

**National Rural Health Association
28th Annual Policy Institute
February 7-9, 2017
Draft Agenda**

Omni Shoreham Hotel • 2500 Calvert Street NW • Washington, DC

Join NRHA for the largest rural advocacy event in the country and the most important Policy Institute to date. Now, more than ever, Washington needs to hear from the rural voice.

Tuesday, February 7	
7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.	Registration Blue Room pre-function
7:00—8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast Blue Room pre-function
7:30—7:40 a.m.	Your Voice Louder. Your Voice Smarter. Your Voice Now. <i>David Schmitz, MD, 2017 NRHA President</i> Blue Room
7:40—8:00 a.m.	Rural Speaks. Ensure Washington Listens. The voice of rural America was loud in the 2016 election. Rural voters showed up in record numbers and significantly impacted the outcome of both the White House and Congress. No matter what your political views, now - - more than ever - - it's imperative that you stay engaged. Washington is listening. Learn the latest news from Capitol Hill and get updated on issues affecting rural health, including the latest rural health legislation and regulations. Take a glimpse in what will be the top health care issues this year from NRHA's head lobbyist. <i>Maggie Elehwany, NRHA Government Affairs VP</i> Blue Room
8:00—8:15 a.m.	Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) Blue Room
8:15—8:30 a.m.	Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) Blue Room
8:30—8:45 a.m.	Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) Blue Room
8:45—9:00 a.m.	Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) Blue Room
9:00—9:45 a.m.	Medicaid and the Trump Administration What is the future of Medicaid under the Trump Administration? Will Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act continue? Will Medicaid waivers continue? Will Medicaid block grants occur and what is the impact to the rural patient and provider? Find out in this important session led by a panel of national experts. <i>Brian Bowden, Associate Legislative Director of Health, National Association of Counties</i> <i>Julie Rovner, Senior Correspondent, Kaiser Health News</i> <i>Brian C. Tabor, Executive Vice President, Indiana Hospital Association</i> Blue Room
9:45—10:00 a.m.	Rep. Evan Jenkins (R-WV) Blue Room

10:00—10:15 a.m.	<p>Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) Co-chair of the U.S. Senate Rural Health Caucus Blue Room</p>
10:15—10:30 a.m.	<p>Break</p>
10:30—10:50 a.m.	<p>HRSA Rural Health Update Hear about the latest initiatives from the US. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration</p> <p><i>Heather Dimeris, Deputy Associate Administrator, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration</i> Blue Room</p>
10:50—11:00 a.m.	<p>Medicare Cuts and Behavioral Health Concerns in the New Congress <i>J.R. Greene, MBA, Chief Executive Officer, Psychiatric Medical Care</i> Blue Room</p>
11:00—11:30 a.m.	<p>Medicare and the Trump Administration Currently, average Medicare margins for rural providers are negative, harming many rural providers' financial viability and seniors' access to care. Will the new Congress and Administration make changes to the Medicare program? Will the proposed expansion of private insurance plans in the Medicare program mean that critical cost-based reimbursements to rural providers could be lost and access to local rural providers limited?</p> <p><i>Jason J. Barb, CPA, FHFMA, Partner, BKD, LLP</i> <i>Alyene Senger, Policy Analyst, The Heritage Foundation</i> <i>Tim Size, Executive Director, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative</i> Blue Room</p>
11:30—11:45 a.m.	<p>Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE) Blue Room</p>
11:45 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	<p>Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) Blue Room</p>
12:00—1:00 p.m.	<p>Lunch Luncheon Speaker: <i>Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV)</i></p> <p><i>Rural Innovation: CPSI Accountable Care Program Lynn Barr, Founder, Caravan Health</i> <i>Tracey Schroeder, Senior Vice-President, CPSI</i> Empire room</p>
1:00—1:45 p.m.	<p>Rural Hospital Closure Crisis and the New Congress As our political leaders debate how to reinvigorate the economy and invest in infrastructure, we must also remind them that rural health care is the critical component in a vibrant rural economy. A healthy rural economy needs a healthy rural community – but massive cuts have meant a record number of rural hospital closures since 2010.</p> <p>One in three rural hospitals is financially vulnerable; at the current closure rate, more than 25% of rural hospitals will close in less than a decade. Closures of this magnitude will create a massive national crisis in access to emergency services and harm rural economies. This session will focus on how the new Congress can stop the rural hospital closure crisis.</p> <p><i>Michael Topchik, National Leader, Chartis Center for Rural Health</i> <i>Tim Wolters, Director of Reimbursement, Citizens Memorial Hospital</i> Blue Room</p>

1:45—2:00 p.m.	<p>Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA) Blue Room</p>
2:00—2:30 p.m.	<p>Did ACA Exchanges Work for Rural America? What Changes are Needed in the Health Insurance Market? This session will examine the market failures in rural America and how to ensure options in the rural health insurance market.</p> <p><i>Cynthia Cox, Associate Director, Health Reform and Private Insurance, Kaiser Family Foundation</i> <i>Tom Dean, MD, Family Physician, Jerauld County Community Health Center</i> <i>Michelle Mills, Chief Executive Officer, Colorado Rural Health Center</i> Blue Room</p>
2:30—2:45 p.m.	<p>Is MACRA Here to Stay? Will the new Administration impact how rural practitioners are paid? How will the new Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs) work for rural providers? What must rural providers know to be ready for MIPS in 2017 and beyond?</p> <p><i>Andrew C. Adair, J.D., Government Relations Representative, American Academy of Family Physicians</i> Blue Room</p>
2:45—3:00 p.m.	<p>Break</p>
3:00—3:30 p.m.	<p>CMS Update Hear about the latest initiatives from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.</p> <p><i>Patrick Conway, MD, MSc, Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services</i> Blue Room</p>
3:30—4:30 p.m.	<p><i>NRHA Rural Health Foundation presents:</i> The Rural Voice in the 2016 Election The NRHA Rural Health Foundation presents a deeper look into how rural America's vote impacted the 2016 election.</p> <p><i>Chris Clayton, Ag Policy Editor, DTN/The Progressive Farmer</i> <i>Dee Davis, President, Center for Rural Strategies</i> <i>Michelle Diggles, Ph.D, Political Scientist, Independent Consultant</i> <i>Moderated by Tim Size, Executive Director, Wisconsin Health Cooperative</i> Blue Room</p>

<p>4:30—5:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions</p>	<p>A. Keeping Care Local: Rural Recruitment and Retention A look at workforce, recruitment and retention in rural America and how “training in the sticks, sticks.” This panel will examine the challenges and opportunities of growing our own workforce in rural America.</p> <p><i>Lynette Dickson, MS, RD, LRD, Associate Director, Center for Rural Health Director, Area Health Education Center, University of North Dakota, School of Medicine and Health Sciences</i> <i>Randall Longenecker MD, Professor of Family Medicine and Assistant Dean, Rural and Underserved Programs, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine</i> <i>Mike Shimmens, Executive Director, 3RNet</i></p> <p>Executive Room</p> <p>B. Meeting Maternal Needs in Rural America Fewer than 6% of OB-GYNs practice in rural and the number of family physicians providing obstetric services has declined by 50%, leaving less than 20% of family physicians providing delivery services. Between 2010 and 2015, nearly 10% of rural hospitals shuttered obstetric units leaving women to travel, on average, an additional 29 miles. This interactive panel will examine the problem and discuss potential solutions.</p> <p><i>Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell (D-AL-7), House Ways and Means Committee</i> <i>Hillary G. Beard, Health Legislative Assistant, Office of Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell (D-AL-7)</i> <i>Steffanie Bezruki, Health Legislative Assistant, Office of Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (D-IL-17)</i> <i>Britta L. Anderson, PhD, Senior Research Scientist, Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis at NORC</i> <i>Carrie Henning-Smith, PhD, MPH, MSW, Research Associate, University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center</i></p> <p>Hampton Room</p> <p>C. Integrating Oral Health Care in Rural Primary Care This panel will include a timely discussion on the importance of integrating oral health care into primary care. This session will highlight proven partnerships working in rural areas to improve rural oral health care access through communications, education, research and policy.</p> <p><i>Marcia K. Brand, Ph.D., Executive Director, NIIOH and Senior Advisor for National Policy, Dentaquest Foundation</i> <i>Mark Deutchman, MD, Professor, Dept. of Family Medicine; Director, Rural Track, School of Medicine; University of Colorado Health Sciences Center</i> <i>Amy Martin, DrPH, James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina director and associate professor</i></p> <p>Congressional Room</p>
Wednesday, February 8	
<p>7:00—10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Registration Blue Room pre-function</p>

7:00—7:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast Blue Room pre-function
7:15—7:45 a.m.	Capitol Hill Strategy Prepare for your meetings with your Members of Congress by learning more about the issues facing rural America and the specific NRHA requests for Capitol Hill needs. <i>Maggie Elehwany, NRHA Government Affairs VP</i> Blue Room
7:45—8:00 a.m.	Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) Blue Room
8:00—8:15 a.m.	Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) Blue Room
8:15—8:30 a.m.	Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) Blue Room
8:30—8:45 a.m.	Opioid Crisis: A Rural Call to Action <i>Nikki King, Administrative Fellow, Margaret Mary Health</i> Blue Room
8:45—9:00 a.m.	Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH) Blue Room
9:00—9:15 a.m.	Power of Rural Health Hear about the importance of the State Offices of Rural Health. <i>Teryl Eisinger, Executive Director, National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health</i> <i>Sharla Allen, Manager, Wyoming Office of Rural Health, Wyoming Department of Health</i> Blue Room
10:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.	Congressional Meetings on Capitol Hill Meet with legislators on Capitol Hill to educate and advocate for policies that protect rural health care.
5:30—8:00 p.m.	Congressional Reception Hart Senate Office Building, Room 902
Thursday, February 9	
8:00—8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast Blue Room pre-function
8:30—10:30 a.m.	A Listening Session sponsored by the CMS Rural Health Council This listening session with the co-chairs of the CMS Rural Health Council will explore ways to improve access to care in rural America and support innovation in care delivery. This is your chance to contribute your ideas to CMS on the best ways to drive high-value, high-quality health care in rural communities across America. This session is the culmination of a dozen nationwide listening sessions that were launched after the successful CMS Rural Health Solutions Summit in October 2016. Your comments will also help guide the future priorities of the CMS Rural Health Council. <i>Cara James, Ph.D., Director, CMS Office of Minority Health</i> <i>John Hammarlund, CMS Regional Administrator, Region 10 (Seattle)</i> <i>Facilitated by Kevin Fickenscher, MD, Director, Biomedical Innovation & Healthcare Strategy Center for Transforming Health / The MITRE Corporation</i> Blue Room

10:30—10:45 a.m.	<p>Veterans Health Administration Update <i>Dr. Thomas Klobucar, Acting Director, Office of Rural Health, Veterans Health Administration, US Department of Veterans Affairs</i> Blue Room</p>
10:45 a.m. —12:00 p.m.	<p>Rural Populations and Health: A View from the CDC and Leading Public Health Researchers Rural areas face significant disparities related to health behaviors, access to health care and public health services, life expectancy and mortality. This creates unique challenges as well as opportunities as the health care and public health systems shift to focus on service integration, value and population health. Come hear about emerging research findings on rural public health by the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including efforts to improve health in rural communities.</p> <p><i>Michael Meit, MA, MPH, National Opinion Research Center Rural Health Research Center</i> <i>Robin M. Wagner, PhD, MS, Chief Science Officer, Office of Public Health Scientific Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</i> <i>Alana Knudson, PhD, National Opinion Research Center Rural Health Research Center</i></p> <p><i>Moderated by Tom Morris, Associate Administrator, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, HRSA, DHHS</i> Blue Room</p>
12—12:15 p.m.	<p>NRHA in 2017 and Beyond <i>David Schmitz, MD, 2017 NRHA President</i> Blue Room</p>
12:15 p.m.	<p>Policy Institute Adjourns</p>