pm	Break		
3:45 – 5 pm	1A From Burnout to Buy in: Resuscitating the Rural Healthcare Workforce Pamela Buchanan, MD	1B *Identifying Quality Measures for Hospital-Based Rural Health Clinics John Gale, Rebecca Stearns	1C Top Ten Revenue Cycle Take Aways Susan Rohde
Room	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
Wednesday, Sept 24			
7 – 8 am	Continental Breakfast, Registration		
8 – 9:15 am	2A A Playbook for Physician Alignment, Engagement and Retention Scott Polenz	2B Strengthening Board Support through Financial Transparency Wes Garrison, Stuart Moore, Sally Othmer	2C *Rural OB Simulation: Protocols, Partnerships, and Preparedness Jacquelyn Alvarado
Room	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
9:15 – 9:30 am	Break		
9:30 – 10:45 am	3A Engaging Providers through Individualized Practice Dashboards Ellen Thompson	3B Innovative Strategies for Enhancing Rural Health Care Jacinda Bunch, PhD, Jennifer Jones Nicole Weathers, DNP	3C Reducing Denials to Strengthen Rural Health Revenue Steve Smith
Room	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
10:45 – 11 am	Break		
11 – 11:45 am	Plenary 3 (45 min) Preventing Survey Failures and Strategies for Success in RHCs in 2025 <i>Kate Hill, The Compliance Team, Rural health vice president</i>		
11:45 am – 1 pm	Rural Health Clinic Conference lunch on your own		

Rural Health Clinic Conference continues and Critical Access Hospital Conference begins						
1 – 1:15 pm	Welcome & Announcements (15m)					
1:15 – 2:30 pm	Plenary 4 - Keynote Address (75 m) From Crisis to Renewal: Navigating Burnout in Health Care Leadership Todd Linden, Linden Consulting, Partner; Coco Janzen, Crossover Communications, Owner					
2:30 – 3 pm	Break					
3 – 4 pm	Plenary 5 - National Legislative Update (60 m) Alexa McKinley Abel, JD, National Rural Health Association, Government affairs and policy director Carrie Cochran-McClain, DrPH, National Rural Health Association, Chief policy officer					
4 – 5 pm	Plenary 6 (60 min) Innovation Strategies for Rural Health Janice Walters, Rural Health Redesign Center , CEO					
5 – 7 pm	RHC-CAH Networking Reception - Atlanta/New York					
Thursday, September 25						
7 – 8 am	Breakfast With Partners					
8 – 9 am	Plenary Session 7 - RHC/CAH: Current Regulatory Trends and Updates Brian Bertsch, Eide Bailly LLP, Principal; Joseph Watt, Forvis Mazars, Partner					
9 – 10:50 am	Networking break – Exhibit Hall					
	9:10 – 9:55 am	Partner Featured Session A – XXXXX				
10:50 – 11 am	Break					
11 am – 12:15 pm	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	4F
	*The Changing Landscape of Quality Measurement and Recording Sarah Brinkman Karla Weng	Rural Emergency Teams: Improving Outcomes Through Simulation Jacinda Bunch, PhD Brian Rechkemmer	Utilizing the Medicare Cost Report for Financial Agility Chris Cole Eric Lopata	#American Heart Association Session	Achieving Spend Excellence: The Chief Financial Officer's Role Joshua Sandler	* Master the New HCAHPS for Essential 5 Star Recognition Brian Lee Julie Russell
Room	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
12:15 – 1:50 pm	Networking Lunch					
	1 – 1:45 p.m.	Partner Featured Session B – – XXXXX				
1:50 – 2 pm	Break					
2 – 3:15 pm	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F
	Growing Service Lines in Rural Communities Brian Howells Jayna Kelly	Rural Emergency Hospitals: Lessons, Challenges, and Innovations in Year Three Kenneth Harman	Developing an EMS Shortage Area Designation for Rural Michigan J Barnas, C Barter E Bergquist, J Gale	*Embracing Quality Improvement as an Organizational Strategy Lindsay Corcoran Cameron Smith	^John A. Hartford Foundation Session Laura Howell Nelson	+ *Maternity Care Quality in Critical Access Hospitals Megan Lahr Madeleine Pick

Room	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Break					
3:30 – 4:30 pm	<div>+ Plenary 8 – Rural Health Networks (60 m)</div> <div>Tom Morris, Health Resources and Services Administration, Associate administrator for rural health policy</div> <div>Brock Slabach, NRHA, Chief operations officer</div>					
4:30 – 5:15 pm	<div>Plenary 9 (45 min)</div> <div>The Future of Rural Health: An Interactive Discussion</div> <div>JT Douglas, West Health, Strategy director; John Gale, Maine Rural Health Research Center, Senior research associate</div> <div>Alana Knudson, PhD, Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, Director</div>					
Friday, September 26						
8 – 8:30 am	Breakfast					
8:30 – 9:15 am	<div>Plenary 10 - Top 20 CAHs Awards Presentation (45 m)</div> <div>Brock Slabach, NRHA, Chief operations officer</div> <div>Michael Topchik, Chartis Center for Rural Health, National leader</div>					
9:15 – 9:30 am	Break					
9:30 – 10:45 am	6A	6B	6C	6D	6E	
	<div>Case Study:</div> <div>Cultural Transformation</div> <div>- North Dakota CAH</div> <div>Bill Auxier, PhD</div> <div>Sydney Grant</div> <div>Lori Seim</div>	<div>From Surviving to</div> <div>Thriving: Transforming a</div> <div>Rural Hospital</div> <div>Tanya Kessinger</div> <div>Tracy Koster</div>	<div>*Obstetrics Simulation</div> <div>Training for Non Birthing</div> <div>CAHs</div> <div>Jill Bullock</div> <div>Erin McMahon, EdD</div>	<div>Rural Ready: Emergency</div> <div>Preparedness Lessons</div> <div>from Louisiana</div> <div>Eric Johnson</div>	<div>+FORHP</div> <div>Emerging Session</div> <div>GMEs</div>	
Room	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	
10:45 am	CAH Adjourns					

+ Sessions sponsored by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (RHC – 4, CAH - 2)

* Quality & Clinical Sessions (8 between conferences)

^ Session sponsored by The John A. Hartford Foundation/NRHA National Rural Age Friendly Initiative (CAH – 1)

Session sponsored by The American Heart Association (RHC or CAH – 1)