



National Rural Health Association

**45th Annual Rural Health Conference
7th Rural Hospital Innovation Summit
May 11-13, 2022
Albuquerque, NM
Draft Agenda**

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

5 – 7 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Welcome Reception

Wednesday, May 11, 2022

7 – 8 a.m.

Breakfast

ROOM

8 - 9:30 a.m.

Opening Session & Keynote

Beth O'Connor, NRHA, 2022 President

Alan Morgan, NRHA, CEO

TBA

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

1A

Adapting Prescription Opioid Messaging for Rural, Tribal Audiences

ROOM

Brittany Bruce, MBA, Division of Overdose Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC, Health Communication Specialist

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will share insights discovered through formative research and in-depth interviews related to cultural sensitivities and communication strategies for addressing opioid use disorder, misuse, addiction, and recovery with the American Indian/Alaska Native community.

**The Intersection of Rural Opioid Misuse and Trauma
ROOM**

Michael Meit, MA, MPH, East Tennessee State University Center for Rural Health Research, Director of Research and Programs

Megan Quinn, DrPH, East Tennessee State University College of Public Health, Associate Professor

Opioid misuse negatively impacts rural communities. Adverse childhood experiences increase risk for opioid-related harms, raising the potential for targeted strategies to mitigate both issues. The session will describe this relationship, including trends in opioid-related harms. Evidence-based strategies to promote resiliency and address trauma in rural communities will be discussed.

**1B
Modernizing the Rural Health Clinic Program
ROOM**

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

The Rural Health Clinic Program, established in 1977, pioneered new approaches to providing and paying for primary care. The Program would benefit from updating to better serve rural communities. This session explores opportunities to modernize the RHC Program by building on its foundation of rural-relevant payment reform and team-based care.

**1C
TBA**

**1D
NRHA Fellows Explore Mental Health in Rural Areas
ROOM**

Heather Whetsell, MBA MSHI, SIU Medicine Population Science & Policy, Administrative Director
Janessa Graves, PhD, MPH, Washington State University, Associate Professor of Nursing
Brenda Mack, DSW, MSW, LICSW, Bemidji State University, Assistant Professor of Social Work/Director of Field Education/SOWK Club Advisor

Mental Health in Rural Areas is a crisis. The 2021 NRHA Rural Health Fellows Mental Health Workgroup has explored challenges and barriers to mental health care in rural areas including access to care; workforce recruitment and retention; lack of broadband and telepsychiatry. This session will explore their findings and recommendations.

**1E
Got Rural Docs? How Osteopathic Schools Do It**

ROOM

Davis Patterson, PhD, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, University of Washington School of Medicine, Research Associate Professor

Russell Maier, MD, FAAFP, Pacific Northwest University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education

Dana Shaffer, DO, FACOFP dist., FA, University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dean (retired)

Osteopathic medical schools excel at producing rural physicians. Learn from leaders at Pacific Northwest University and University of Pikeville Kentucky Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine about successful strategies they use to recruit and educate medical students who will choose rural practice, based on data from the WWAMI Rural Health Research Center.

1F

Contemporary Uranium Exposure in Navajo Nation/Southwestern States (FORHP)

ROOM

TBD

RHIS – APM Track

340B + ACOs = Improved Patient Outcomes

ROOM

Lynn Barr, MPH, Caravan Health, Founder and Executive Chairwoman

LeeAnn Scheer, PharmD, MBA, HCA, Caravan Health, Chief Pharmacy Officer

Safety-net providers can thrive in accountable care, now they can unlock more revenue potential and improve patient care. ACO participants have a view into their patients' care and prescription history. In this session, hear directly from rural health leaders about successes and best practices of succeeding with accountable care and 340B.

RHIS -- Operations

How to Attract, Recruit, and Retain Great Employees

ROOM

Steve Anderson, PhD, Integrated Leadership Systems, President

Angelia Foster, Marshfield Medical Center, Chief Administrative Officer

Attracting and keeping talented employees is a critical activity of any successful healthcare organization. During this session you will learn the components of creating a culture that empowers employees and attracts the best talent; also learn how to deal with employees that harm your culture of excellence.

Contributed Research Papers

TBD

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Poster Session/Break

Atrium Foyer

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Plenary Session – HRSA Rural Health Update

Tom Morris, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Associative Administrator

This session will provide updates regarding key Federal activities that help improve access to quality health care in rural communities.

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 – 5 p.m.

Student Track Session/Student Constituency Group Meeting

Join other students for an interactive rural ethics session and the student constituency meeting.

2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

2A

The Intersection of Oral and Behavioral Health – Can We Meet in the Middle?

ROOM

Laura McKeane, EFDA, AllCare Health, Director of Oral Health Integration

Can oral and behavioral health come together to meet people where they are at? In rural Southern Oregon, access to both is challenging. So, we decided to tackle it head on and integrate oral health in a behavior/physical health setting and will look at the successes as well as lessons learned.

2B

TBD

2C

Capital Planning: Rural Foundations to Financing

ROOM

Jonathan Chapman, MBA, Capital Link, Chief Project Officer

Jennifer Williams, Lifespan Health, Chief Financial Officer

Katie Parnell, CommuniHealth Services, Chief Executive Officer

This presentation will examine the capital expansion planning process, highlighting rural projects and their firsthand experiences and challenges. The presentation will also review various capital project financing options available to health centers including conventional bank and USDA loans as well as sources such as New Markets Tax Credits.

2D

Spreading Knowledge, Not COVID: Rural NC Latinx Ambassadors

ROOM

*Hannah Robinson, MPH, Partners Aligned Toward Health, Healthy Lifestyles Program Manager
Schell McCall, Partners Aligned Toward Health, Executive Director*

Sarah Thach, MPH, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, Assistant Director, UNC Gillings School's Masters of Public Health Program in Asheville

LaCosta Tipton, MPH, BSN, RN, Mountain Community Health Partnership, Director of Operations

In the fall of 2020, twelve bilingual rural NC Latinx residents were recruited to create and share culturally responsive and relevant COVID-19 messaging, using the evidence-based Boot Camp Translation model, adapted for the rapidly evolving pandemic. Participants disseminated messages, report changed beliefs, and are now addressing new community health concerns.

2E

TBD

2F

FORHP Medicare Policy Update (FORHP)

ROOM

TBD

RHIS – APM Track

Community Engagement and Planning for Rural Health Systems

ROOM

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

Rural hospital closures are driven, in part, by comparatively low utilization of local services. To remain viable, rural systems of care must have the active support of their communities. This session explores a framework to conduct community health planning and engagement to build robust, sustainable systems of rural health services.

RHIS -- Operations

Swing Bed Quality Certification, One year later

ROOM

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

Leslie Marsh, Lexington Regional Medical Center, CEO

This lecture will highlight the benefits of achieving Swing Bed Quality Certification. Listen to an experienced CEO tell the Swing Bed quality story and the benefits to the hospital. We'll discuss the steps to take to achieve this distinction.

Contributed Research Papers

TBD

3:45 – 4:00 p.m

Poster Session/Break

Atrium Foyer

4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

3A

The Rural American Cancer Experience

ROOM

Wade Swenson, MD, MPH, Lake Region Healthcare, Medical Director

Karen Wulfekuhle, LSW, Lake Region Healthcare,

This session summarizes the collective experience and unique needs of rural American cancer patients described in the recent medical literature and incorporates the experience of a rural cancer center. The summary focuses on interventions and opportunities to improve rural cancer care delivery.

3B

Preparing RHCs and FQHCs for Value-Based Care

ROOM

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

Growth in value-based care requires Rural Health Clinics to adapt to payment programs that emphasize primary care, preventive services, care coordination, disease management, population health, information sharing, and quality reporting. This session describes tools and care models to prepare RHCs for changes in the evolving rural health care marketplace.

3C

Understanding and Assessing Rural Recovery Ecosystems

ROOM

Michael Meit, East Tennessee State University, Center for Rural Health Research, Director of Research and Programs

Robert Pack, PhD, East Tennessee State University College of Public Health, Professor & Associate Dean

Ernie Fletcher, MD, Fletcher Group, Co-Founder and Chief Medical Officer

Grant Meyer, Fletcher Group, Vice President of Project Development

Recovery ecosystems provide an environment where individuals can access substance use treatment and recovery support services such as housing and second chance employment. This session will highlight factors present in strong rural recovery ecosystems, recovery ecosystem supports implemented in eastern Kentucky, and initial development of a rural recovery ecosystem index.

3D

Community Engagement Developing Recovery Housing in Rural Communities

ROOM

Janice Fulkerson, Fletcher Group Rural Center of Excellence, COO

Nate Conklin, Fletcher Group Rural Center of Excellence, Outreach & Engagement Specialist

Lyle Nelson, St. Luke's Health System, Special Projects Coordinator Community Health and Engagement

Recovery housing provides services to individuals with a substance use disorder who also experience homelessness, criminal justice involvement, and high healthcare utilization. Rural community health, human services, corrections, and other stakeholders are crucial to establish recovery housing in rural communities. This case study presents a collaboration for a rural community.

Rural Housing Solutions

ROOM

Jana Miller Temple, Rural Health Information Hub, Funding Resources Specialist

Steven Grant, MD, University of Vermont Medical Center,

Shonterria Charleston, Housing Assistance Council, Training and Technical Assistance Director

Amanda Reddy, National Center for Healthy Housing, Executive Director

Specifically connected to certain medical conditions, intuitively associated with population health and well-being, and indelibly linked to a rural community's economics and healthcare delivery, housing is an important social determinant of health. This panel will describe housing needs and highlight a range of rural funding options to meet housing needs.

3E

Development of a Statewide, AHEC-Administered Pre-med Prep Project

ROOM

David Gross, Northeast Kentucky Area Health Education Center, Director

Catherine Malin, South Central Kentucky Area Health Education Center, Director

Brenda Fitzpatrick, Northwest Kentucky Area Health Education Center, Director

Rural Kentucky has a longstanding shortage of physicians. In response, the Northeast Kentucky Area Health Education Center developed a pre-medicine preparatory program that has been

replicated in seven other regional centers. We will explain the development of this project, from securing state funding to cross-center collaboration to data tracking.

3F
CDC Rural Health Update (FORHP)

TBD

RHIS – APM Track
Paving a path for the future in 340B
ROOM

Lisa Scholz, PharmD, MBA, FACHE, Sentry Data Systems, Head of Industry Relations

In 2020, we will forever remember the Pandemic. Another storm was brewing as it relates to 340B. In July 2020, the first manufacturer announced they would stop selling 340B drugs to covered entities contract pharmacies. The question on everyone’s mind, “what will be the best strategy and path forward?”.

RHIS -- Operations
TBD

Contributed Research
TBD

Thursday, May 12, 2022

8- 9 a.m.

Constituency Group meetings and continental breakfast

- Public Health Status/Clinical CG Meeting
- FQHC CG Meeting
- Research & Education CG/Journal of Rural Health
- Frontier/RHC
- State Association Council
- Statewide Health Resources/NOSORH

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

4A
Long COVID’s Impact on Southwestern American Indian Populations
ROOM

David Line, PhD, MPH, MSW, Eastern Washington University, Assistant Professor
Mary-Katherine McNatt, DrPH, A.T. Still University, MPH Chair
Susan Thomas, M.S. Ed, A.T. Still University,
Marsha Presley, PhD, MPH, A.T. Still University, Research Coordinator

Long COVID increases demands on healthcare providers, patients, and the community. This session will review the findings of a retrospective qualitative study of directors of tribal health centers in the Southwestern United States. The directors were interviewed regarding long COVID, resources available, and the effects on their community's well-being.

4B

How Telemedicine Answers the Call in Rural Healthcare

ROOM

Kelly Becker, MD, FACEP, Avel eCare, Medical Director of Outreach and Innovation
Darcy Litzen, MS, BSN, RN, Avel eCare, Business Development Officer

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a rapid adoption of telemedicine. Layering telemedicine into current processes allowed a weary workforce to provide care during the surge. How can telemedicine remain a critical part of health care delivery as we learn to live in a world where pandemics may be more common?

4C

Rural Libraries as Innovative Partners in Increasing Access to Healthcare

ROOM

Megan Weis, DrPH, MCHES, SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare, Director of Community Engagement
Alanti McGill, MPH, SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare, Program Manager

The South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare's Rural Libraries and Health Innovations Program supports library systems as community health hubs. This presentation provides an overview of the program and learning collaborative, and highlights different models, strategies, successes, and lessons learned.

4D

Together With Veterans for Rural Veterans Suicide Prevention

ROOM

Leah Wendleton, MPH, MSW, Rocky Mountain MIRECC for Suicide Prevention, Health Science Specialist
Nathaniel Mohatt, PhD, Rocky Mountain MIRECC for Suicide Prevention, Community Psychologist

The Together With Veterans (TWV) is a community-based suicide prevention program for rural Veterans. TWV involved partnering with rural Veterans and community partners to implement public health strategies. This session will provide an overview of the program, lessons learned from implementing in over thirty communities, and future program directions.

4E

Nurse Practitioner Residencies and Fellowships Promote Rural Practice

ROOM

Louise Kaplan, PhD, ARNP, FAAN, Washington State University, Associate Professor
Mykell Barnacle, DNP, FNP-BC, North Dakota State University, NP Residency Program Director
Johanna Stiesmeyer, DNP, MS, NPC-BC, Presbyterian Healthcare Services, System Director,
Clinical Education and Professional Development and Principal Investigator, HRSA Advanced
Nursing Education Nurse Practitioner Residency
Gregory Rys, DNP, Bassett Health Care Network, Director of the Bassett Health Care Family
Nurse Practitioner Rural Residency Program

Rural postgraduate nurse practitioner (NP) residencies and fellowships support recruitment and retention of NPs to rural primary care practice. This expert panel will review results of a study on rural NP program models and factors that influence their success, followed by discussion with attendees about how to expand programs further.

“Grow Your Own APRNs and Keep Them Forever”

ROOM

Callie Anne Bittner, MS, RN, Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence, Project Director
Ingrid Johnson, DNP, MPP, RN, Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence, President and CEO

Building on several years of a successful “Grow Your Own” recruitment and retention strategies, this program was developed with grant funding to support nurse practitioners in Colorado to return to school and obtain a post-graduate psychiatric nurse practitioner certificate in rural provider shortage areas, increasing access by up to 25%.

4F

Rural Emergency Hospitals 101: What Stakeholders Should Know (FORHP)

TBD

RHIS – APM Track

Small Rural Hospital Blueprint for Performance Excellence and Value

ROOM

Terry Hill, MPA, National Rural Health Resource Center, Senior Advisor for Rural Health
Leadership and Policy
Peggy Wheeler, MPH, California Hospital Association, Vice President of the Rural Healthcare
Center
Victoria Leach, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Public Health Analyst

The Blueprint for Performance Excellence and Value identifies the most important critical success factors for small rural hospitals to achieve excellence. A summit with rural hospital leaders supported by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, updated the Blueprint and confirmed the Blueprint offering examples, lessons learned, and opportunities.

RHIS – Operations

Leveraging Partnerships to Score A WINN for Rural ROOM

*Nicole Weathers, MSN, RN, Iowa Online Nurse Residency Program, Program Manager
Tondeleyo Gonzalez, Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence,*

Increases in retirement and nurses transitioning away from the bedside left vacancies that academic institutions push to fill with new graduates. Eligible candidates prioritize ongoing training and mentorship challenging rural organizations where nurse residencies are scarce. Leveraging partnerships allowed for development of the Workforce Innovation Nursing Network serving rural facilities.

**Contributed Research Papers
TBD**

10:15 – 10:45 a.m.

Poster Session/Break

Atrium Foyer

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

5A

HISP Programs Reduce Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Rural ROOM

Manorama Khare, PhD, MS, University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford, Research Associate Professor

Donna Norkoli, BS, NCHES, District Health Department #10, Health Planner

John Butts, MPH, Georgia Health Policy Center, Senior Research Associate

Patricia Burbano, BSPH Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Delta States Program Coordinator

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)'s Outreach Program, funded by the Health Improvement Special Project (HISP) to address cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk in rural communities. Presenters including two HISP grantees will discuss results from the 3-year implementation of programs to reduce CVD risk in rural communities.

5B

CHW's Help Rural Providers with Outreach and Reducing Hospital Readmissions ROOM

Jane Bolin, Texas A&M School of Public Health and College of Nursing, Effectively Utilizing CHW's to Enhance your Primary Care, Diabetes Education, Services

Heather Clark, DrPH, MPH, Texas A&M School of Public Health and Center for Community Health Development, CHW Engaged in Diabetes Education & Outreach: Training and Evaluation

Catherine Catanach, Center for Community Health Development, Employing and Training CHW's in Cancer Screening and Navigation Efforts, Assistant Director

Community Health Workers, CHWs, help patients navigate the healthcare system, and engage in health education in people's homes, schools, churches, and neighborhoods. This session will give examples of how CHW's can be utilized in your organization to help manage patients, serve as navigators, and provide culturally acceptable patient teaching.

5C

The Telehealth Resource Centers: Response to COVID-19 and Beyond

ROOM

Elizabeth Kwong, PhD, Emory University, Professor & Vice Chair for Research, Department of Radiology & Imaging Services

Matt McCullough, PhD, Utah Education and Telehealth Network, Director of Telehealth Services, UETN

The Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs) are federally funded, nonpartisan and unbiased technical assistance providers for health care practitioners, policymakers, and communities who have questions regarding telehealth. Attendees will learn more about these entities and the tools and assistance they offer in the evolving landscape of telehealth.

5D

Crisis Response Funding: Lessons from Rural Health Funders

ROOM

Bronwyn Starr, MPH, New York State Health Foundation, Senior Program Officer

Brian Byrd, New York State Health Foundation, Senior Program Officer

Linda Beers, MPH, Essex County Public Health, Public Health Director

Kevin Watkins, MD, MPH, Cattaraugus County Health Department, Public Health Director

COVID-19 underscored the lack of government infrastructure for crisis response funding. This session will present a rapid response model that enabled the swift distribution of private dollars to rural health departments. While philanthropy cannot replace public funding, rural health organizations should be aware of how to tap into private dollars.

5E

Classroom to Community: Enhancing the Rural Physician Workforce

ROOM

David Eddings, MD, Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine at the University of Utah, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Director of Rural and American Indian Outreach for the Department of Pediatrics Global, Rural, and Underserved Child Health Program, and Director of Tribal, Rural, and Underserved Medical Education Graduate Certificate

Ty Dickerson, PhD, Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine at the University of Utah, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Adjunct Professor of Family Medicine & Preventive Medicine, Assistant Dean of Global Health Education

Aaron Bia, MD, Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine at the University of Utah, Family Medicine Resident

Cameron Arkin, BA, Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine at the University of Utah, Medical Student

Students participating in a tribal, rural, and underserved medicine pathway and summer rural immersion trip reported increased comprehension of, and commitment to, rural primary care medicine. We will present the curriculum, learning outcomes, and competencies. Additional content includes the process of developing reciprocal, mutually beneficial relationships with healthcare providers.

5F

SUD in Rural Communities: A Way Forward (FORHP)

ROOM

TBD

RHIS – APM Track

How Federal Policy is Driving Rural Health Care towards New Models of Payment and Delivery

ROOM

John Supplitt, MPA, MBA, American Hospital Association, Senior Director

With a foot on the boat and another on the dock, rural hospitals are caught between volume versus value-based payment alternatives and models of delivery they incent. As public and commercial payers steer providers away from volume-based payment, hospitals will learn to adapt to value-based incentives.

RHIS -- Operations

Assessing the Effect of COVID-19 on the Well-Being of North Dakota Hospital Employees

ROOM

Daniel Kelly, DHA, McKenzie County Healthcare Systems, Inc., CEO

Shawnda Schroeder, PhD, Center for Rural Health, Associate Director of Research and Evaluation

The Center for Rural Health has partnered with two other entities to complete an assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on the well-being of hospital staff in North Dakota. The findings will assist healthcare managers and administrative staff to better understand the psychological distress COVID-19 has had on healthcare employees.

Contributed Research Papers

TBD

12 – 1:45 p.m.

Rural Health Awards Luncheon

Join NRHA for a tribute to the 2022 Rural Health Award winners.

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

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.
Poster Session/Break
Atrium Foyer

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions

6A
Living Rurally with Long-Term Conditions Through COVID-19
ROOM

Sarah-Anne Munoz, PhD, University of the Highlands and Islands, Professor
Whitney Zahnd, PhD, University of Iowa, Assistant Professor
Aniele Viljoen-Steele, BSc, University of the Highlands and Islands, Mrs
Steve Bain, Doctor of Ministry Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Professor and Dean

This session brings evidence from the USA and the UK on the experience of living rurally with a long-term condition (physical or mental) during COVID-19. We present impacts of the pandemic on rural residents with a long-term condition, their family and careers, and consider how support could be strengthened.

6B

TBD

6C
Gun Violence Prevention: A Practical Skills-Based Training
ROOM

Mina Tanaka, MD, MPH, Northern Navajo Medical Center, Internal Medicine Physician

U.S. gun violence rates are rising with gun ownership being significantly higher in rural households. Although gun safety counseling in healthcare settings is tied to safer gun ownership practices, it is not commonly performed. This session will provide practical information to equip practitioners with skills related to gun violence prevention.

6D
Rural Health and Tribal Nations: A Discussion at the Intersection
ROOM

Christopher Chavis, JD, MPA, National Indian Health Board, Policy Center Director

American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/Ans) are the most rural population in the country and have a unique legal status as dual citizens of the United States and their Tribe. This session examines the intersection between AI/AN and rural health and the unique legal structure of the Indian health care system.

6E

Preparing Learners for Rural Interprofessional Collaboration and Practice

ROOM

Stephanie Kiser, RPh, UNC Health Sciences @ MAHEC, Director of Interprofessional Education & Practice

Bryan Hodge, DO, UNC Health Sciences @ MAHEC, Chair of Department of Community and Public Health

Sarah Thach, MPH, UNC Health Sciences @ MAHEC; UNC Gillings School of Public Health, Assistant Director, UNC Gillings Master of Public Health Program, Asheville; Adjunct Faculty, Public Health Leadership Program

UNC Health Sciences at MAHEC in Asheville trains medical, pharmacy, dental, and public health learners. Preparing them for rural, interprofessional practice, we provide interprofessional case seminars, rotations in rural teaching hubs, shared community projects, co-curricular experiences, and are developing collaborative research training. This session explains our approach and implementation framework.

6F

An Honest Conversation About Rural Health Policy

ROOM

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

The American rural health system is under significant strain with growing rates of hospital and provider closures. This session reviews the history of state and federal efforts to support vulnerable rural providers; summarize the lessons learned; and use those lessons to inform current policy efforts to support rural health systems.

RHIS – APM Track

Widening Health Disparities Present New Challenges in Aftermath of Pandemic

ROOM

Michael Topchik, The Chartis Group

The ‘new normal’ for rural hospitals means treating COVID patients is part of everyday operations. Our analysis suggests that socioeconomic and health disparity gaps between rural and urban may be widening, and in this new normal these indicators take on new importance for the delivery of care in rural communities.

RHIS -- Operations

**How Presbyterian Medical Services Decreased their Exposure to Cyberattacks
ROOM**

John Gomez, Sensato Cybersecurity Solutions, Chief Executive Officer

Gisela Bartolome, Presbyterian Medical Services, Chief Information Officer

Healthcare organizations acknowledge the need to safeguard data and patients from cyberattacks. Presbyterian Medical Services took action to put software and procedures in place to reduce their risk and monitor for potential attacks. Hear how Presbyterian Medical Services developed a cybersecurity strategy to protect their network and patients with limited resources.

Contributed Research Papers

TBD

Friday, May 13, 2022

8 – 9:30 a.m.

Washington Update

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

We Need to Talk About MAT (FORHP)

ROOM

TBD

7B

ROOM

TBD

7C

Addressing Behavioral Health Needs Through Community Care Coordination

ROOM

Kaarin Lund, National Rural Health Resource Center, Community Program Specialist

Suzanne Snyder, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Public Health Analyst/Program Coordinator for DRCHSD Program

Gina Matlock, Henry County Medical Center, Community Champion

Tory Daugherty, Henry County Medical Center, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

With support from the Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program, discover how Henry County Medical Center utilized Community Health Needs Assessment results and health outcome data to meet the Behavioral Health needs of their community. A step-wise approach to collaborate with community partners, measure knowledge, and create change.

7D

Dentist Retention through the Safety Net Certificate Program

ROOM

Amy Martin, Medical University of South Carolina, Professor and Chair

Amah Riley, Medical University of South Carolina, Program Manager

Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) convened the “Safety Net Summer Institute” to ten rural dentists. Learners accessed online curriculum and participated in four in-person Learning Retreats at a rural hospital. They developed personalized improvement plans based on course content that included team leadership, advocacy, practice management, and empathetic communication.

7E

BS/MD Program, The Sequel - We have Doctors!

ROOM

Jennifer Plymale, MA, Marshall University, Director of the Center for Rural Health and Associate Dean of Admissions

Deborah Curry, JD, Marshall University, Director of Rural Outreach and Development

Abbie Short, Marshall University, Medical Student Class of 2023 BS/MD Program Member

Brandon Henderson, Marshall University, Medical Student Class of 2023 BS/MD Program Member

Marshall University began its BS/MD program with high hopes, and a unique model- “growing our own” physicians in a rural state by offering talented high school seniors acceleration and tuition waivers to medical school. After seven years, we have an excellent program retention rate and a crop of newly minted MDs!

7F

Leveraging Trusted Messengers: COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond (FORHP)

ROOM

TBD

RHIS – APM Track

Improving Rural Health and Economic Vitality Through Innovation

ROOM

Katy Dowd, BioSTL, Director

Center for Rural Health Innovation strengthens the health and economic vitality of rural communities through rural-centric innovation. With four focus areas (access and affordability, workforce, affordable high-speed internet, and rural-specific SDoH) and “rural first” approach, the Center sources innovative solutions to solve rural challenges and converts that innovation into value.

RHIS -- Operations

What is keeping hospital CEOs up at night?

ROOM



Project ECHO is an innovative way to improve rural healthcare. The ECHO model has been used for a variety of topics and our focus is what’s keeping hospital CEO’s up at night. Come learn how we connect the C-suite to specialists and their peers to educate and support each other.

Contributed Research Papers

TBD

11:00 a.m.

End of Annual Conference