Rural Health Policy Institute Agenda
Tuesday, February 5

7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Registration

7:15-7:45 a.m.
Breakfast

7:45-8:00 a.m.
Your Voice Louder
Tim Putnam, NRHA 2019 President

8:00-8:15 a.m.
Your Voice in Washington
Maggie Elehwany, NRHA VP of Govt. Affairs

8:15-8:30 a.m.
Senator John Barrasso, R-WY
Chairman, Senate Republican Policy Committee

8:30-8:45 a.m.
Senator Doug Jones, D-AL
2019 Rural Health Champion Award Winner

8:45-9:00 a.m.
Senator Tina Smith, D-MN
Co-Chair, Senate Rural Health Caucus

9:00-9:15 a.m.
Senator Tim Kaine, D-VA
Member of the Senate HELP Committee

9:15-10:00 a.m.
Medicaid: Waivers, Requirements, and New Opportunities
Moderated by Julie Appleby, Senior Correspondent, Kaiser Health News
Rebecca Jolley, Executive Director, Rural Health Association of Tennessee
Melinda Becker, Program Director, Health Division, National Governors Association

10:00-10:15 a.m.
Rep. Jodey Arrington, R-TX
2019 Rural Health Champion Award Winner

10:15-10:30 a.m. - Break

10:30-10:50 a.m.
Innovation and Sustainability: New Models for Care
Amy Bassano, Deputy Director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)

10:50-11:10 a.m.
HHS Secretary Alex Azar

11:10-11:40 a.m.
Addressing the Opioid Crisis: A Toolkit Towards Progress
Betty-Ann Bryce, Senior Policy Advisor, USDA
Nisha Patel, Senior Advisor and Associate Director, FORHP
Michael Meit, Senior Fellow, Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, NORC at the University of Chicago

11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Lunch
Performance from the Capitol Steps

1:00-1:10 p.m.
Social Media Discussion
Jessica Seigel, NRHA

1:10-1:25 p.m.
Rep. Adrian Smith, R-NE
Member of Ways and Means Committee

Fighting for rural America together.
Rural Health Policy Institute Agenda

Tuesday, February 5 (cont.)

1:25-2:10 p.m.
Medicare Cuts and Impacts on Rural Providers
Michael Topchik, National Leader for the Chartis Center for Rural Health
Mark Holmes, Director, UNC Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research
Tim Wolters, Director of Reimbursement, Citizens Memorial Hospital

2:10-2:45 p.m.
Rebuilding Rural America: Health Care Infrastructure
Robbie Boone, SVP of Government Affairs, Farm Credit Council
Michael Daniels, Director of Government Affairs, NTCA
Tim Putnam, President and CEO, Margaret Mary Health
Sally Buck, CEO, National Rural Health Resource Center

2:45-3:15 p.m.
Accessing Care: What Happens When Providers Close? Moderated by Diane Calmus, NRHA
John Henderson, CEO and President, TORCH
Ann Peton, Director, National Center for Rural Health Works

3:15-3:30 p.m. - Break

3:30-3:45 p.m.
Rep. Markwayne Mullin, R-OK
Member of Energy and Commerce Committee

3:45-4:00 p.m.
Surgeon General Jerome Adams

4:00-4:45 p.m.
Reasons for Optimism: Key Findings from the Life in Rural America Poll
Mary Findling, Senior Research Specialist, Harvard Opinion Research Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Joe Neel, Deputy Senior Supervising Editor, NPR
Carolyn Miller, Senior Program Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

4:45 - 5:45 p.m. Breakout Sessions
A: Rural Funding Toolkits: Accessing Grants and Government Backed Loans
Moderated by Brock Slabach, NRHA
Joseph Ben-Israel, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Community Facilities Programs, USDA
John Gardner, CEO, Telluride Regional Medical Center

B: Maintaining Rural Maternity Care: Challenges, Innovations, and Access
Moderated by Pat Schou, Executive Director, Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network (ICAHN)
Amanda Howard, Senior Analyst, The Chartis Center for Rural Health
Britta Anderson, Senior Research Scientist, Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, NORC at the University of Chicago
Robin Rose, Chief Operating Officer & Chief Clinical Officer, Gibson Area Hospital and Health Services

C: Aging in Rural America: Unique Needs in Rural Areas from Longterm Care to Workforce Shortages
Rachel Sheffield, Senior Policy Advisor, Joint Economic Committee
Samantha Koehler, Policy Assistant, Senate Special Committee on Aging
Rhonda Richards, Senior Legislative Representative, AARP
Sandy Markwood, CEO, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Fighting for rural America together.
Rural Health Policy Institute Agenda
Wednesday, February 6

Advocacy Day

7:00-10:00 a.m.
Registration

7:00-7:30 a.m.
Breakfast

7:30-8:00 a.m.
Capitol Hill Strategy
Maggie Elehwany, VP of Policy and Government Affairs, NRHA
Diane Calmus, Regulatory Counsel, NRHA

8:00-8:15 a.m.
Senator Cory Gardner, R-CO
Chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee

8:15-8:45 a.m.
Capitol Hill Strategy Questions and Discussion
Speak with NRHA’s Government Affairs Staff about any questions you may have before your meetings on Capitol Hill

9:00-6:00 p.m.
Congressional Meetings on Capitol Hill

6:00-8:00 p.m.
Congressional Reception at the U.S. Botanic Gardens
with House Rural Health Coalition Co-Chairs
Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (D-WA) and Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI)

Fighting for rural America together.
Rural Health Policy Institute Agenda
Thursday, February 7

Rural Health Disparities Summit
Hosted with the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)

8:00-8:30 a.m.
Breakfast

8:30-8:50 a.m.
Dr. George Sigounas, Keynote Administrator, HRSA

8:50-9:10 a.m.
An Interactive Discussion Among Rural Health Leaders
Cara James, Director, Office of Minority Health, CMS, Member of CMS Rural Health Council

9:10–9:30 a.m.
CDC Discussion of Research on Substance Use Disorders and Life Expectancy in Rural America
Diane M. Hall, Ph.D., MSEd. Senior Policy Analyst, CDC – Moderator
Rita K. Noonan, PhD - Branch Chief, CDC’s Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention
Holly Hedegaard, MD, MSPH - Injury Epidemiologist at National Center for Health Statistics

9:30-9:50 a.m.
Chronic Disease Challenges in Rural America
Jane Bolin, Director of the Texas A&M Southwest Rural Health Research Center
Sallie Weaver, Program Director, National Cancer Institute
Grace Anne Koppel, Grace Anne Dorney Koppel, President of the Dorney-Koppel Foundation
Ted Koppel, Special Contributor for CBS Sunday Morning.

9:50 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Workforce Shortages and their Impact on Rural Health
John Cullen, MD, President, AAFP
Marie-Elizabeth Ramas, MD, Family Physician
Julie Wood, MD Senior VP, AAFP
Shawn Martin, Senior VP, AAFP

11:30-11:55 a.m.
Creating a Culture of Health in Appalachia: Disparities and Bright Spots
Ben Chandler, President and CEO, Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky
Eric Stockton, Health Program Manager, Appalachian Regional Commission

11:55-12:10 p.m.
NIH - All of Us Research Program
Dr. Dara Richardson-Heron, MD

12:10-12:30 p.m.
Oral Health Equity
Marcia Brand, Senior Advisor, Dentaquest
Pat Finnerty, Senior Advisor, Dentaquest

12:30-12:35 p.m.
Hope for Rural America
Alan Morgan