



NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

**44th Annual Rural Health Conference
May 5-7, 2021
Sheraton New Orleans**

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

8:00 – 9 a.m.

Opening Session

John Gale, NRHA, President

Alan Morgan, NRHA, CEO

9:45 - 11 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

1A

Infectious Disease Response in Rural Communities

Alex Billieux, MD, PhD, Louisiana Department of Health, Assistant Secretary of Health for the Office of Public Health

Lauren Canary, Virginia Tech Carillion School of Medicine, Medical Student / Infectious Disease Epidemiologist

Judith Feinberg, MD, MPH, West Virginia University School of Medicine, Professor of Medicine/Infectious Diseases

Judith Shaplin, Mountain Health & Community Services, President

This session will highlight recent infectious disease outbreaks in rural communities; HIV, viral hepatitis, COVID-19, and measles. It will provide an overview of barriers and facilitators to the public health response in rural communities and illustrate opportunities for advocacy to support public health infrastructure in rural communities.

1B

Behavioral Health Models for Rural Health Clinics

John Gale, MS, Maine Rural Health Research Center, Senior Research Associate

To assist Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) in addressing chronic shortages of mental health and substance use services, this session describes behavioral health models implemented by RHCs. This will be an applied presentation focused on program and clinical design; staffing patterns; billing, coding, reimbursement, and regulatory issues; and program sustainability.

1C

Rural Health Research Generating Real and Local Change

Katy Kozhimannil, Ph.D., University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center, Professor, Director of the Minnesota Rural Health Research Center
Shawnda Schroeder, PhD, Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Associate Director of Research, Faculty

Learn how the Rural Health Research Centers use their research, community partners, and diverse dissemination strategies to make real and local change in our rural communities. Understand how the research can be used to develop community programs, educate decision makers, and generate media attention on complex rural health issues.

1D

Determining Priority Rural Community Interventions for Veteran Healthcare

Libba McMillan, PhD, Auburn University School of Nursing, Associate Professor

Almost a quarter of all Veterans in the United States return from active military careers to reside in rural communities. Many Veterans experience rural health care challenges intensified by combat-related injuries/illnesses. Determining priority healthcare community interventions begins with understanding community stakeholder perspectives. Utilizing a collaborative academic partnership can improve healthcare.

1E

Rural Family Medicine Residencies: Meeting the Mission

Robert Gobbo, MD, Providence Hood River Family Medicine Rural Training Program, Program Director
Davis Patterson, PhD, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Director / Research Associate Professor
Lars Petersen, MD, PhD, American Board of Family Medicine, Vice President of Research
Angela Womble, , University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine and Community Health - Baraboo Rural Training Track Program, Residency Education Coordinator, Director

Rural America has fewer physicians leading to poorer health outcomes. In order to build the rural physician workforce, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funded a Rural Residency Planning and Development-Technical Assistance Center to support development of 38 rural residency programs in family medicine, psychiatry, and internal medicine.

Rural Residency Development: Evaluation of Program Readiness

Mark Holmes, PhD, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, Professor
Randall Longenecker, MD, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Professor of Family Medicine and Assistant Dean Rural and Underserved Programs
Amanda Weidner, MPH, University of Washington Family Medicine Residency Network, Research Consultant
Emily Hawes, PharmD, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Associate Professor

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1F

FORHP Medicare Policy Update (FORHP)

RHIS Track

Pricing Transparency 2021

Amy Tepp, Eide Bailly LLP, Partner,

This presentation will cover the evolution of pricing transparency for hospitals. It will discuss the final rule that will become effective January 1, 2021 and how hospitals can work towards implementation compliance.

RHIS Track

Transitional Care and MENDS Wellness program

Mark Lindsay, M.D., Allevant Solutions, Assistant Professor Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Medical Director Allevant

Transitional Care is vital to the future of rural hospitals. Will share our experience supporting over 70 critical access hospitals, over 120,000 swing bed days in 18 states. MENDS is a complementary program focusing on key factors that impact health, wellness, resiliency, and costs for populations, communities, and healthcare workers.

11 – 11:30 a.m.

Research & Poster Session Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Plenary Session – HRSA Rural Health Update

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

12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Keynote Address

Sarah Smarsh, Journalist and author

2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

2A

Cancer Care Delivery in Rural Safety Net Settings

Jan Eberth, PhD, Rural & Minority Health Research Center at the University of South Carolina, Associate Professor and Director

Peiyin Hung, PhD, Rural & Minority Health Research Center at the University of South Carolina, Assistant Professor

Whitney Zahnd, PhD, Rural & Minority Health Research Center at the University of South Carolina, Research Assistant Professor

This session will discuss the current availability of cancer screening and treatment services available in critical access and other rural hospitals and their diverging trends. Panelists will also discuss the perspectives of the role that Rural Health Clinics play in cancer prevention, screening, and cancer-relevant chronic condition care management.

2B

The Rural Health Clinic in 2021. What changed?

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

Listeners will learn the changes in clinic as a result of the 2020 PHE. What has changed? what is the same? Learn tips to adjust, survive and even thrive all the while staying compliant in the program.

2C

Educating Providers and Community on Rural Mental Health

Shawnda Schroeder, PhD, Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Associate Director of Research, Faculty

The Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides training/technical assistance to individuals who serve persons with mental illness in rural communities. Learn about rural barriers to care, T/TA needs identified by providers, and how needs shifted during COVID-19.

2D

COVID-19's Impact on SDOH in Rural Border Communities

David Line, PhD, Eastern Washington University, MPH Program Director

Mary-Katherine Smith McNatt, DrPH, A.T. Still University, MPH Department Chair

At the end of this session, attendees will be able to define the impact COVID-19 has had on the SDOH in rural communities along the U.S. – Mexico Border Region.

2E

Building a rural fellowship for primary care

Mykell Barnacle, DNP, North Dakota State University, Assistant Professor of Practice

Allison Peltier, DNP, North Dakota State University

Rural primary care offers varied clinical roles, procedural expectations, and a wide scope of practice. Formal institutional support of new nurse practitioners entering rural primary care has the potential to enhance productivity, longevity, and patient satisfaction. Healthcare institutions and universities can leverage resources to create mutually beneficial post-graduation fellowship experiences.

2F

How “RMOMS” doing? Implementing the Rural Maternal and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program (FORHP)

RHIS Track

Financing Opportunities to Support Rural Healthcare

Surabhi Dabar, USDA - Rural Development, Senior Advisor

Rural hospitals provide needed healthcare and serve as anchors for economic development in rural communities and need access to capital to support and sustain healthcare infrastructure. Rural Development can be a strong partner through affordable financing and the ability to bring private financing and institutional expertise to the table.

4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

3A

Addressing Farm Stress and Rural Mental Health

Shawnda Schroeder, PhD, Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Associate Director of Research, Faculty

This session describes the definition of farm stress, contributing factors, the impact of farm stress on the family and community, barriers to utilization of mental health services in agricultural communities, and how farming demographics and associated stress vary by U.S. region. Presenters will also share resources and successful community models.

Mental Health in Farm and Ranch Country

Tara Haskins, DNP, RN, AgriSafe Network, Mental Health in Farm and Ranch Country
Amanda Stone, PhD, Mississippi State University, Assistant Professor

Recognizing mental distress in agricultural populations and starting a dialogue is critical. Family dairy farms have been going out of business faster than any time in recent history- and then COVID-19 hit. Relating to intense farm stress and despair requires an understanding of how the system works or doesn't work.

3B

Building a Better Rural Health Clinic

John Gale, MS, Maine Rural Health Research Center, Senior Research Associate

Rural primary care offers varied clinical roles, procedural expectations, and a wide scope of practice. Formal institutional support of new nurse practitioners entering rural primary care has the potential to enhance productivity, longevity, and patient satisfaction. Healthcare institutions and universities can leverage resources to create mutually beneficial post-graduation fellowship experiences.

3C

Rural Emergency Medical Services: Providing Evidence-based Care

Nikiah Nudell, The Paramedic Foundation, Chief Data
Davis Patterson, PhD, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Director / Research Associate Professor
Benjamin Stubbs, University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies, Research Scientist

Do rural emergency medical services (EMS) personnel provide care that is evidence-based and aligned with National EMS Scope of Practice Model standards? Learn about the results of a national study of EMS provider practices and engage in an interactive discussion of implications for high quality care in rural communities.

3D

Models of Integrating Community and Health

Kevin Bennett, PhD, SC Center for Rural & Primary Healthcare, Director
Susan DuPlessis, South Carolina Arts Commission, Community Arts Development Director and Local Arts Agency Liaison
Cella Hartline, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, Nursing Leadership Senior Manager

Jennifer Kowalkowski, Univeristy of Wisconsin - Madison, PhD Candidate

Tim Size, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, Executive Director

Megan Weis, DrPH, SC Center for Rural & Primary Healthcare, Director of Community Engagement

Beverly Wilson, FoodShare South Carolina, Co-Founder and Executive Director

This panel presentation and discussion will share several innovative models and methods for reinvigorating rural communities and building non-traditional partnerships to improve public health and health care. Examples to be shared include rural libraries connecting patrons to health care, food accessing programming, and the art of community and storytelling.

3F

Racial and Ethnic Rural Health Disparities (FORHP)

RHIS Track

Turning the curve: Re-invigorating rural maternity care services

Martha Carlough, M.D., University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Professor, Family Medicine

This workshop will describe critical steps towards reinvigorating rural maternity care including: background literature review, population based projections of need, baseline survey of similar hospitals with/without deliveries, community engagement efforts, and developing a partnership between a critical access hospital, an academic medical center and a rural family medicine training program.

RHIS Track

Building a Better Board: experiences in education

Bree Watzak, PharmD, Center for Optimizing Rural Health, Director of Technical Assistance

Rural hospitals are operating in crisis mode and an uninformed or ill-informed board has the potential to hasten the closure of a hospital. Come hear about lessons learned delivering board education from the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center and the Center for Optimizing Rural Health.

Thursday, May 6, 2021

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

4A

Positive Childhood Experiences before and during COVID-19

Eric Bellamy, Children's Trust of South Carolina, Chief Partner Engagement Officer Elizabeth Crouch, Phd,

University of South Carolina, Rural and Minority Health Research Center, Assistant Professor, Deputy Director

Melinda Merrell, PhD, Rural and Minority Health Research Center, Research Assistant Professor

Janice Probst, PhD, Rural and Minority Health Research Center, Professor

Positive childhood experiences (PCEs) foster healthy child development. Interventions to increase PCEs, such as home visiting, were paused or conducted remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. We describe the 2017-2018 prevalence of PCEs among rural children and discuss how advocacy groups may promote PCE-focused programming in post-pandemic rural America.

Trauma, substance misuse, and ACEs in rural communities

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

The wide-ranging impacts of the opioid epidemic not only affect adults with substance use disorder (SUD), but also children who have faced parental separation, witnessed an overdose, or experienced abuse and neglect. Learn about the relationship between SUD and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), especially in the context of COVID-19.

4B

Post-Acute Care for Rural Medicare Beneficiaries

Tracy Mroz, PhD, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center- University of Washington, Associate Professor, Rehabilitation Medicine

This presentation will describe recent studies from the WWAMI Rural Health Research Center on post-acute care and discuss implications for policy and practice. Topics include planned versus actual discharges to post-acute care, quality of rural versus urban providers, and potential impact of overlapping policy changes on rural home health agencies.

4C

Implementation of a telepharmacy simulation amidst a pandemic

Kelly Cochran, PharmD, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Pharmacy at MU
Barbara Kasper, PharmD, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Pharmacy at MU

Telehealth education and telepharmacy skills are not widely implemented in core pharmacy curricula but were incorporated into a rural health and agrimedecine elective course. Instructors pivoted to deliver the assessment in the pandemic. Telepharmacy simulation provided hands-on experience for students to practice skills needed in a rural healthcare setting.

4D

Health and Safety of Rural Residents Living Alone

Carter Florence, DrPH, Meals on Wheels America, Senior Director, Strategy & Impact
Carrie Henning-Smith, PhD, MPH, MSW, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center, Assistant Professor and Deputy Director
Mariana Tuttle, MPH, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center, Research & Communications Fellow

Living alone is associated with particular risks of poor health, social isolation, and safety threats, especially among individuals with underlying health conditions. This session will describe the health of rural residents living alone, as well as on-the-ground perspectives of rural home-delivered meal providers supporting older rural residents living alone.

Navigators Confront Social Isolation, SDOH Disparities in Rural Communities

Leo Blandford, Outer Cape Health Services, Director of Community-Based Programs
Andy Lowe, Outer Cape Health Services, Chief Strategy Officer
Haley Schachter, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Medical Student
Brianne Smith, Outer Cape Health Services, Community Navigator Program Coordinator

Learn how community health workers (Navigators) provide intervention in rural outer Cape Cod communities. Underserved vulnerable residents of this vacation destination struggle through long winters with depression and social isolation exacerbated by social determinants challenges in housing, transportation, employment, etc. Navigators employ innovative techniques/tools to improve outcomes/reduce emergency services usage.

4E

Community Characteristics of HRSA's Rural Residency Program Grantees

Erin Fraher, PhD, MPP, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, Director, Carolina Health Workforce Research Center; Associate Professor

Emily Hawes, PharmD, UNC School of Medicine, Associate Professor

Julia Long, BSPH, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, Graduate Research Assistant

Cristen Page, MD, MPH, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Executive Dean, William B. Aycock Distinguished Professor

This presentation will summarize the demographic, practice, and socioeconomic characteristics of the 38 healthcare organizations in 24 states that received funding through the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy's Rural Residency Planning and Development (RRPD). Grantees include 30 Family Medicine, 5 Psychiatry and 3 Internal Medicine programs across the country.

4F

Black Lung and COVID-19: A forgotten respiratory disease during a novel respiratory pandemic (FORHP)

RHIS Track

From the Field: New Models of Payment and Delivery

John Supplitt, American Hospital Association, Senior Director

I propose to share the latest evidence from the field of new models of hospital payment and delivery. This session will feature several case examples beginning with COVID-19 to present.

RHIS Track

Innovative Funding Solutions for Nursing Workforce Transition to Practice

Nicole Weathers, University of Iowa College of Nursing, Iowa Online Nurse Residency Program Manager

Explore the use of two funding opportunities organizations have used to bring a transition program to fruition.

10:15 – 10:45 a.m.

Research & Poster Session Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

5A

Why Are Eastern Kentucky's Overdose Mortality Rates Declining?

Matt Brown, Addiction Recovery Care, Senior Vice President of Administration

Megan Heffernan, NORC at the University of Chicago, Research Scientist

Michael Meit, NORC at the University of Chicago, Senior Fellow

The NORC Walsh Center and the UK Center for Excellence in Rural Health are conducting a study to understand factors contributing to decreased overdose mortality rates in Eastern Kentucky. Presenters will discuss key informant interview findings focused on cross-sector collaboration, increased access to treatment, and shifts in drug use.

The Opioid Research Consortium of Central Appalachia (ORCCA)

Michael Meit, East Tennessee State University, Center for Rural Health Research and Deputy Director, Center for Substance Misuse in Rural America

Robert Pack, PhD, East Tennessee State University, Director, Center for Substance Misuse in Rural America

The Opioid Research Consortium of Central Appalachia is a sustained multi-institutional consortium of five universities, three health systems and more than six community agencies organized to accelerate collaborative, highly translational opioid treatment and prevention research by converging scientific, clinical, and community capacity to improve rural health in Central Appalachia.

5B

AAP

5C

Meeting the Need for Rural Emergency Preparedness Training

Mary-Katherine McNatt, DrPH, AT Still University, Chair & Associate Professor

Shawnda Schroeder, Ph.D., Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Research Associate Professor

Susan Thomas, AT Still University, Instructional Designer

M. Lindsay Wright, AT Still University

During this session, attendees will learn about the development of an online, asynchronous public health emergency preparedness training certificate designed to meet the need for training and preparing the rural public health workforce to respond to public health emergencies and disasters.

5E

Mountains to Sea: Creating a Statewide Rural Health Curriculum in NC

Meredith Bazemore, MPA, UNC School of Medicine, Director, Office of Rural Initiatives

Benjamin Gilmer, MD, Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC),

Bryan Hodge, DO, Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC), Director of Center for Health Professions Education and Rural Health Initiatives, UNC Health Sciences at MAHEC

Caroline Roberts, MD, UNC School of Medicine, Faculty Champion, Office of Rural Initiatives

UNC School of Medicine is partnering with Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) and Southeastern Area Health Education Center (SEAHEC) to create a shared rural curriculum. The COVID-19 crisis created several challenges, but also unique opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and a new vision on rural curriculum delivery.

Longitudinal Program Success: Building a Rural Workforce in NC

Meredith Bazemore, MPA, UNC School of Medicine, Director, Office of Rural Initiatives

Caroline Roberts, MD, UNC School of Medicine, Faculty Champion, Office of Rural Initiatives

The Kenan Rural Primary Care Scholars Program had the first group of scholars (6) complete residency in 2020. Four signed contracts in rural North Carolina supporting workforce needs across the state. Of 61 total KRPMS scholars with 31 graduates, 26 have matched into Primary Care with intent to practice in NC.

5F
Public and Private Collaborative Approaches to Health and Well-Being in Rural Communities (FORHP)

RHIS Track

History of Rural Hospital Support Programs: Lessons Learned

John Gale, M.S., Maine Rural Health Research Center, Senior Research Associate

This session reviews the history of state and federal programs to support vulnerable rural hospitals, summarizes the lessons learned, and uses those lessons to inform current policy initiatives to address rural hospital closures. It will provide a historical policy context to assist policymakers in their efforts to support at-risk hospitals.

RHIS Track

Overcoming Medication Assisted Treatment Barriers in Rural Communities

Steven Kelley, Westchester-Ellenville Hospital Inc, President and CEO

Patients who present to the Emergency Department in withdrawal or post overdose are offered Buprenorphine with a warm hand off to a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate. Providers can provide Buprenorphine for up to 72 hours and local providers have agreed to start treatment by day 4, eliminating treatment gaps.

1:45 – 2:45 p.m.
Terry Reilly Lecture – TBA

2:45 – 3:30 p.m.
Research & Poster Break

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions

6A
Telehealth Session

6B
CHART

6C
Messaging Within COVID-19 Landscape in Rural Illinois Communities
Heather Whetsell, SIU School of Medicine-Population Science and Policy, Administrative Director

This session demonstrates how a nontraditional academic medical department with a social mission communicates with its rural partners.

Pioneering Ideas for Rural Illinois Communities

Heather Whetsell, SIU School of Medicine-Population Science and Policy, Administrative Director

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine's Department of Population Science and Policy (PSP) developed a change theory bridging research, data evaluation, community engagement and policy implementation to address health disparities in Illinois's rural communities. PSP has developed a reputation as a rural change agent with infrastructure, capability, and public/private partnerships.

6D

Rebuilding the Foundation of Rural Community Health

Megan Lahr, MPH, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center, Research Fellow

John Gale, M.S., Maine Rural Health Research Center, Senior Research Associate

Alana Knudson, PhD, Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis at NORC, Principal Research Scientist and Co-Director

Shena Popat, MHA, Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis at NORC, Research Scientist

COVID-19 has dramatically exposed the cracks in the foundation of America's rural health system and significantly weakened many rural providers. Long-term strategies to rebuild, rather than patch, this foundation should rely on four policy cornerstones: new financing and delivery models, local health planning, regionalization of delivery systems, and community engagement.

6E

Physician Assistant Readiness for Rural Practice

Holly Andrilla, Collaborative for Rural Primary care Research, Education, and Practice (Rural PREP), Co-investigator

Eric Larson, PhD, Collaborative for Rural Primary care Research, Education, and Practice (Rural PREP), Lead Investigator

Davis Patterson, PhD, Collaborative for Rural Primary care Research, Education, and Practice (Rural PREP), Director

We will present new Rural PREP study findings on how physician assistant (PA) training programs prepare PAs for rural practice, sharing insights from program directors, as well as preceptors, and staff at rural training sites. An expert panel will lead discussion about best practices in rural clinical training for PAs.

Rural Health Workforce: Who Cares for Rural Populations?

Holly Andrilla, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Senior Research Scientist / Deputy Director

Davis Patterson, PhD, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, Director / Research Assistant Professor

Join the WWAMI Rural Health Research Center to hear the latest findings on rural/urban health workforce distribution and who provides care to rural populations. We will share national and state-by-state profiles of both the primary and specialty care workforces, with special attention to behavioral health, obstetrics, and general surgery providers.

6F

Prop.10 CDC's Rural COVID-19 Response (FORHP)

RHIS Track

Exploring the Impacts of the Medicare Advantage Program

Jeanna Ballard, Northern Illinois University's Center for Governmental Studies, Senior Research Associate, Melissa (Mel) Henriksen, Northern Illinois University's Center for Governmental Studies, Assistant Director

Northern Illinois University and the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network explored the impact of the Medicare Advantage program. Increased contracting with Medicare Advantage plans means policymakers need to evaluate critical components of the program including billing guidelines and standardization, pre-authorization requirements, repayment formulas, cost settlement processes, and beneficiary education/outreach.

Friday, May 7, 2021

8 – 9:30 a.m.

Washington Update

Carrie Cochran-McLain, NRHA, Government Affairs and Policy Vice President

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

Advancing rural oral health through value-systems and policy

Abigail Kelly, Medical University of South Carolina, Research Instructor

Joni Nelson, PhD, Medical University of South Carolina, Assistant Professor and Deputy Director, Division of Population Oral Health

This session will discuss oral health value systems and policy enactments that influence population oral health equity. Specifically, we describe the impacts of dental health behaviors and beliefs among sociodemographic factors at a national level by rural/urban, and the role of local and federal policymakers to reduce rural disparities.

7C

Current trends in the Workforce Trained to Treat Opioid Use Disorders

Holly Andrilla, MS, WWAMI Rural Health Reserach Center, Research Scientist

The continuing opioid crisis has led to federal legislation and programs to expand the workforce capacity trained to provide medication treatment for opioid-use disorder (OUD) and provide behavior health treatment for patients. We will present the latest data on this workforce and several behavioral health workforce training programs.

7D

A Wild and Wonderful West Virginia Collaboration

Kristin Dial, Coalfield Health Center (FQHC), Executive Director

Anitra Ellis, DNP, Coalfield Health Center (FQHC), Nurse Practitioner and Community Educator

Robert Foster, DO, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, Associate Dean and Professor

Jennifer Plymale, Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Associate Dean of Admissions, Director, Center for Rural Health

Starting with a community initiative, an allopathic and an osteopathic medical school have joined with a federally qualified health center to form a unique collaboration to improve community health outcomes and to encourage physician recruitment to rural areas in West Virginia. This alliance is a sustainable, replicable rural community model.

7F

Bridging the Physician Workforce in Rural America (FORHP)

RHIS Track

Developing Rural Hospital-Based Behavioral Health Systems of Care

John Gale, M.S., Maine Rural Health Research Center, Senior Research Associate

Chronic shortages of mental health and substance use treatment plague rural communities. This session describes strategies employed by rural hospitals and clinics to develop sustainable continuums of inpatient, outpatient, ambulatory, and community-based behavioral health care. It will review clinical models to assist other rural hospitals to develop these essential services.

11:00 a.m.

End of Annual Conference

Selected Research Presentations

TBA

Accepted Poster Sessions

TBA