



# 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

Napoleon Ballroom, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

### Wednesday, May 8, 2024

7 – 8 a.m.

Breakfast

Napoleon Ballroom, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

8 – 9:30 a.m.

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

**Grand Ballroom ABC, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

**Grand Ballroom D, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

### **Age-Friendly in Action in Rural Communities**

#### **Grand Ballroom E, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*Rani Snyder, MPA, Vice President, Programs, The John A. Hartford Foundation*

*Kina L. White, DrPH, MHSA, FACHE, Director, Office of Community Health Improvement, Mississippi State Department of Health*

*Karon Phillips, PhD, MPH, CHES, Policy Development Manager, Trust for America's Health*

*Lara Wilson, Interim Vice President, Rural Health Care Transformation, Executive Director, UMass Lowell Medical Center Chestertown*

The age-friendly network is growing and learning about the needs of older adults in rural communities to ensure age-friendly core features breach every facet of our health system. The panel, consisting of leaders in these rural efforts, will discuss what age-friendly looks like in practice within programming, public health, hospital and health delivery, and the State Departments of Health.

## **1C**

### **Area Deprivation Index in Rural Policy and Research**

#### **Grand Chenier, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*Casey Balio, PhD, ETSU/NORC Rural Health Equity Research Center, 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, Wisconsin Partnership Program; Director, UW Center for Health Disparities Research (CHDR) & Professor, Department of Medicine Division of Geriatrics*

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**

## **Grand Couteau, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*Mary A. Williams, DNP, Chief Executive Officer/Founder, Urgent & Primary Care of Clarksdale  
Kim Mayo, MEd, DRCHSD Telehealth Program Manager, National Rural Health Resource Center  
Rachel Moscato, MPH, Director, Hospital State Division, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy*

Through meticulous assessment and community collaboration, explore how a local clinic in the Delta Region is addressing healthcare needs of justice-involved populations. Learn how collaboration with the county jail revealed barriers to care for individuals in the justice system and how telehealth emerged as the answer.

## **1E**

### **Project ECHO: Responding to Children's Mental Health Crisis**

#### **Maurepas, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*Erika Davis, PhD, American Academy of Pediatrics Mental Health Program Evaluation 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**

#### **Borgne, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*Yvonne Jonk, PhD, Deputy Director of the Maine Rural Health Research Center  
Keith Mueller, PhD, RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis  
Davis Patterson, PhD, Director of WWAMI Rural Health Research Center  
Karis Tyner, DNP, Research Coordinator, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy*

This session will highlight the recent FORHP funded research on emergency responders and ambulance agencies. Attendees will learn about the characteristics and challenges of emergency response in rural settings, including the associated costs, infrastructure concerns, training, and education.

## **RHIS – Operations Track**

### **Rural Leader Burnout: Prevalence, Cause, & Implications**

#### **Nottoway, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

#### **Oak Alley, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

#### **Bayside C, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

- **Healthcare Utilization and Mental Health in U.S. Farmers**  
*Noah Hopkins, MPH, University of Georgia Graduate Research Assistant*
- **Gender and Occupational Role in Agriculture: Stress, Resilience, and Alcohol Behaviors of U.S. Farmers**  
*Christina Proctor, MPH, PhD, University of Georgia Clinical Assistant Professor*
- **Stigma, Healthcare Challenges, and Stress in American Farmers**  
*Christina Proctor, MPH, PhD, University of Georgia Clinical Assistant Professor*
- **Trusted Messenger Network Elevates Rural Community Voices**

*Michelle Medeiros, University of Maryland Baltimore PATIENTS Program Director of Research*

**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**

**Grand Ballroom ABC, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*TBD, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Staff*

*Alexa Ofori*

*Michael Fallakhair*

*Sarah Heppner*

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**

**Napoleon Ballroom, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

**1:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Student Track Session/Student Constituency Group Meeting**

**Endymion/Mid City, 8<sup>th</sup> floor**

**2:30 – 3:45 p.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**2A**

**Perspectives on Rural Health Care Quality: Equity & Collaboration**

**Grand Ballroom D, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*Mindy Cook, BSN, RN, National Senior Director, Rural Health Care Quality, American Heart Association*

*Tim Putnam Faculty at The Medical University of South Carolina, Past President NRHA, Past CEO Margaret Mary Health, Co-author Healthcare Leadership and Rural Communities: Challenges, Strategies, and Solutions*

*Kathy Griffis, Chief Nursing Office/VP of Clinical Operations at Titus Regional Medical Center Whitney Ochoa MPH, BSN, RN State STEMI Nurse Coordinator Office of Preparedness & Emergency Response Systems (OPERS) Arkansas Department of Health*

*Eduardo Sanchez, MD, MPH, FAHA, American Heart Association, Chief Medical Officer of Prevention*

A moderated panel presentation that will bring together rural thought leaders from a variety of setting and roles to engage in a dynamic and diverse conversation addressing the unique opportunities and challenges to providing evidence-based acute care aimed at attaining optimal cardiovascular and stroke outcomes across rural America.

## **2B**

### **Increasing Access for Rural Individuals Impacted by Disabilities**

#### **Grand Ballroom E, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*Keisha Wells, University of Kentucky Center of Excellence in Rural Health Rural Senior Project Manager of the Appalachian Center for Assistive Technology.*

*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**

#### **Grand Chenier, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

#### **Grand Couteau, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

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

*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**

#### **Maurepas, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

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

*Erin Fraher, PhD, MPP, UNC Chapel Hill Department of Family Medicine 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 Medicare Policy Update**

#### **Borgne, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*Brock Slabach, Chief Operations Officer, National Rural Health Association*

*Courtney S. Turner, MPH, Policy Coordinator, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy*

*Alexa McKinley, JD, Director of Government Affairs & Policy, National Rural Health Association*

This session will provide participants with an overview of recent Medicare policies that affect rural clinicians and health care facilities. Participants will learn about recent legislative changes affecting rural healthcare and CMS's recent or upcoming proposed policy changes. Participants will also hear about policy and research activities and resources from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and a future forecast of upcoming policy activities by NRHA.

## **RHIS- Operations Track**

### **National CAH Quality Inventory and Assessment: Pilot Results**

#### **Nottoway, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

### **Observations from the Front Lines of Alternative Payment**

#### **Oak Alley, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

*Janice Walters, Executive Director, Rural Health Redesign Center*

*Anna Anna, Program Director, Rural Health Redesign Center*

In this session, leaders from the Rural Health Redesign Center will share about the challenges and opportunities they are noticing related to alternative payment, as informed by their work as the Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance Center, and implementation of the Pennsylvania Rural Health Model. Key themes will include -

- The commonalities of hospitals assessing the REH designation, including key barriers to conversion.
- The commonalities of converted REHs, specifically as it relates to health equity and what these hospitals need to survive.
- The overlap of these commonalities with what the RHRC has observed in Pennsylvania through the PARHM, and what it means for the future of alternative payment strategy considerations.

## **2G**

### **Contributed Research Papers**

#### **Bayside C, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

- **Evaluation Of Piloted Rural Firearm Injury Prevention Strategies**  
*Lauren Maxim, PhD, Research Associate, HSR&D Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care (CIVIC), VA Portland Health Care System*
- **Reducing Firearm-Related Harms among Rural-Residing Veterans**  
*Megan Lafferty, PhD, Research Anthropologist, HSR&D Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care (CIVIC), VA Portland Health Care System*
- **Clinicians' Perspectives: Firearm Safety Discussions with Rural-Residing Veterans**  
*Nicole Cerra, MA, MPH, Senior Research Project Manager, Oregon Health & Science University/VA Portland Health Care System*
- **Interprofessional Responses to Rural Intimate Partner Violence**



*Elizabeth Hall-Lipsy, JD, MPH, The University of Arizona College of Pharmacy Associate Professor*

**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**

**Grand Ballroom D, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

**Grand Ballroom D, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

**Grand Ballroom E, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

##### **Grand Chenier, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*Surabhi Dabir, USDA Rural Development Senior Policy Advisor*

*Jacqueline Ponti-Lazaruk, USDA, RD, Innovation Center Chief Innovation Officer*

*Lee Jones, USDA Rural Development – Rural Partners Network Director*

*Tamara Telles, USDA Innovation Center, Rural Development, ASPPH/USDA Rural Health Fellow*

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**

##### **Grand Couteau, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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, ETSU/NORC Rural Health Equity Research Center, 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**

##### **Maurepas, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*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**

##### **Maurepas, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*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*

*Amy Elizondo, MPH, Chief Strategy Officer, National Rural Health Association*

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**

#### **Rural Public Health Science Priorities at the Centers for Disease Control**

##### **Borgne, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*Diane Hall, PhD, MEd, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office of Rural Health Director*

*Macarena Garcia, DrPH, MPS, MIS, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office of Rural Health Senior Health Scientist*

*Kevin Matthews, PhD, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office of Rural Health, Health Scientist*

This session will be moderated by the Director of CDC's Office of Rural Health (ORH), and science priority discussions will be led by ORH Senior Scientists Dr. Kevin Matthews and Dr. Macarena García. Specific topics include rural-urban differences in preventable premature deaths in the United States, the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease in rural America, an upcoming CDC-sponsored call-for-papers about rural public health, rural analysis tools currently in development, and conducting scientific analysis using existing CDC surveillance and public health information systems that include rural variables.

#### **RHIS – Operations Track**

##### **Rural Hospital CEO Recruitment and Retention Community Apgar**

##### **Nottoway, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

#### **Oak Alley, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

#### **Bayside C, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

- **Telehealth and Tele-behavioral Health Utilization by RHCs and FQHCs**  
*Yvonne Jonk, PhD, Director Maine Rural Health Research Center Associate Research Professor*
- **Telehealth Usability in the Rural Wyoming Medicaid Population**  
*Rafael Homer, BS, University of Washington School of Medicine*
- **Transitional Palliative Care Intervention for Rural-Dwelling Family Caregivers**  
*Joan Griffin, PhD, Mayo Clinic*
- **Mental Health of COPD Caregivers: A Rural/Urban Comparison**  
*McKenzie Granata Green, MS, PhD candidate, University of Tennessee Knoxville*

## **Thursday, May 9, 2024**

**8:00 – 9:00 a.m.**

### **Constituency Group Meetings and Continental Breakfast**

Public Health Status/Clinical CG Meeting **Grand Ballroom C, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

FQHC/RHC CG Meeting **Grand Ballroom E, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

Research & Education CG Meeting **Grand Chenier, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

State Association Council **Grand Couteau, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

Statewide Health Resources CG Meeting **Maurepas, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

Hospital CG Meeting **Borgne, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Policy Issue Group **Bayside C, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

**9:00 – 10:15 a.m.**

### **Concurrent Sessions**

#### **4A**

##### **Increase Capacity to Address Children's Mental Health in Rural Practices**

###### **Grand Ballroom D, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

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

*Julie Gorzkowski Hamilton, MSW, LSW, American Academy of Pediatrics Mental and Relational Health Director*

*Joie Frankovich, MPH, LSW*

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**

###### **Grand Ballroom E, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*Kevin J. Bennett, Director, South Carolina Center for Rural & Primary Healthcare; Professor of Family and Preventive Medicine, UofSC School of Medicine - Columbia*

*Lauren Thomann, MPH, Senior Project Manager, VA All of Us Research Program, VA Boston Healthcare System*

*Daniel Moretti, MSc, Community Engagement Lead, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Stanford University School of Medicine*

*Gretchen Funk, FiftyForward Chief Program Officer*

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**

###### **Grand Chenier, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

### **Grand Chenier, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

#### **Grand Coteau, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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*

*Carrie Graham, PhD, Center for Health Care Strategies Director of Aging and Disability Policy*

*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**

#### **Maurepas, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*Jessica Ociepa, 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**

#### **Maurepas, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*Greta Stuhlsatz, PhD, HHS/HRSA/FORHP, Statistician*

*Karis Tyner, DNP, HHS/HRSA/FORHP, Management Analyst*

This presentation will provide information on defining “rural” in federal agencies and FORHP funded research programs. Applications and implications of each definition will be discussed. A history of how FORHP determines rural funding eligibility will be provided with a peek into eligibility changes and definition adjustments following the 2020 Census.

**RHIS – Operations Track**

**USDA/NRHA Hospital TA Project**

**Nottoway, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

**RHIS – Innovations Track**

**The Future of Rural: Sustainability Through Innovation**

**Oak Alley, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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, DPS, MHA, BSN, FACHE, RHCEOC, 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**

**Bayside C, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

- **Co-Design in Rural Native Veteran Healthcare Navigator Program**  
*Jennifer Freytag JD, PhD, Research Health Scientist Veterans Rural Health Resource Center, Salt Lake City Center for Innovation Quality, Effectiveness, and Safety*
- **Examining Civil Legal Needs Among Rural Veterans**  
*Ida Griesemer, PhD, Research Scientist, VA White River Junction Medical Center*
- **Rural Veterans' Social Needs: Prevalence and Health Associations**  
*Ida Griesemer, PhD, Research Scientist, VA White River Junction Medical Center*
- **Developing targeted Rural Hispanic Veteran suicide risk models**  
*Maxwell Levis, PhD, White River Junction VA Medical Center Health Scientist*
- **County Social Vulnerability, Rurality, and Disparities in Diabetes**  
*Ben Thomas Varghese, Mayo Clinic Division of Hospital Internal Medicine Research Trainee*

**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**  
**Grand Ballroom D, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**  
**Grand Ballroom D, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**  
**Grand Ballroom E, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

#### **Grand Ballroom E, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

##### **Grand Chenier, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

##### **Grand Couteau, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

#### **Maurepas, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*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**

#### **Borgne, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*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**

#### **Nottoway, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

##### **Oak Alley, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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 emphasis on the opportunities and challenges being discovered in the implementation process.

### **5G**

#### **Contributed Research Papers**

##### **Bayside C, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

- **Risk-Appropriate Care Receipt Among Higher-Risk Rural Birthing People**  
*Madison B. Sharp, MD, MMS, Physician, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania*
- **Rural/Urban Differences in Perinatal Health and Care**  
*Julia D. Interrante, PhD, MPH, University of Minnesota Research Fellow/Statistical Lead*
- **Perinatal Insurance/Indian Health Service among Indigenous People**  
*Julia D. Interrante, PhD, MPH, University of Minnesota Research Fellow/Statistical Lead*
- **Best Practices for Implementing Rural Community Advisory Boards**  
*NithyaPriya Ramalingam, PhD, Oregon Health and Science University Public Health Scientist*

**12:00 – 1:45 p.m.**

#### **Rural Health Awards Luncheon**

##### **Napoleon Ballroom, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

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

**1:45 – 2:30 p.m.**

#### **CDC's Office of Rural Health**

##### **Grand Ballroom ABC, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*Diane Hall, PhD, MEd, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office of Rural Health Director*

This session will provide updates from the CDC's new Office of Rural Health.

**2:30-3:15 p.m.**

**Terry Reilly Lecture**

**America's Rural Health Crisis: Bold Solutions for a Healthier Tomorrow**

**Grand Ballroom ABC, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*Bruce A. Scott, MD, American Medical Association President-Elect*

The health inequities facing rural Americans are stark. Limited access to health care and a shrinking physician workforce in rural communities is leading to devastating health consequences for those living far outside urban centers. Rural Americans are more likely to die from heart disease, cancer, and stroke compared those living in urban communities. While rural communities often lack large hospitals and health centers, the percentage of physicians in private practice is also steadily declining – creating vast health care deserts where seniors and families with lower incomes cannot receive the care they need. The rural population in the U.S. comprises roughly 20% of the nation's total but just 11% of the nation's physician workforce. AMA President-elect Dr. Bruce Scott, an ear, nose and throat surgeon in private practice in Louisville, Kentucky, will explore the unique health challenges facing rural communities and highlight the work of the AMA to reverse these troubling trends by bolstering our physician workforce in high-need areas, creating a more sustainable health care model that supports more physicians in private practice, and advancing technology to bridge the urban-rural health divide.

**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**

**Grand Ballroom D, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

## **Grand Ballroom E, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

### **Grand Ballroom E, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

#### **Grand Chenier, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

#### **Grand Couteau, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

#### **Grand Couteau, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

##### **Maurepas, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*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**

##### **Borgne, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*Mew Pongsiri, MPH, Program Coordinator, FORHP/HRSA*

*Timothy D. McBride, PhD, Bernard Becker Professor, Washington University in St. Louis, and Rural Policy Research Institute's (RUPRI) Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis*

*Linda Matessino, RN, MPH, Director of Grant Programs, Arbor Family Health*

*Elizabeth Smith, PA-C, Grant Coordinator, Arbor Family Health*

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, individuals enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) could keep coverage without annual eligibility review until the provision ended March 31, 2023. Expiration of the continuous enrollment provision presented the single largest health coverage transition event since the first open enrollment period of the Affordable Care Act. RUPRI's Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis and a HRSA-funded community-based organization will discuss successes, challenges, and strategies used to promote continuity of health care coverage and reduce the disenrollment rates in rural communities.

### **RHIS – Operations Track**

#### **Rural Health Clinic Strategies for Rural Hospitals**

**Nottoway, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

**Oak Alley, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

**6G**

#### **Contributed Research Papers**

**Bayside C, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

- **Rural jail-based community health worker substance abuse interventions**  
*Ingrid I. Maughan, Intermountain Health Community Health Grant Program Director*
- **The RCORP Initiative's Impact on the Workforce Providing MOUD**  
*Holly Andrilla, MS, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center Deputy Director*
- **Rural-Urban Trends in Up-to-Date Screening for Colorectal, Breast, and Cervical Cancer in the United States from 2018-2022**  
*Gabriel, Benavidez, PhD, Baylor University Assistant Professor*
- **Disparities in Accessing Ambulance Services: Variations by State and Across U.S. Census Regions**  
*Yvonne Jonk, PhD, Director Maine Rural Health Research Center Associate Research Professor*

**Friday, May 10, 2024**

**7:30 – 8:30 a.m.**

**National Rural Veterans Health Interest Group Listening Session Breakfast  
Oak Alley (4<sup>th</sup> Floor)**

Please join NRHA staff in a guided listening session on the topics that impact rural veterans over breakfast. This breakfast is open to all Annual Conference participants, and we look forward to hearing your ideas on the National Rural Veterans Health Interest Group.

**8:00 – 8:30 a.m.**

**USDA's Office of Rural Development Update  
Grand Ballroom ABC, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor**

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

**8:30-9:30 a.m.**

**Washington Update  
Grand Ballroom ABC, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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  
Grand Ballroom D, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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.

## **7B**

### **Supporting Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities**

#### **Grand Ballroom E, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*Darci Graves, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health, Technical Advisor*

During this presentation, CMS OMH will share rural health data and key findings, as well as examples of projects and partnerships used to expand access to care in rural, tribal, and isolated communities.

## **7C**

### **Community-Based Nontraditional Access Points for Telehealth**

#### **Grand Chenier, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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.

### **Rural Prehospital EMS Care Through Telemedicine**

#### **Grand Chenier, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

### **Rural Local Public Health Workforce, Structures and Roles**

#### **Grand Couteau, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

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

*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*

Local governmental public health provides a vital role in protecting and promoting the health and well-being of populations. In rural areas, particularly in states that have not expanded Medicaid, local health departments (LHDs) are more likely to provide clinical services and provide other important services that may otherwise not be available. This session will provide an overview of what rural LHDs do and how they're staffed and structured. Specific topics will include: (1) a description of composition of the rural LHD workforce including the racial and ethnic representativeness of the workforce, (2) perspectives on the role of career ladders in retaining and advancing the workforce, (3) variation in need for public health nurses as crucial public health and clinical providers across the country, and (4) an overview of the staffing, financing, and service provision of LHDs.

### **Lessons Learned from Rural Door-to-Door COVID Vaccination**

#### **Grand Couteau, 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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**

##### **Maurepas, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*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 Reduce Behavioral and Mental Health Stigma in Rural Areas - FORHP**

#### **Borgne, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

*Maura Schanefelt, MPA, Director of Prevention & Recovery, Santa Fe Recovery Center, Inc/Four Corners Detox Recovery*

*Katie Connors, Project Director, CASA-Trinity, Inc*

*Cari Seddon, MA, RDN, LD, CDCES; Director, Community Quality Initiatives; Iowa Healthcare Collaborative*

*Lea Carroll, MPA, Public Health Analyst, HRSA*

Stigma is a key barrier to care that rural communities face, particularly with behavioral and mental health. To reduce stigma, they incorporate behavioral and mental health throughout the community to normalize it. Hear from RCORP grantees sharing innovative approaches integrating behavioral and mental healthcare into rural communities to reduce stigma.

## **RHIS – Operations Track**

### **Jackson Parish Hospital: A Rags to Riches Story**

#### **Nottoway, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

*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 rag to riches story over the last 6 years.

## 7G

### **Contributed Research Papers**

#### **Bayside C, 4<sup>th</sup> floor**

- **Impact of Covid-19 on Rural Hospitals**

*Adam Atherly, PhD, Virginia Commonwealth University Professor*

- **Health Equity Measures in Rural and Urban PPS Hospitals**

*Whitney Zahnd, PhD, University of Iowa College of Public Health Assistant Professor*

- **Rural-Urban Differences in Chronic Pain Prevalence, Impact & Management**

*Erika Ziller, PhD, University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine Director of Health Services Research*

- **Medicare Beneficiaries' Emergency Department Use Since COVID**  
*Shena Popat, MHA, NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis Senior Research Scientist*

**11:00 a.m.**

**End of Annual Conference**

**2023 NRHA Annual Rural Health Conference – Accepted Poster Presentations**

- **Trusted Messenger Network Elevates Rural Community Voices**  
Michelle Medeiros, MS, MA; Delores Datcher, EdD; Jasmine K. Cooper-Williams, PhD; Yvonne Medley; Saya Kakim, PhD; Emily Parks, BA; Yvonne Santiago, MA; Claudia R. Baquet, PhD, MD
- **Rural Mothers' Habitus and Infant Feeding Practices**  
Karry Weston, MSN, RN, PhD candidate; Allison B. Anbari, PhD, RN; Tina Bloom, PhD, MPH, RN, Adjunct Associate Professor; Linda Bullock, PhD, RN, FAAN
- **Rural Hospital Bypass: Patterns, Implications, and Policy Needs**  
Alana Knudson, PhD, Marilyn Klug, PhD, Shena Popat, MHA
- **Analyzing HCC Scores Across Rural and Urban Patients**  
Alana Knudson, PhD, Marilyn Klug, PhD, Samantha Augenbraun, MPH, Shena Popat, MHA
- **Cancer Care Among Veterans in Rural Oregon**  
Megan Lafferty, PhD; Jennifer Scott, MS; Felipe Rubim, MA; Sara Golden, PhD
- **Rural Providers Perceptions of Patient's Use Of Emerging Behavioral Addictions**  
Dawna Nelson, PhD, LMSW; Shanae Shaw, PhD, LMSW; David Albright, PhD; Shmya Ward, BSW
- **Examining Mental Health Disparities for Rural Veterans w/SCI**  
Hilary Touchett, PhD, RN; Jan Lindsay, PhD; Drew Helmer MD, MS; Felicia Skelton, MD, MS
- **Implementing Tele-Buprenorphine Programs in 3 Rural Detention Centers**  
Hannah Smith; Eric Weintraub, M.D; Annabelle Belcher, PhD; Heather Fitzsimons, MPH; Elana Rosenthal, M.D; Max Spaderna, M.D; Natalie Spicyn, M.D; Chris Welsh, M. D; Kelly Coble
- **Population Density Differentiates Dementia Spousal Caregiver Health Markers**  
Christopher P. Fagundes, PhD; E. Lydia Wu-Chung, MA; Luis D. Medina, PhD; Jensine Paoletti, PhD; Vincent Lai, BA; Jennifer M. Stinson, PhD, Itee Mahant, MS; Paul E Schulz, MD; Cobi J. Heijnen, PhD
- **Identifying Characteristics of Patients Seeking Integrative Health Care**  
Ella Shields, OTD-S; Matthew Morris, PhD; Cynthia Karlson, PhD; Danny Burgess, PhD
- **Rural Stroke Care Coordination in South Carolina**  
Sabrina Faircloth, CRT, CVT; Lori Hollowell, RN
- **COVID Vaccine Hesitancy in Rural Pregnant Persons**

Emily Orr, MA; Tiffany Chang, MD Candidate; Allie Herron, MD Candidate; Shruthi Mekala, MD Candidate; Allissa Desloge, MPH, PhD Candidate; Lisa S. Haen, MPH, PhD Candidate

- Evaluation of Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in Rural Hospitals  
Elizabeth Moore; Ellen W. MacLachlan, PhD, MPH; Natalia Martinez-Paz, MA, MPA; Maria Bajenov, MPH; Rupali Jain, PhD, FIDSA, BCIDP; Jeannie D. Chan, PharmD, MPH; John B. Lynch, MD, MPH; Paul S. Pottinger, MD, DTMH, FACP, FIDSA; Chloe Bryson-Cahn, MD; Zahra K. Escobar, PharmD, BCIDP
- Urban-Rural Differences in Firearm Suicide by Region  
Nora E. Mertz, BA, MD Candidate; Dylan J. Bilicki, BS, MD Candidate; Ketan R. N. Brodeur, BS, MD Candidate; Kelly A. Hirko, PhD, MPH
- Relational Coordination in Rural Settings: Pilot Study Findings
- NithyaPriya Ramalingam, PhD; Chrystal Barnes, MPH; Mary Patzel, MBA; Alex Moore, MPH; Victoria Sanchez, MS; Melinda M. Davis, PhD, MCR
- Developing Culturally Centered Outreach Materials for Rural Native Veterans  
Alexandra Caloudas, PhD; Michael E. DeBakey; Gail Beauchamp, LMSW; Oscar G. Johnson; Sharon Anastas, LMSW; Kathy Marchant-Miros, RN; John L. McClellan; Giselle Day, MPH; Stephanie Day, PhD; Kristen Frosio, PhD; Jan Lindsay, PhD; Jay Shore, MD, MPH
- Financial Toxicity and its Impacts  
Michelle Avila, MA; Eun Jeong Ko, PhD
- US Heat-Related Illness Hospitalization Trends 2016-2020  
Gogoal Falia, MBBS, MBA, PhD; Hyejin Park, PhD; Alva Ferdinand, DrPH, JD
- CAH Strategies to Identify Stroke and Initiate CT  
Samantha Frederick, MPH, Mindy Cook, BSN, RN; Amy Swarthout, BSN, RN, CEN
- Barriers And Challenges to Z-Code Use in Critical Access Hospitals  
Elizabeth Hall-Lipsy, JD, MPH
- Addressing Social Needs within a Rural Context  
Rissette Z. MacLaren, MSc; Ida Griesemer, PhD; Justeen Hyde, PhD; Gemmae M. Fix, PhD; Deborah Gurewich, PhD
- Tackling Substance Use Disorder: Community Partnerships Matter  
Madison Ashworth, PhD; Terry Bunn, PhD; Alecia Webb-Edgington
- Texas Rurality Racial Considerations Five Leading Causes Death  
Alva Ferdinand, DrPH, JD; Gogoal Falia, MBBS, MBA, PhD Candidate; Peter Harper, BS; Amy Willa, MPH; Emesomhi Eboime, MPH
- Do Rural and High Index Of Need Counties Have Different Covid-19 Vaccination Rates?  
Elizabeth Hall-Lipsy, JD, MPH
- Measuring Area Level Social Determinants of Health  
Casey P. Balio, PhD; Olivia A. Sullivan, EMT, MPH, DrPH(c); Elizabeth G. Petty, MD Candidate; Kate Beatty, PhD, MPH
- Equity & Community Health in Rural Missouri  
Joan Hermsen, PhD; Rebecca Scott, PhD; Sarah Hultine Massengale, PhD; Kandice Grossman, PhD

- Hospital Quality and Follow-Up Visits after ED Encounters  
Hannah Friedman, PhD; Valerie Lewis, PhD; Arrianna Planey, PhD; Karen Joynt Maddox, MD, MPH; Margaret Greenwood-Eriksen, MD, Msc; Mark Holmes, PhD
- Barriers to Engaging Caregivers in Lethal Means Safety  
John Marmion, MPH; Claire Houtsma, PhD; Katherine MacWilliams, MPH; Dee Blascyk, BSBA; Sharon Urbina, BA; Rachel Moyers, PhD, MS; Gala True, PhD
- Medication-Assisted Weight Loss in Rural Primary Care  
Joanna Edwards, MD; Olivia Balsley Saltus; MD Candidate; Weihai Zhan, PhD; Amanda Reinhart, MD Candidate; Manorama M. Khare
- Rural Capacity Building with Digital Mental Health Clinics  
Julianna Hogan, PhD; Jan Lindsay, PhD
- ED “Tele-Peer” Model Expands Access to MOUD  
Alexandra Duncan, BS; Sarah Gainey, MSW; Suzanne Lane, MSHI; Lindsey Jennings, MD; Alyssa Raferty, BS; Phillip Hudson, BS; Angela Moreland, PhD; Karen Hartwell, MD, Louise Haynes, MSW; Kathleen Brady, MD
- Rural Veteran Perioperative Smoking Cessation Intervention: Lessons Learned  
Stephanie Unger, MSc; Sara Golden, PhD; Kenneth Gundle, MD; David A. Katz MD, MSc; Mark W. Vander Weg, PhD; Marissa Song Mayeda, MPH, MPP; Steffani Bailey, PhD
- US Rural-Urban Disparities in Obesity-Related Mortality, 2000–2019  
Ben T. Varghese, MBBS, MSc; Christina M. Wood-Wentz, MS; Michelle M. Mielke, PhD; Adrian Vella, MD; Kent R. Bailey, PhD; Sagar B. Dugani, MD, PhD, MPH
- Access to Nursing Home Care in Tennessee  
Nicole Galler, MPH; Qian Huang, PhD, MA, MPA; Casey P Balio, PhD; Kate Beatty, PhD, MPH
- Whiteness: A Fundamental Determinant of Rural White Americans' Health  
Caroline R. Efird, PhD, MPH; Derek M. Griffith. PhD
- An Assessment of U.S. Rural Nursing Homes  
Nicole Galler, MPH; Casey P Balio, PhD; Qian Huang, PhD, MA, MPA; Kate Beatty, PhD, MPH; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN
- What Does it Mean to be Rural?  
Ashley E Burch, PhD; Jan Wong, MD; Michael D. Honaker, MD; Amanda Landry, MS, MD Candidate; William Irish, PhD
- Economic Impact of a Rural Health Clinic  
Dr. Brian Whitacre, PhD; Chad Landgraf, MS GISP
- Virtual mental health utilization and disparities in the U.S.: Findings from the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health  
Hye Jin Park, PhD, MPH; Alva O. Ferdinand, DrPH, JD
- Maternal and Child Health in Western North Carolina  
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- Factors Associated with Telehealth Use Among Rural Older Adults in the United States: Findings from the 2022 National Health Interview Survey  
Hye Jin Park, PhD, MPH; Alva O. Ferdinand, DrPH, JD
- An Updated Model of Rural Hospital Financial Distress

Tyler Malone, PhD; George Pink, PhD; Mark Holmes, PhD

- Urban-Rural Differences in Cardiovascular Chronic Conditions  
Qian Huang, Ph.D., MA, MPA
- Rural Health Care Outcomes Accelerator: Comprehensive & Equitable Rural Quality Program  
Karen Joynt-Maddox, MD, MPH; Tim Putnam, DHA, MBA, FACEP; Jeffrey A Sather, MD, MBA, FACEP; Kathleen O'Neill, MHA; Alyssa Jenkins, MHA; Lori Hollowell, RN; Mindy Cook, BSN RN
- Post-Pandemic Patterns of Telehealth Use in SC  
Samantha Renaud MA PMP; Songyuan Deng PhD; Kevin J. Bennett PhD
- Tele-Collaborative Outreach to Rural Patients with Chronic Pain  
Natassja Pal, BS; Sarah Ono, PhD; Erin Krebs, MD; Una Makris, MD; Amanda Mixon, MD; Steven Dobscha, MD; Melinda Davis, PhD; Benjamin Morasco, PhD
- Results of Community-Based Hypertension Screenings in Northern Illinois  
Raquel Ortiz, PharmD Candidate; Heidi Olson, PharmD; Martin MacDowell, DrPH
- Demographics of Rural and Highly Rural Woman Veterans  
Elizabeth Hulen, PhD; Rachel Wall MS; Allison O'Neill MPH; Traben Pleasant PhD; Loretta Shields, PhD, D.Min; Brooke V. Jespersen PhD; Travis Lovejoy PhD; Sarah Ono, PhD
- Variation within the Rural-Residing Older Veteran Population  
Brooke Jespersen, PhD; Traben Pleasant, PhD; Rachel Wall, MS, CCRP; Elizabeth Hulen, PhD; Allison O'Neill, MPH; Loretta Shields, PhD, D.Min; Ayushi Gulati; Sarah Ono, PhD; Travis Lovejoy, PhD, MPH
- Acute Care Needs of Rural Veterans  
Rachel Wall, MS; Elizabeth Hulen, PhD; Allison O'Neill, MS; Brooke Jespersen, PhD; Traben Pleasant, PhD; Ayushi Gulati, BS; Travis Lovejoy PhD; Sarah Ono, PhD
- Health Equity for Gray County  
Kelsey Sprinkles MPH, Jeff Dennis PhD, Julie St. John DrPH, MPH, MA, CHWI, Theresa Byrd DrPH, MPH, RN, Erika Carrillo
- VETCOOR- a Community of Practice between VA and Rural Federally Qualified Health Centers  
Carolyn Turvey, PhD
- Delivering Mental Health Services in Rural Areas  
Rebecca Purc-Stephenson, PhD; Nicole Roy, BA; Adachukwu Chimaobi, BSc
- County Social Vulnerability, Rurality, and Obesity and Inactivity  
Ben T. Varghese, MBBS, MSc; Brian D. Lahr, MS; Adrian Vella, MD; Michelle M. Mielke, PhD; Kent R. Bailey, PhD; Sagar B. Dugani, MD, PhD, MPH
- Rural RN Workforce Development Programs: A Scoping Review  
Kelley Arredondo, PhD; Michael E. DeBakey; Hilary N. Touchett, PhD, RN; Alexander Paterson-Roberts, BBA; Matthew Vincenti, PhD; Bradley V. Watts, MD, MPH
- Using Telehealth to Re-engage Patients Lost to Care  
Doyle M. Cummings, PharmD FCP, FCCP; Jill Jennings, M.S., RD, LDN; Hannah Dail-Barnett, MPH; Jess Barrett, MS, RD, LDN; Enfiniti Atkinson Afriyie, MS, LCMHCA, NCC, LCASA; Brittany Pierce, MSN, RN; Jennifer Curley, RN

- Providers' Perspectives on Cancer Control in Rural Communities  
Mariam Atkinson, PhD
- Prioritizing Actions to Improve HPV Vaccination with Rural U.S. Communities  
Heather M. Brandt, PhD; Duha Magzoub, MPH; Cristóbal Valdebenito, MA; Julia Neely Brown, MPH; Andrea Stubbs, MPA
- Supply and Aging of the Rural Surgeon Workforce  
Casey P Balio, PhD; Robert D. Luke, DO, PGY-4; Elizabeth G. Petty, MD Candidate; Alexa P. Sout
- Cancer Screening Capacity in Health Care Facilities in Rural Illinois  
Ravneet Kaur, DrPH, MBA; Jennifer Eng, BS; David Pluta, MPH; Linda Kasebier, MPH, MHS; Leslie Carnahan, PhD, MPH; Manorama Khare, PhD, MS
- Rural Property Tax Inequities and Health Outcomes  
Sarah Donnelly, PhD; Fabrice Julien, PhD
- Investigating Appalachian Medical Students' Perceived Supports and Inhibitors  
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Jason Hedrick, PhD; Erin McHenry-Sorber, PhD
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- Providing Insight to Rural Students Interested in Healthcare  
Nicole Lee
- Increasing Rural Mental Health Awareness through Community Education  
Bingyue Zhang, MD Candidate
- Evaluating an International Collaborative to Address Rural Health  
Neil MacKinnon PhD; Melissa Powell-Williams PhD; Preshit Ambade, DrPH; Vanessa Emery, MPH; Puja Pudukollu, BS; Merry Chen, BS
- Evaluating an International Collaborative to Address Rural Health  
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- West Virginia University Rural Undergraduate Shadowing Program Evaluation  
Victoria Sanchez, PhD; Christie Zachary, MS; April Vestal, MPH; Jacquelynn Copenhaver, MA; A. Brianna Sheppard, PhD
- HIV Care and Treatment in Rural Communities  
Christie Slay, MPA, MAEd, CHES
- Improving Migraine Outcomes through Primary Care Education  
Jennifer M. Watkins, MSN, APRN, AGAC-NP
- Rural/Urban Comparisons of Outpatient Stroke Rehabilitation Proximity  
Phoebe M. Tran, PhD, MS; Benjamin Fogelson, DO, MBA; Robert E. Heidel, PhD
- Teaching Coping Skills to Students in Rural Appalachia  
Brian Larsen Wells; Sara Myers, BS; Sharon McLennan; Kathryn Godwin, MBA; and Randy Byington Ed.D., MBA, MT
- Comparing Access to Rural Dermatologic Care in Southeast and Northwest Missouri  
Rebecka Ernst, BS; Claire Wright, BS; Megan Lent, MD Candidate; Allison Sindle, MD Candidate
- Social Vulnerability and Mental Health During COVID 2020  
Alejandro Arroyo Rodriguez; Cassie Odahowski, MPH, PHD; Joy Taazieh; Stephanie Gonzalez
- Tennessee Adult Non-Traumatic Dental Emergency Department Visits (2018)  
Jessica C. Williams; Chau-Kuang Chen, EdD; Jacinta Leavell, Ph.D., MS; Tiffany E. Wilson, DDS, MPH
- Innovation Trilogy - Health Equity in Rural Idaho  
Tom Reinhardt, MBA
- Implementing a Statewide Arkansas Rural Acute Myocardial Infarction Initiative  
Whitney Ochoa, MPH BSN RN; Christina Joshua, MPH; David Vrudny, MPH; Kristen Waller, RN; Loni Denne, BSN, RN, AHA; Mindy Cook BSN, RN
- "Impacts of MedEd on Healthcare Career Determination"  
Jessica Scheer, BS, MD Candidate; Lucas Goetz, BS, MD Candidate
- Empowering Emerging Leaders through Professional Development Education to Yield High Performance Teams  
Julie Hall, MSN, RN; Samantha Belden, DNP, RN, CEN
- Facilitators and Barriers to Complete an Evidence-based Lifestyle Change Program Among Rural Males with Prediabetes  
Angela Landeen, EdD, CHES, CPH
- Lessons Learned: Implementing a Rural Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship  
Meghan Meyers, MPH, MHA; Jana Lee, MS; Kathleen Quinn, PhD
- Characterizing Physical Health and Injuries of Rural Farmers  
Chase Reece, BSHP; Noah Hopkins, MPH; Dr. Christina Proctor, MPH, PhD
- Alcohol Use Among a Sample of Farmers in the United States: Correlates and Contextual Factors  
Christina Proctor, MPH, PhD; Chase Reece, BSHP; Noah Hopkins, MPH
- Interviewing First Responders to Address the Overdose Epidemic  
Everett Long, PhD; Brunet-Garcia

- Factors Impacting Rural Adult Suicide Rates in the United States  
Norah Scholl, MA

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